

Bel Air



going to do next," he says, chuckling. "But, she always knows where I am – I'm in the garage."

The club was started in 1989 by Fred Crossman, Vince Bondi, Garnet Smith, Keith Crisp, and Dennis Jeffery.

"A bunch of us were sitting around at Garnet Smith's farm in Broadbent, and we all decided to buy cars and restore them," Keith remembers. "We decided to start a club for pleasure and to keep the old [and] antique cars alive."

Through the club, members saw how others were rebuilding or restoring their cars, and helped each other out.

Keith's choice for restoration was a '69 Mercury Montcalm convertible.

"It was 19-feet from bumper to bum-

per," he recalls. "It wouldn't fit into the parking spots on the main street in town because it was too long. I had to take two spots."

From an original foundation of ten or 12 members, the club has grown each year, to boast a membership of 86 today.

While it started as a group of car enthusiasts sitting around talking cars, it quickly evolved into a social club and more recently, began raising money for local charities through its CruZe Nites.

"We've raised quite a bit of money for local charities, including \$9,600 for the Foundation for the West Parry Sound Health Centre," says Tudor.

The club also donates to Harvest Share, the Salvation Army food bank and Help Kids Play. CruZers also help to provide medical aids or assist with other special needs in the community through their CruZe Nite fundraising.

Besides getting out to the CruZe Nites, club members are often invited to parades where convertibles are particularly sought after to transport dignitaries. The recent Dragon Boat parade was no exception, when Peter Kozluk in his 1966 Dodge Polara paraded Tony Clement on the route; Ivan McNaught with his 1975 Pontiac Grandville convertible carried Norm Miller in classic style and Boyd Little took some of the children's poster contest winners in his 1958 Ford convertible, as did Tudor in his sedan.

Club members often get together for outings such as the Mother's Day trip when about 20 cars convoyed to Magnetawan for brunch; the Fall Colour Cruise; the Gravenhurst Show and Shine, the Orillia Rock n Roll Tribute Classic; the Ahmic Harbour Parade and a variety of area fall fairs.

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