

The Wheel Spin



The Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club

*Volume XXXIII, Number 4
Winter, 2023*

The Wheel Spin

Official Newsletter Of the

Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club shall be to unite persons interested in restoring and preserving special interest motor vehicles; to encourage fellowship between members and their families in social, as well as auto Interests; and to promote and assist in the promotion of competitions, trials, and other events In which such vehicles can participate in their respective classes.

Important Items To Remember

The Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club meets at 6:30 PM for coffee, with the meeting at 7:00 PM, on the **FIRST Wednesday** of each month, except in January and August, at the Club House (Vegreville Regional Museum). Vehicle ownership is not a requirement for membership. Our meetings are open to both Husbands and Wives. Membership Fees are due at our February Meeting.

2023 Executive

President	-	William Smolak
Hon. Vice President	-	Orest Lazarowich
Vice-President	-	Ron Reese
Secretary	-	Darry Anderson
Treasurer	-	Richard Densmore
Events Chair	-	George Sample
Phone Committee	-	William Smolak
	-	Sylvia Smolak
Car Show Committee	-	William Smolak
	-	Dan Fisher
	-	Ron Reese
	-	Richard Densmore
	-	Darry Anderson
Media Master	-	Laurence Anderson
Past President	-	Denise Komick
Bulletin Editor	-	William Smolak
Bulletin Distributor	-	N/A
Archivist	-	Denise Komick
SVAA Rep.	-	Greg Panchyshyn

Past Presidents of The Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club

1989 - 1990	Orest Lazarowich
1990 - 1992	Sylvester Komick
1992 - 1993	Paul Buoy
1993 - 1994	John Sokoluk
1994 - 1995	Don Bilocerkowec
1995 - 1997	Ray Welsh
1997 - 1998	John Skladen
1998 - 2000	Ron Lindquist
2000 - 2002	Tim Charuk
2002 - 2004	Gerald Granger
2004 - 2006	George Sample
2006 - 2008	Mike Dowhun
2008 - 2010	Orest Lazarowich
2010 - 2015	Denise Komick
2015 -	William Smolak

Title Page Photo

The title page photo is that of a 1936 to 1948 Fiat Topolino 500

President's Message

VIRAC Members:

The biggest issue facing our club is the declining and aging membership. Many of our members are getting up in age and we are finding it difficult finding a sufficient number of young able bodied people to work at our events, consequently we are having to rely more and more on volunteers

We are always on the look-out for new members, so if you are aware of a car buff who might be interested in joining our club, invite him/her to a meeting. Remember, ownership of a collector car is not a requirement for membership. All that is needed is an interest in the preservation of vehicles of previous years.

We held our annual Christmas get together in the new Events Centre at the Vegreville and District Historical Museum. Supper was catered by RMD Food Services and was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Our prayers go out to Velma and George Sample and Joanne and Mike Sturmay. Velma is currently in hospital waiting for placement in a care centre, as is Mike. It is tough on both George and Joanne, who do not have their long time spouses at home with them.

Our vehicles are now in storage waiting for next year's show and shine season. At the same time, our Club is trying to figure out how we can continue participating in the Annual Fathers' Day Event.

Until next time, take care, stay safe, and have a very merry Christmas.

William Smolak, President

Fathers' Day Event Committee Report
30th Annual Father's Day Event

The Annual Father's Day Event (FDE) is a 'joint venture' between the Vegreville Agricultural Society (VAS), and the Vegreville Iron Runner's Auto Club (VIRAC).

The Show and Shine is the one event most affected by the weather and the weather certainly didn't co-operate. Hopefully next year will be much better.

Editor's Message

Welcome to another edition of "The Wheel Spin". I am still looking for a way to resume making hard copy versions of the newsletter available to our club members and others.

Our web site is <http://vegironrunners.ca>. Laurence Anderson is our media master and he would appreciate receiving photos and articles to put on our web page and on face book.

"The Wheel Spin" is the official publication of the Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club and is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December. The publication is included as part of your membership fee. Articles and opinions are welcome from club members. The Want Ads and For Sale Ads are free to club members. Deadlines for articles and ads are the 15th day of the month preceding the publication date. The deadline for the next issue in **March is February 15, 2024.**

This is your Bulletin; it is only as good as the effort you, the members, are willing to put into it. The drop off point for your contributions, suggestions and comments is my residence at 5701 – 43 A Street or you may also e-mail me at bsmo47@telus.net.

Opinions expressed in "The Wheel Spin" are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club or its members.

"The Wheel Spin" takes no responsibility for the accuracy of copied ads. Other Clubs are welcome to use published materials, except where prohibited by the author/s.

William Smolak, Editor

Submissions and copies of Newsletters may be forwarded to:

"The Wheel Spin"

C/O William Smolak

5701 - 43 A Street

Vegreville, Alberta, T9C 1E3

or by e-mail at bsmo47@telus.net

Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club Web Page

<http://vegironrunners.ca>

Specialty Vehicle Association of Alberta Web Site

See: **www.svaalberta.com**

Did You Know

The "Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club" has continued its spirit of involvement with the

community. In the past, the “Vegreville Iron Runners” had provided financial support for the various groups in and around Vegreville.

As well, the “Vegreville Iron Runners” have instituted a scholarship at the high schools, in Vegreville, called the “**Vegreville Iron Runners Memorial Scholarship** “. The scholarship is for **\$1000** and is awarded annually to a student who is registered in a post-secondary automotive related program. We have not received any application for the 2023 Scholarship.

This year, the Club donated a total of \$600 to the Vegreville and District Christmas Bureau, and \$500 to the Vegreville Food Bank.

Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club Archival History

Work on a history of the Iron Runners that was begun by the late Sylvester Komick and Orest Lazarowich is continuing under the leadership of Denise Komick. Your utmost attention and assistance in completing this project would be most appreciated. This is only one of the legacies left to our club by the late Sylvester Komick. We still need all Past-Presidents to please submit a review of their year or years as President and to go through their files and turn over all materials they think would be appropriate for inclusion in our Archives. Your support and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Club Builders Award

The Vegreville and District Special Interest Motor Vehicle Club came into existence on the second day of October, 1989. The Iron Runners Auto Club name was officially accepted at the November, 1989, meeting and the first twenty five members were designated as charter members. The first annual meeting was held in September, 1990. The club is now known locally as the Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club.

The original Charter Members who are still members of the Club, at this time include: Denise Komick, Orest Lazarowich, and Jerry Wilde. Joining them as 25 year members are William and Sylvia Smolak.

On a motion passed at the May 2nd, 2001, regular meeting of the Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club, It was agreed that the Club would recognize individual members who have maintained continuous membership In the Club.

A Club Builder's Award will be presented to members who have achieved or demonstrated continuous contribution and support to the Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club locally and provincially.

This recognition will be in the form of a plaque presented, at the annual meetings, to Individual members who are in the 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, etc. year of continuous membership. This will be determined by the membership records kept by the Treasurer. The plaque will list the member’s name, membership number, and the years of continuous membership.

Members with 25 years of continuous membership shall be awarded **Honorary Life Memberships**.

The Fiat Topolino

The Topolino was one of the smallest cars in the world at the time of its production. Launched in 1936, three models were produced until 1955, all with only minor mechanical and cosmetic changes. The Topolino, meaning "Little Mouse" in Italian, was a series of small two door cars available in a range of compact body styles. The Topolino was powered by a 569cc inline four engine, and was in production until 1955.

The Fiat 500 was created between the two world wars, aimed at offering an affordable car to start getting the country on the road.

Today, it has re-emerged as a fully electric vehicle.

Vegreville Iron Runners Memorial Scholarship Sponsored by the Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club

The Scholarship shall consist of a **One Thousand Dollar (\$1 000.00)** cash award, a presentation plaque and a one (1) year membership in the Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club.

SELECTION COMMITTEE:

This Scholarship fund shall be administered by a selection committee consisting of:

1. President or designate of the Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club.
2. Two or more members of the Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club.

ELIGIBILITY:

The Scholarship shall be awarded to a deserving Grade XII student, male or female, who is registered at **Vegreville Composite High School**, or at **St. Mary's Catholic High School**, and is enrolled in **Work Experience or RAP** continuing his/her education at a post-secondary institute in any of the fields of **Automotive Mechanics (Automotive Service Technician); or Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanics; Agricultural Equipment Mechanics; Auto Body Mechanics (Automotive Collision Repair Technician); and/or Auto Parts Technician**.

The selection committee shall review all applications for the Scholarship, and shall, when making its decision, consider the criteria outlined below and in its sole discretion give such weight to the criteria as it deems appropriate.

1. A certified statement of school marks issued by the High School.
2. A letter indicating the applicant's educational and future plans. In this letter, the candidate should include an explanation of why the automotive field or its related fields are attractive to him/her or why he/she believes they are a good fit for these fields.
3. Documentation of acceptance into a recognized apprenticeship program or a post-secondary education institution in the automotive field.
4. If there is no suitable candidate for the current year, the Scholarship shall be withheld.

Deadline for Application:

All Applications must be received by September 1, and no exceptions will be made.

The scholarship application must be forwarded to **The Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club, c/o William Smolak, 5701 – 43A Street, Vegreville, AB, T9C 1E3.**

NB: Application forms may be picked up from our local high school counsellors.

Iron Runners Memorial Scholarship Application Form

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Age: _____

Alberta Student ID # _____ School: _____

Student's Cell #: _____ Student's Email Address: _____

Parents/Guardians: _____

Address: _____

Street/P. O. Box #

Town/City

Postal Code

Home Phone Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

Parent/Guardian's Work Number(s): _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Telephone _____

Student Timetable

Semester 1 Subjects

Semester 2 Subjects

Period 1 _____

Period 2 _____

Period 3 _____

Period 4 _____

Future Plans

Work Experience/RAP Program: _____

Post Secondary Training Program: _____

Name of Post Secondary School: _____

Name of Current Employer: _____

Name of Current Supervisor: _____

Address of Current Employer: _____

Contact Information For Employer/Supervisor: Phone # _____

Cell # _____

Attachments Included: _____

Certified Statement of Marks From School

Personal Letter Regarding Future Plans

Notice of Acceptance into a Post-Secondary School

and/or

**Confirmation of Employment in Appropriate Field
and Employer's Certification of Enrolment in an
Apprenticeship Program**

Little Mouse found in Alberta Collection

In the pre-war period the Fiat Topolino was to Italy what the Model T was for America. Developed by engineer Dante Giacosa. It was one of the smallest cars in the world at the time of its production and helped motorize Italy. The Topolino predates the VW Beetle by 10 years. Designs for the beetle were around pre-war but the Volkswagen didn't show up until after the war. Even after WWII, the Topolino continued to be wildly popular.

Launched in 1936, three model versions were produced until 1955. The Topolino had some very unique engineering built into the vehicle.

1. The radiator was located behind the engine which made possible a lowered aerodynamic nose profile at a time when competitors had a flat, nearly vertical grilles. The shape of the car's front allowed exceptional forward visibility
2. Gas tank is behind the radiator under the front windshield. This front design gives more space to the interior compartment for 4 people and supplies
3. The placement of the engine at the very front allows for the firewall to be brought forward giving the front driver and passenger a large amount of leg room in such a small car
4. The wood body panels were a way to save weight and give a better power to weight ratio on the 569cc engine.
5. It was also a way to produce cars after WWII, when quality metal was scarce.
6. The Wood body edition started in 1948 was called a Topolino Giardiniera "Gardener".



Debuting in 1936, the original Fiat 500A Topolino, literally "little mouse" but soon interpreted as Mickey Mouse for the mouse ear-like headlamps on its front fenders, became Italy's most popular car.

In 1948, Fiat announced the 500B and expanded the microcar's capabilities with a practical, wood-sided wagon called the Giardiniera, meaning "gardener." It was produced from 1948 to May 1949. The 500 Giardiniera was completed at the Lingotto factory by Carrozzerie Speciali, Fiat's in-house coachbuilder.



Then the 500C was released in 1949 with a refreshed design, Fiat again offered the Giardiniera, but only for two years ending in 1951. This 500C is powered by a 569cc overhead valve 4-cylinder engine fitted with a single Weber carburetor and rated at 16.5 horsepower. There is a four-speed manual gearbox and four-wheel hydraulic drum brakes



The Auction and Garage Find

AE Auctions held a car collection dispersal for Jerry Hoines from the hamlet of Gainford, Alberta, just west of Stony Plain, Alberta. He was an avid collector having over 400 vehicles. The July, 2023, auction featured many Studebakers, early North American cars and later in his collection career he bought Morris minors and a unique little Fiat Woodie. These were the first pictures I took of the Fiat in the sale. It is a rare 1949 Topolino C Giardiniera. I was fortunate enough to be high bidder.



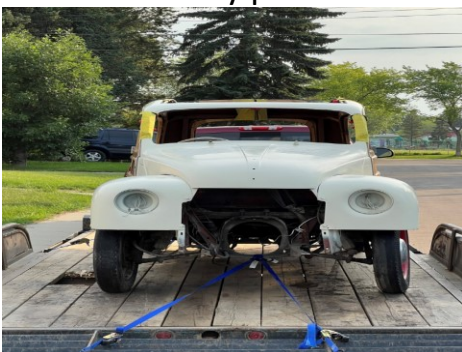


I hand washed the car after the sale to find the wood to be in excellent shape and the body in excellent shape.

Since my purchase, with the use of Google Translate, I have been able to reach out the Fiat Topolino Giardiniera Legno (Fiat TOPOLINO wooden gardener) group in Italy. They have directed me to the National Fiat certification site whereby information pertaining to the date of build and options will be found. From the clubs own knowledge and database of 'known' Topolino C worldwide, they informed me that:

1. This car is the only known Fiat Wooden Giardiniera in Canada
2. They know of 5 Fiat C Wooden bodied models in the United States
3. With registering my car with them, I am #340 of the wooden bodied Fiats known to exist worldwide.

So what is next? Inventory of the 3 large totes of parts and all the parts that came with the car. Also a trip into the good folks at **Alberta Engine Rebuilders** with my 569cc engine that sits on a factory pallet from the Fiat Factory in Italy. But that is a story for next time.....



Owner Dan Fisher is a member of the Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club.



www.vegironrunners.ca

Some Thoughts to Ponder

I've started investing in stocks: beef, vegetable, chicken. One day I hope to be a bouillianaire.

I accidentally rubbed ketchup in my eyes. Now I have Heinz sight.

Scientifically, a raven has 17 primary wing feathers; the big ones at the end of the wing are called pinion feathers. A crow has 16. So, the difference between a raven and a crow is only a matter of a pinion.

I was walking in the jungle and saw a lizard on his hind legs telling jokes. I turned to a local tribal leader and said, "That lizard is really funny!" The leader replied, "That's not just any old lizard ... he's a stand-up chameleon."

I tried to come up with a carpentry pun that woodwork. I thought I nailed it but nobody saw it.

Singing in the shower is fine until you get soap in your mouth. Then it's a soap opera.

The Black-Eyed Peas can sing us a song but the chick peas can only hummus one.

Then there was the time Fruit of the Loom took Hanes to court ... it was a brief case.

How much does a chimney cost? Nothing, it's on the house.

My friend said she wouldn't eat cow's tongue because it came out of a cow's mouth. I gave her an egg.

Once upon a time there was a King who was only 12 inches tall. He was a terrible King but he made a great ruler.

My friend Jack says he can communicate with vegetables. That's right ... Jack and the beans talk.

I want to tell you about a girl who only eats plants you probably have not heard of herbivore.

I was struggling to understand how lightning works and then it struck me.

Six cows were smoking joints and playing poker. That's right. The steaks were pretty high.

To send information to our media master contact:

Laurence Anderson @ Laurenceanderson@telus.net

Reminder:

Membership fees are due at the February Meeting. Memberships must be paid in full and up to date in order to vote at the AGM.

Activities of the Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club

Because of a lot of conflicts and a lack of time, our activities were limited to a brief collector car outing for the collector car appreciation Day, a small show and shine at the local Shell station, our annual Christmas gathering and presentation of cheques to the Christmas Bureau and Food Bank.



Cheque presentation of \$500 to the Christmas Bureau.

Cheque presentation of \$500 to the Veg. Food Bank

A Christmas Story

A decades-old story of friendship.

BY MARK VAUGHN



This is a story of friendship that wends through many years and ends with a Ferrari. So it's car-related.

Twenty-five years ago, I shared a house with a bunch of medical residents who worked at County/USC hospital, enduring those famous 24-hour shifts serving the most desperate members of our society while still doing the dishes and keeping the living room relatively clean. If you ever get shot, stabbed or run over in greater Los Angeles, have them take you to County first because they'll save your life. You might want to transfer somewhere else for follow-up care.

It was an amazing experience for me, who was just some idiot car writer who saved no one ever except maybe from boredom, seeing how hard all these guys worked and yet how much humanity they managed to retain. Me, I would've gone nuts.

One night, a Christmas Eve, I found myself visiting one of them at the hospital as he worked his rounds. It was late at night; only a few lights were left on in the wards to illuminate the occasional cardboard reindeer taped to the walls in a desperate attempt at festive effect.

He went from bed to bed, tending to and counseling the homeless people, gang members, prostitutes and the simply unlucky, all of whom were in there as a result of either tragic circumstance or their latest round of very bad decisions. Most had a little of both.

My friend didn't care why they were there; his job was to fix them up and send them back out, usually to do it again, I cynically thought. My friend didn't think that. He didn't pass judgment, didn't scold, counsel or cajole. He inspired. When he walked into a room full of despair, he lit it up. I know because I was walking right behind him. Faces that hadn't smiled in weeks, months, ever, suddenly beamed. He gave high-fives. He arm wrestled (those with a good arm). He sang. He sang his way through the worst, most hopeless place in a city that had more than its share of hopelessness. He sang to give them all hope, I told myself. He sang to inspire them and to show that there might be more to life than ... aw, what did I know? He was making them happy at the lowest point of their lives.

"Faaaaaall on your knees, oh hear the angels calling!" he wailed, as a night nurse—who looked like she'd been on the job for about 400 years—remained stoic. "Oh niight divine!" I looked at her without trying to look like I was looking. She smiled. He's now one of LA's best spinal surgeons. A few years ago, he healed a patient whom no other doctor had been able to heal. The guy was so thankful to be free of pain; he took him into a warehouse full of Ferraris.

My friend didn't know from Ferraris.

"Pick one," the guy said.

My friend saw one he liked and pointed. The guy winced a little, and then handed over a beautiful red 250 SWB California Spider. I saw him driving it the other day. He was singing. I smiled.

Specialty Vehicle Association of Alberta



Protecting the rights and privileges
of auto enthusiasts of Alberta since 1974

The SVAA was created in 1974 by a group of members of several Alberta vintage vehicle clubs for the original purpose of correlating event dates to avoid conflict. This grew into a lobby group which over the years was able to bring antique (one-time) licensing for vintage cars (25 years and older) to Alberta, and recently was able to petition, with the National Association, the Federal Government in order to prevent the creation of pollution or junker laws with respect to old cars.

Today, the SVAA consists of some 45 Alberta Vintage, Modified, Street Rod and 4-wheel Clubs, in Alberta, representing 3700 individual persons.

Mission Statement

The Association is dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and enjoyment of all antique, collector, vintage and specialty vehicles. Also, the Society Is dedicated to bringing all auto related clubs in Alberta together, to promote and protect our common interest in the Automobile Hobby.



Suggested Disclaimer For Hosting An Event

The undersigned hereby agree to indemnify all officers and directors against any and all alleged wrongful acts, wrongful acts and/or claims resulting from attendance and participation in this tour and associated events. I/we certify the vehicle indicated above is properly and adequately Insured, licensed, registered and is in a safe operating condition

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

(Please Print)

Cruisin' The Dub

Be sure to check your local listings, for location & times, for more Information, check out

www.cruisin@aw.ca

Calendar of Events (2023)

The SVAA publishes events throughout the year, so please forward your information to rds01@outlook.com or by mail. Some events are now included on the SVAA web site at www-svaalberta.com. Do not send events to this web site.



Something For The Chefs In Our Lives
Becel's Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies

What is the cookie equivalent of the fountain of youth? It's these cookies - every bite makes us feel like a kid again and we are okay with that!

Total time - 18 minutes

Prep time - 10 minutes

Makes 65 cookies

Ingredients:

1 1/2 cups (375 ml)	all-purpose flour
1 1/2 cups (375 ml)	quick oats or old fashioned oats
1 tsp (5 ml)	baking soda
1/2 tsp (2 ml)	salt
1 cup (2 sticks)	Becel Margarine
1 1/4 cups (300 ml)	light brown sugar
1 large	egg
1 tsp (5 ml)	vanilla extract
1 cup (250 ml)	semi-sweet chocolate chips

Instructions

Pre-heat oven to 375 F (190 C)

Combine flour, oats, baking soda and salt in a medium bowl and set aside

Beat Becel margarine with brown sugar in a large bowl with an electric mixer until creamy - about 3 minutes.

Beat in egg and vanilla until well blended

Gradually beat in flour mixture just until blended

Stir in Chocolate Chips

Drop dough by tablespoonfuls on ungreased baking sheets, about 2 inches (5 cm) apart

Bake until edges are golden - about 8 to 10 minutes

Cool sheets on wire racks for about 2 minutes

Remove cookies from sheets and cool completely

For a spin on our Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies, increase oatmeal to 3 1/2 cups (875 ml) , and bake them as bowls. Fill the bowls with milk, low fat frozen yogurt, fruit, or anything else you can imagine.

Tip: To bake as bowls, spray muffin pans with no stick baking spray. Press 2 TBSP (30 ml) of cookie dough in to bottom and up sides of each muffin cup. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool in pans for 1 minute, then carefully remove and cool completely on wire racks. Makes about 42 "cookie cups".



2023 Members

Darry Anderson

Laurence Anderson

Richard & Margaret Densmore

John & Madeline Kitz

Denise Komick

Honorary Life

Kulwinder Kundan Singh

Orest Lazarowich

Honorary Life

Greg & Diane Panchyshyn

Ron Reese

George & Velma Sample

Bill & Sylvia Smolak

Honorary Life

Mike & Joanne Sturmay

Jerry Wilde

Honorary Life

Please Complete the Following and Return To

Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club

C/o William Smolak

5701 - 43A Street

Vegreville, AB

T9C 1E3

Release and Consent Form

I, _____, (print full name) do hereby consent to the use, reproduction, and publication of any and all photographs, video/audio recordings, and/or movies taken by and/or supplied to local papers/and or other media pertaining to or as a result of my activities as a member of the Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club.

Signature

Date



Vegreville Iron Runners Auto Club

Membership Application

Please Print

Date: _____

Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Spouse: _____ Occupation: _____

Children: _____ Age: _____

_____ Age: _____

_____ Age: _____

_____ Age: _____

Address: _____ Phone (Res) _____

City/Town: _____ Phone (Bus) _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone (Cell) _____

Province: _____ New Membership: ____ Renewal: ____

Type of Membership: Single: ____ Family: ____ Other: ____

Vehicles Owned

Vehicle #1 Make: _____ Model: _____

Year: _____ Body Style: _____ Colour: _____

Vehicle #2 Make: _____ Model: _____

Year: _____ Body Style: _____ Colour: _____

Vehicle #3 Make: _____ Model: _____

Year: _____ Body Style: _____ Colour: _____

Fees: Single: \$15

Family: \$25

This information is solely for club use only and will not be given out.

Date of Acceptance: _____

