VCCC Club History, by Peter Trant on the occasion of the 50 th Anniversary Celebration

Late 1940's

Rick Percy parks his 1923 Buick Touring service truck at various downtown locations, and meets several other old car enthusiasts who get together and decide to form a club.

<u> 1950</u>

Rick Percy & others form the first old car club in BC - Antique & Classic Car Club of Vancouver

1953

Antique & Classic Car Club of Vancouver slowly came to an end (for reasons unknown).

1958

Buck Rogers, Rick Percy, Brian Crawford and others from the dissolved Antique & Classic Car Club of Vancouver advertize in the Vancouver Sun in March Ad invites anyone interested in old cars to meet on Sunday afternoon, March 30 at the home of Art Fulawka, 5064 Walden Street, Vancouver.

The twelve men who attended were: Buck Rogers, Rick Percy, Brian Crawford, Art Fulawka, Paul Bolam, Al Johnson, Newal Taylor, Don Ellwyn, George Hoffman, Cliff Scroggie, Bob McLean, George Croy.

The second meeting was held in April, 1958

"The Veteran Car Club of Vancouver" is the name chosen for the new club.

Rick Percy gives the \$125.00 residue from the old club to the new organization.

Rick Percy chosen as the new club's President

Wives and girlfriends began attending meetings

Soon the Vinettes organization began

First child to attend @ 8 months old was Ian Croy

Application is rejected by Victoria for "The Veteran Car Club of Vancouver" name, since the "Veteran" name was reserved for various war veterans' organizations of the day.

At the fourth meeting club names were debated. Eventually all agree on "Vintage Car Club of Vancouver". By this time several people from outside the lower mainland were wanting to join the new club.

Hence a new decision was made to be the "Vintage Car Club of BC"

Don Ellwyn is reputed to have said "Let's think big and take in all of Canada".

After more discussion all agreed on the name "The Vintage Car Club of Canada"

The name was registered in May of 1958

A catalyst for the founding of the VCCC was a request from the BC Government for assistance in organizing a trek of old cars to celebrate British Columbia's Centennial - 100 years since the formation of the Crown Colony of British Columbia, under governor James Douglas.

Mr. Alan Appleby was appointed to find about 20 old cars to tour from Fernie to Victoria and he wanted an organized group to help put on the event. This single event gave enthusiasts a reason to join together, and the VCCC was born.

At the May 24th windup banquet of the 1958 B.C. Centennial Tour in Victoria it was agreed that the Tour had been a lot of fun. It was also agreed that the club should continue to have a tour on the same weekend, the 24th of May each year. Thus the annual VCCC May Tour was started.

The first Vancouver Easter Parade was held in 1958 with about twelve cars participating.

November 3, 1958 Vintage Car Club of Canada registered as a Society November 11, 1958 Director's Meeting Decided to call the club's newsletter "The Vintage Car Bulletin" It was suggested that the VCCC colours be Green & Gold The Constitution was discussed

<u>1959</u>

President: Rick Percy

February 20, 1959. Letter by Tour Chairman R.G. McLean asking all old car fans to participate in the **FIRST VCCC sponsored May Tour**

May Tour: "Island Run" Nanaimo to Victoria. Participants traveled by CPR ferry to Nanaimo, then an overnight stop at the Wellburn Estate in Duncan, then on to Victoria.

The Vintage Car Bulletin #6, published by Paul Bolam, Al Lawson and G.P. Rogers

Roster lists 69 members (includes some spouses), and 2 Honorary members.

The Vintage Car Bulletin #7, speaks about the May (Tour) Run to Victoria.

The Vintage Car Bulletin #8, reports that 38 cars participated in the 1959 May Tour. Total cost of the Tour including ferry fares \$832.90

Victoria Region Begins:

The ending, in Victoria, of the 1958 B.C. Centennial Vintage Car Run sparked an interest among Victoria vintage car owners in getting together to form a club. An informal meeting of about a dozen people was held at Bob Cameron's home in early 1959.

Vintage License Plates:

First request made to Mr Lindsay, Superintendent of Motor Vehicles in February 1959.

After some consideration Mr. Lindsay turned down the application. Next application was not made until Mr. Lindsay had retired.

<u>1960</u>

President: Al Appleton
The Vintage Car Bulletin

Annual General Meting held January 20, 1960 at Carson Truck Lines

May Tour: "Boston Bar from Hope" (Vancouver) Annual Vintage Car Run to be held May 21, 22, 23. The Vintage Car (March Bulletin)

Notice offering free transportation for 4 cars as far as Hope for this year's Annual Run - donated by Carson Truck Lines.

The Vintage Car (June Bulletin)

Award winners for the Run from Hope to Boston Bar and back to Hope.

- -Classic Award: Doug Jordon, 1940 Packard Super 8 Limo
- -Vintage Award: Dave Proctor, 1927 Studebaker
- -Oldest Car: Stan Morris, 1920 McLaughlin roadster pickup
- -Studebaker-Packard Award: Art Fulawka, 1930 Packard
- -Special Interest: Al Appleton, 1937 Packard
- -Timed Run: Mel Drinkle, 1939 Packard sedan, Al Johnson, 1927 Diana sedan
- -Hard Luck: Jake Isaaks, 1928 Pontiac Landeau sedan

Victoria Region Formed:

Al Appleton & Rick Percy travel from Vancouver to Victoria and a Formation Meeting is held at the Dominion Hotel on Tuesday, June 28th, 1960. 23people attended. Dues were set at \$3.50. President: George Gregory elected

The Vintage Car (July Bulletin), reported on the formation of the Victoria Chapter (region)

The Victoria chapter had its first run July 17, 1960 guided by Ken Showers from Gordie Thomas' BA Station in Victoria through Saanich to Deep Cove.

<u>1961</u>

President: Rick Percy

May Tour: "Victoria Tour", (Victoria, B.C.)

Victoria Chapter Inaugurated:

Official inauguration as a Region of the VCCC on January 23rd, 1961

<u>1962</u>

President: Maurice Farrant

May (Tour) Rally: Mission B.C. (Vancouver)

BC Vintage License Plates:

The application for a <u>Vintage Car licence plate was finally approved</u> by the new Superintendent of Motor Vehicles and VCCC representatives helped draft the regulations which still remain in effect.

The first BC Vintage Plates were made at the Oakalla Prison Farm in Burnaby and issue began in 1962.

1963

President: John Reid

May Tour: "Treasure Island Tour", Nanaimo B.C.

The Vintage Car - (October Bulletin)

Third annual Swap Meet held at Carson Truck Lines Burnaby yard

<u>1964</u>

President: Gifford "Buck" Rogers

May Tour: "Sasquatch Tour", Harrison (Vancouver)

1965

President: Paul Bolam

May Tour: "Hub City Tour", Nanaimo (Victoria)

<u>1966</u>

President: Howard Sanderson

May Tour: "Gastown Tour", (Vancouver)

1966 Centennial Tour:

In commemoration of The Centenary of The Union of The Colonies (of Vancouver's Island and the Mainland of British Columbia) the BC Government sponsored a Vintage Car Run from Vancouver through the Okanagan, Kamloops, Cache Creek, Boston Bar and Vancouver winding up in Victoria.

1967

President: Vern Beaumont

May Tour: "Saanich Peninsula Tour", (Victoria)

1967 Centennial Tour:

Another Government Sponsored Vintage Car Tour, this one celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada

This Tour lasted a week and went up through the Okanagan, Kamloops and Cache Creek, then to Prince George and back down to the Coast, finishing up in Victoria.

Okanagan Vintage Car Club Forms:

Okanagan Valley media releases are delivered by Chic Gray seeking to find if there is interest in forming an Old Car Club in the Okanagan.

December 3rd, 1967, an organizational meeting is held in the Centennial Room of the Kelowna Memorial Arena.

Interest is high and the Okanagan Vintage Car Club is formed: President: Chic Gray (Kelowna), Secretary Treasurer: Bill Austin (Summerland), Activities Chair: Chuck Robertson (Westbank), Doug Pitman (Peachland), Ray Johnson (Penticton) Club's oldest car - 1902 Holsman owned by Bill Brown

<u> 1968</u>

President: Vern Beaumont

May Tour: "Harrison Tour", (Vancouver)

Okanagan Chapter Formed:

Okanagan Vintage Car Club President, Chic Gray inquires about the VCCC constitution and about how to register as a Society. George Hoffman met with about 25 Okanagan members and the group decides to apply for VCCC Chapter status which was granted January 1st, 1968

<u>1969</u>

President: William "Bill" Cantelon

May Tour: "Tub City Tour", Nanaimo (Victoria)

National & Chapters:

This is the first year that the VCCC Roster mentions Chapters and lists National Directors making Bill Cantelon the first National President.

Bill Cantelon is also the Victoria Chapter President

John Reid is the Vancouver Chapter President

Erv Marshall is the Okanagan Chapter President

<u>1970</u>

President: Vern Wellburn

May Tour: "Harrison Hot Springs", (Vancouver)

1971

President: Ed Aveling

May Tour: "Nanaimo '71", Nanaimo, (Victoria)

<u>1972</u>

President: Hal Klassen

May Tour: "Country Livin", Chilliwack (Vancouver)

Chilliwack Chapter Formed:

At the Executive meeting held in May 1972 at the Navaho Inn in Chilliwack, Chapter status was granted to Chilliwack group.

Original members were: Al Browne, Roy Stark, John Adamson, Bobby O'byrne, Jim Ballam Rick Nichols, Keith Street and Bill Kellett.

First meeting held September 1, 1972 at Al Browne's home.

Kamloops Chapter Formed:

A group of local car enthusiasts, who have participated in the Easter parade which has been organized by the Kamloops Jaycees since 1970, met on March 3rd, 1972 to discuss the possibility of forming a Vintage Car Club.

Advertisements are made and an Inaugural meeting is held on March 9th, 1972 at Cariboo College where it was decided to petition the VCCC for permission to form a Kamloops Chapter.

Enthusiasts from the Kamloops area receive permission from the VCCC National Executive to form a Chapter. President Tom Fischmann is elected. Other Charter Members are: Norm McKinlay, Ralph Manley, Don Vyebert Gurney, Glenn

Gallagher, Harold Elmore, Vic Minamide, Ed Shaw, Denniss Coates, John Weinhard, Lex Vanwelley, Ray & Rick Ford, Geroge Kidner, and Gerry Boychuck.

Prince George Chapter:

This is first time the Prince George Chapter is mentioned in the VCCC Roster. Prince George Chapter President is Al Scholes

<u>1973</u>

President: Hal Klassen

May Tour: "Royal Victorian Tour", (Victoria, B.C.)

South Okanagan Chapter Formed:

Okanagan Chapter members from Penticton, Summerland, Keremeos, Princeton, Okanagan Falls, Oliver, Osoyoos & Oroville Washington decide to form the South Okanagan Chapter of the VCCC.

This division was an amicable one and a portion of the Okanagan Chapter's bank balance was transferred to the newly formed South Okanagan Chapter of the VCCC.

<u>1974</u>

President: Dick Head

May Tour: "Richmond '74", Richmond (Vancouver)

Chapters: This is the first time the South Okanagan and Kamloops Chapters are

mentioned in the VCCC Roster

<u>1975</u>

President: John Reilly

May Tour: "Hard Times Tour", Nanaimo, (Victoria)

<u>Golden Ears Chapter Formed</u>: Enthusiasts from the Maple Ridge area are granted permission to form a Chapter by the VCCC National Executive Chapters: This is the first time the Columbia Chapter is mentioned in the VCCC

Roster.

License Plates: This is the last year that BC Motor Vehicle License Plates are made at the Oakalla Prison Farm in Burnaby, BC

1976

President: John Reilly

May Tour: "Blossom Tour", Kelowna, (Okanagan)

1977

President: C.W. "Chic" Gray

May Tour: Country Living Tour, Chilliwack, B.C.

Revelstoke Chapter Formed:

Original members, George Bell, Dennis & Margo Goodman, Allan & Evelyn McInnes, John & Gail Olson apply and are granted permission by the VCCC

Executive to form a Chapter

Chapters:

This is the first time the Golden Ears, Motorcycle and Revelstoke Chapters are mentioned in the VCCC roster

Don Warren is the Golden Ears Chapter President Buck Rogers is the Motorcycle Chapter President Leo Goodwin is the Revelstoke Chapter President

<u> 1978</u>

President: C.W. "Chic" Gray

May Tour: "Northern Lights Tour", (Prince George)

<u>1979</u>

President: John Carlson

May Tour: "Tartan Invitational Tour", (Victoria)

Chapters:

This is the first time the Cariboo and North Okanagan Chapters are mentioned in

the VCCC roster

Bob Jeffers is the Cariboo Chapter President

Glen Jahraus is the North Okanagan Chapter President.

<u>1980</u>

President: John Carlson

May Tour: "Tumbleweed Tour", (Kamloops)

1981

President: John Reilly

May Tour: "Tidewater Tour", (Vancouver)
Central Fraser Valley Chapter Formed:

Enthusiasts from the Abbotsford Langley area are granted VCCC National

Executive permission to form a Chapter

1982

President: Brian Vernon

May Tour: "Ogopogo Tour", Kelowna (Okanagan)

Antique Chapter Formed:

Several members, led by Mike Reid, having an interest in touring with pre-1916 Antique Vehicles receive permission from the VCCC Executive to form an Antique Chapter.

Antique Chapter membership is restricted to owners of pre- 1916 vehicles (this restriction was later recinded to allow anyone having an interest in pre- 1916 vehicles to join the Antique Chapter.)

1983

President: Dennis Goodman

May Tour: "Quarter Century Tour", Vernon

Chapters: A group of 28 enthusiasts from the Shuswap area meet for the first time on October 20, 1983. Robert Reading is elected President (Group makes application to form a VCCC Chapter in October 1984)

This is the first time the Central Fraser Valley, East Kootenay, Fort St. John, Mile "0", North Island and Powell River Chapters are mentioned in the VCCC Roster

<u>1984</u>

President: Dennis Goodman

May Tour: "Hard Times Tour" Castlegar, B.C. (Columbia Valley)

Kicking Horse Chapter Formed:

A group of enthusiasts formed the Kicking Horse Car Club on January 15, 1984. By their second meeting they had 16 members and Wayne DeMuelenare was elected President.

VCCC National Executive granted permission on February 12, 1984 for the group to form the Kicking Horse Chapter. (Group later changed its name to Rocky Mountain Cruisers)

Shuswap Chapter Formed: Shuswap Club applied and was granted permission by the VCCC National Executive in October 1984 to form a Chapter

1985

President: Dennis Goodman

May Tour: "Sun Country Tour", Penticton, B.C. (South Okanagan)

Chapters: This is the first time that the Kicking Horse, Kootenay Lakes, Mile 300

and Shuswap Chapters are mentioned in the VCCC Roster

1986

President: Dennis Goodman

May Tour: "Tyee Tour", Campbell River, B.C. (North Island)

"Vintage International": As part of the 1986 World Fair, **EXPO '86**, a week long Vintage International Antique Auto Show was held in BC Place Stadium in Vancouver. Member's cars from many VCCC Chapters and US points were displayed in this Concours d'Elegance.

1987

President: Bob Allen

May Tour: "Lumberjack Tour", (Kamloops, B.C.)

<u>1988</u>

President: Bob Allen

May Tour: "Mr. PG Tour" (Prince George)

Quesnel Chapter Formed: A group of enthusiasts met on April 17, 1988 to see if there was sufficient interest to form a club. Application was made and the VCCC National Executive granted permission in May 1988 for the group to form a Chapter. Sam Cork is the Quesnel Chapter President.

<u>1989</u>

President: Don Warren

May Tour: "Tattoo Tour", (Victoria, B.C.)

1990

President: Don Warren

May Tour: "Gay '90's Tour" Castlegar, B.C (Columbia Valley)

Chapters: The Quesnel Chapter is listed in the VCCC Roster for the first time.

BC Collector Plates: As a result of the NDP government's uproar over the previous administration's closing and dispersal of the Transportation Collection Museum, government lobbyists demand that action be taken to ensure that the history of the automobile be somehow preserved in British Columbia.

Solicitor General, Russ Fraser; Premier, Rita Johnson; and Kamloops elected member Claud Richmond enthusiastically supported a proposal to issue a special category of license plate to "Collector Cars" that are 25 years old or more.

Tommy Holmes, Director of ICBC, agreed to cooperate with whatever "Collector Car" program was decided by the government

The role played by the VCCC in 1961/62, to have a "<u>Vintage Plate</u>" made available to cars 30 years old or more, laid valuable groundwork for the "<u>Collector Plate</u>" program and made it easier for the agencies involved to justify and accept.

BC Collector Plates are first made available in 1990, with VCCC representatives

having taken part in drafting the regulations and working with ICBC in determining insurance coverages and rates.

A "<u>Multi-Vehicle Plate</u>" having similar restrictions is made available to collectors owing several qualifying vehicles.

<u>1991</u>

President: Len Sholes

May Tour: "Fraser Valley Good Times Tour" (Golden Ears & Central Fraser

Valley)

Chapters: As a result of being confused about being a Horse Club, the Kicking Horse Chapter changed its name to **Rocky Mountain Cruisers** in November 1991

<u>1992</u>

President: Len Sholes

May Tour: "Discovery Tour", Campbell River, B.C. (North Island)

1993

President: Dick Parton

May Tour: "Overlander Tour", (Kamloops, B.C.)

<u>1994</u>

President: Dick Parton

May Tour: "City Lights Tour", (Vancouver, B.C.)

1995

President: Dick Parton

May Tour: "Sun Country Tour II", Penticton, B.C. (South Okanagan)

<u>1996</u>

President: Dick Parton

May Tour: "Gold Rush Tour", (Prince George, B.C.)

<u>1997</u>

President: Dick Parton

May Tour: "Fraser Valley Heritage Tour" (Central Fraser Valley & Golden Ears)

1998

President: Jim Riederer

May Tour: "40th Anniversary Tour" All Chapters

<u>Cowichan Valley Chapter Formed</u>: First meeting held at Brian Crawford's home in June 1998. George Croy, President made application to form a VCCC Chapter. Jim Reiderer presented the Cowichan Valley Chapter Charter at their November 2, 1988 meeting.

<u>1999</u>

President: Jim Riederer

May Tour: "Tour of The Century", (Victoria)

<u>100 Years of Motoring in Vancouver</u>: September 24th, 1899 - September 24th, 1999. At Science World, VCCC members displayed a car for every year of production during this 100 year period to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first vehicle to drive in Vancouver.

2000

President: Jim Riederer

May Tour: "Millennium Tour" (Okanagan)

Chapters: The Cowichan Valley & The Rocky Mountain Cruisers Chapters are

listed in the VCCC Roster for the first time

The Kicking Horse, Mile 300 & The Motorcycle Chapters are no longer listed in the VCCC Roster

"Modified Vehicle Plate": The Specialty Vehicle Association, of which the VCCC is a member, and The Pacific Street Rod Association lobby the government and ICBC for a special category of license plate for modified vehicles. These efforts were successful and in 2000 "Modified Vehicle Plates" were made available to modified vehicles (street rods) that were originally built no later than 1948, providing that they retained their original steel bodies.

2001

President: Jim Riederer

May Tour: "Spring Blossom Tour", Salmon Arm (Shuswap)

2002

President: Gerry Bleiler

Acting President: George Staley

May Tour: "Orca Tour", Campbell River, B.C. (North Island)

Nanaimo Chapter Formed: VCCC National approved Nanaimo Chapter

application in October 2002.

2003

President: Derek Long

May Tour: "Stars & Cars Tour" Langley, B.C. (Vancouver) Chapters: Nanaimo Chapter members first join this year.

2004

President: Derek Long

May Tour: "Crossroads Tour", (Kamloops, B.C.)

<u>Collectable Chrysler Chapter</u> Formed: VCCC National approved Collectable

Chrysler Chapter application in October 2004

Chapters: The Nanaimo Chapter is listed in the VCCC Roster for the first time.

The east Kootenay Chapter is no longer listed in the VCCC Roster

<u>2005</u>

President: Derek Long

May Tour: "Wheels of Time", (Prince George, B.C.)

Chapters: Collectable Chrysler Chapter members first join this year. The

Collectable Chrysler Chapter is listed in the VCCC Roster for the first time

Merritt Chapter Formed: VCCC National approved Merritt Chapter application

in October 2005.

2006

President: Derek Long

May Tour: "Kootenay Kaleidoscope", Castlegar, BC (Columbia)

Chapters: Merritt Chapter members first join this year. The Merritt Chapter is

listed in the VCCC Roster for the first time.

The Cariboo Chapter is no longer listed in the VCCC Roster

<u>Modified Vehicle Plates</u>: In June of 2006 the qualifying year of production for a Modified Vehicle License Plate was raised to 1958 and earlier. This change was intended to embrace the "Custom Car" era and afford these vehicles the same licensing opportunities as enjoyed by "Street Rods". All other restrictions and regulations associated with the Modified Vehicle Plate remained the same.

2007

President: Ron Garay

May Tour: "Moonlight & Music", Duncan, B.C. (Cowichan Valley)

2008

President: Ron Garay

May Tour: "50th Anniversary Tour" (Okanagan). To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the VCCC this year's May Tour has been scheduled as a ten day circle driving

tour from July 3 - 12.

VCCC 50th Birthday Celebration:

The VCCC celebrates its 50th Birthday with a Gala Party on March 29th, 2008 at the new home of the Johnson Collection (a fitting location considering that Al Johnson was one of the Founding Members who attended the March 30th, 1958 first VCCC meeting)

2008 Fernie to Victoria Tour:

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of British Columbia as a Crown Colony.

As part of the celebration, the VCCC Antique Chapter and others has organized a re-creation of the Fernie to Victoria trip from August 15 - 24, 2008, where once again member's cars from across the Province will show some transportation history in the communities of Southern BC.

The Next 50 Years

The above data, all by Peter Trant, will be periodically updated by various scribes.

<u>2009</u>

President: Ron Garay

May Tour: "Vintage Victoria" (Victoria Chapter).

The "Mile 0" Chapter membership fell below the required minimum of 5 members,

so was dissolved.

<u>2010</u>

President: Ron Garay

May Tour: "Chariots on Tires" (Golden ears Chapter).

2011

President: Derek Long

May Tour: "Salmon Arm" (Shuswap Chapter).

2012

President: Derek Long

May Tour: "A Whale of a May Tour" (Nanaimo Chapter).

2013

President: Derek Long

May Tour: "Meet the Dean" (Kamloops Chapter).

2014

President: Derek Long

May Tour: "Steaming into Revelstoke" (Revelstoke Chapter).

2015

President: Derek Long

May Tour: "Rallye in the Valley" (Central Fraser Valley Chapter).

The "Rocky Mountain Cruisers Chapter membership fell below the required

minimum of 5 members, so was dissolved.

2016

President: Del Holbrook

May Tour: "Cruisin' the Okanagan" (The 3 Okanagan Chapters).

2017

President: Del Holbrook

May Tour: "Canada 150" (The Chilliwack to Prince George Chapters). This special "May Tour" will be held as a 9 day event in mid-June to recognize Canada's 150 Anniversary. The event will commence in Chilliwack, travel north to Prince George, then return south to end at Abbotsford, while more-or-less replicating the 1967 100 th Anniversary of Confederation Tour.