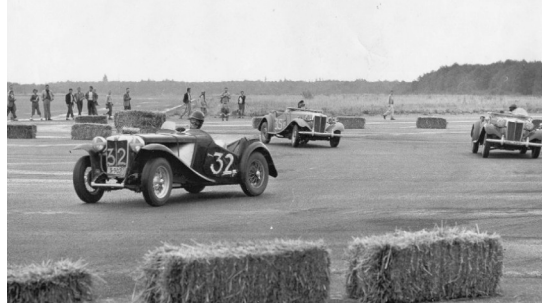


Abbotsford Retrospective

Friday May 27, 2005, 6:00 PM



Abbotsford Airport is the birthplace of British Columbia road racing and drag racing.

On Friday May 27 of 2005, a group of enthusiasts are revisiting the historic racing facility. The event will be coordinated with the Vintage Racing Club of British Columbia annual Historic Motor Races weekend at the Mission facility.

From 1950 to 1958, Abbotsford airport was Vancouver's home of drag racing and road racing for cars and motorcycles. The airport was built in 1940 to house a training school to produce flight crews for the Second World War. After the war was over, the facility was under utilized and the Royal Canadian Air Force allowed motorsport clubs to run their events on a section of the airport that was not in active use.

On April 1, 1958, the RCAF turned the airport over the Federal Government Department of Transport for use as a civilian airport and racing there ended. The closure of racing at Abbotsford sparked the Sports Car Club of British Columbia to construct the Westwood Racing Circuit and the British Columbia Custom Car Association to build their first and second drag tracks at Mission

The event is still in the planning stage. This is where we stand today

- The program will be primarily of a social nature to allow current and past enthusiasts to visit the historic venue. The gathering will be located outside of the airport security fence to the northeast of the site, very close to the old racing pits.
- The airport management will permit, under supervision, a small party with a few historic vehicles to briefly move on to a portion of the airport taxiway for a photo opportunity (keep in mind, Abbotsford is a busy operating airport with stringent security). The taxiway area was part of the original road racing circuit and very near the drag racing area. The airport houses the BC Ministry of Forests water tanker base, in the unlikely event of forest fire activity; the photo opportunity may not be possible.
- Several individuals who actually raced at the airport have been contacted, several are interested in attending.
- One sports car that raced on the circuit it has been committed to be there and we are on the lookout for more, sports cars, drag cars and motorcycles.
- Schedule will be
6:00 pm, gather at site
7:00 pm, move photo party to taxiway for photos
8:00 pm, move to yet undetermined location for refreshments
- If you are interested in this event, please contact one of the organizers.
- If you have any Abbotsford racing memorabilia, please let us know.
- The event will go on rain or shine as did the races (road races, not drag races)
- Please contact the organizers if you have any questions or ideas.

Spread the Word

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