



Vintage Nova parked out in front of Perry's Bar & Grill



Cars getting ready to be judged Main St



Vintage cars lined up on Main St Seeleys Bay



Volunteers from Sheba's Rescue Haven for dogs



McKenna and her parents

# CRUISIN' IN SEELEYS BAY

By Jonathan Vickers

For those of us who remember the Movie Classic "American Graffiti (1973), A Coming of Age Classic", which featured a young Harrison Ford, Ron Howard and Richard Dreyfuss. The true real stars of the show were the cars in the movie the teenagers drove in their night of adventure.

If you want to relive those Fifties and early Sixties glory years of Cars, you should check out the 5th Annual American Graffiti Car Classic Car Show to be held on Saturday August 24th in Seeleys Bay, Ont. On the Main Street.

Sherry Schaafsma Perry and her husband Jim, owners of Perry's Place Bar & Grill in Seeleys Bay, started the show from scratch 5 years ago in 2015 in hopes of drawing business to the area to help local merchants have an event in the summer as a draw to the area community.

Their hopes were to find a couple of local charities they could also fundraise for, and help their community.

I asked Sherry initially what started the process, she explained "When we first opened the Restaurant in our first year an old car appeared outside the restaurant and everyone inside went out to have a peek, this is it. From this we decided every year we should host a Car Show to draw business to Seeley's Bay."

Sherry went on to say that the naming of "American Graffiti" was what they decided to tag the show with, as a draw that car enthusiasts would recognize immediately. After

the first year, they decided to keep the name for the Annual Car Classic Showcase. (A similar naming show is held in Modesto, California, the town that the movie "American Graffiti" was based on.)

I asked Sherry and Jim, how do you plan for such an event and what is the process involved?

Sherry replied "Just through advertising, a lot of social media and local radio stations, plus word of mouth. This is how people find out about the show. We have a Facebook page for the show (<https://www.facebook.com/classiccarshowseeleysbay/>) and we collect donations from local and regional businesses who will donate prizes for our silent auctions. The winners are awarded prizes of certain car categories. We have also purchased stuff out of our own pocket. We have been fortunate that the Township of Leeds and the 1000 Islands has helped us with grants. Other sponsors have also helped us financially. Our business: Perry's Place and a lot of friends and family help support this event by volunteering time for the day to make it successful."

Sherry also pointed out that fundraising the event brings in for 2 local charities; McKenna's Dream – a fundraising campaign aimed at easing the financial burden on families facing a cancer diagnosis and; Sheba's Haven Rescue – rescues palliative/special needs dogs. Those dogs who have limited quality of life so they live out their lives in a well-balanced environment, as part of our family. All our

rescued dogs enjoy this setting and are free to roam indoors or outside in the fenced 3-acre property.

In 2018 the Car Show raised over \$1400 for each charity. Sherry and Jim and their collection of volunteers are very proud of this achievement.

For those who have not attended, there is a trophy and prizes awarded by judges for different categories of cars, with the highlight being, "The People's Choice Award Trophy". You can view the cars and meet the owners of their vehicles as they will be displayed along the Main St. of Seeleys Bay. Also, during the day, there will be Local Vendors selling Crafts and Goods along the Main St. There is also fabulous BBQ food available at Perry's Place Bar & Grill during the afternoon with great Chicken BBQ by Steve Halladay with \$3 of every chicken dinner sold going to charity. There is a 50/50 draw, a Silent Auction for Fundraising, and Entertainment with special guests: "The Fabulous BelAirs, performing on the patio, bringing back memories of the 50's & 60's marking it a truly wonderful day of fun for the whole family. LH

**Don't pass up this opportunity for a late summer day of fun in Seeleys Bay. For those who want more details of the show or you wish to be a vendor or sponsor contact: Sherry @ 613-387-3003 or email: [deltadawn1ca@hotmail.com](mailto:deltadawn1ca@hotmail.com)**