

Passion for British vehicles began early

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Carole Borgens learned at an early age how to change the oil in the family car, as well as her father's dump truck.

"I was the son my father never had," Borgens matter-of-factly told the Langley Advance, noting she's sure not scared to get a little dirt under her fingernails or grease on her clothes.

Borgens grew up as an only child in Victoria and actually credits those times spent in the garage with her father for fostering her current day obsession with cars - particularly vintage sports cars.

While her first vehicle was a utilitarian 1950 Ford, it was a 1963 white MG Midget that first stole her heart as a young woman.

"Needless to say I was a just a tad manipulative," Borgens said, noting that with very little persuasion she convinced her father she had to have the MG and that it would be much better on gas than her Ford.

In short order, Borgens was the proud new owner of the first of many sports car that would eventually play a turn in her life.

"It was just a love affair from then on," said Borgens, who instantly took up high-speed, short-track racing - and began winning immediately.

Borgens has long since given up racing, but she's never given up her love affair with vintage sport cars - and nor does she expect she ever will.

She went on to own numerous other foreign sports cars, including two Porsches, an Austin Healey, a Mercedes, and a Renault.

"There have been so many that I can't remember," Borgens said.

She is just one of more than dozens of British car collectors and enthusiasts who will be participating in the fourth annual St. George's Day British Car and Truck Show in Fort Langley this weekend.

The Aldergrove resident will be there with her most recent pride and joy, Lady Jag, a 1965 3.8S, four-speed manual Jaguar.

Not originally keen on owning a Jaguar, Borgens laughs at herself for buying into the all the misconceptions she'd heard.



CREDIT: Troy Landreville/Langley Advance
Carole Borgens with her 1965 Jaguar, Lady Jag, will be among those at the 4th annual St. George's Day British Car & Truck Show Sunday in Fort Langley.

She feared it would be too expensive to maintain and too difficult to get parts. So she continually rejected any suggestions from friends that she needed a Jag.

That all changed five years ago now.

Her friend Mike told her of a Jaguar going up for sale in South Surrey. To humour him, she agreed to go for a ride.

It had 90,000 original miles and was all original. But from her position in the passenger's seat, she wasn't overly impressed.

Nevertheless, something kept niggling at her after she left.

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"The thought didn't leave me. It was calling to me, saying I need to go back."

A week later Borgens returned, asking if she could take the Jaguar for a test-drive.

"It was in the driving of it that I got hooked," Borgens said, explaining her experienced behind the wheel made her appreciate what the car had to offer.

It turned out to be true love.

And fortunately, she said, all her fears about the car were wrong. With the assistance of the car's original maintenance manual and a great network of friends and fellow members of the Langley Area Mostly British Motoring (LAMB) Club, she's been able to do most of the upkeep and maintenance on Lady Jag herself, and surprisingly it hasn't been too costly.

"It's absolutely not a perfect car," she said. "But it's a great example of a car of that vintage."

Lady Jag will be one of at least 55 cars on display this weekend in Fort Langley.

The Langley Area Mostly British Motoring (LAMB) Club, of which Borgens is president, is joining forces with the Fort Langley BIA to host the fourth annual St. George's Day British Car and Truck Show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. outside the Fort Langley Community Hall on Sunday.

The show will include British cars and trucks, from vintage to modern. As well, the club is sharing space with members of the Society for Preservation of Antique Radios, who will be on hand with a display and broadcasting on an FM frequency.

For more information about the local car club, or this weekend's show, call 604-857-1837, email c_b@shaw.ca, or visit online: www3.telus.net/lambmc.

Borgens said being part of the show and the club is about much more than just the cars, it's about socializing and sharing her passion for old cars with like-minded people.

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