

Name: Mike Jones – Life time member

Profile Date: Feb. 2021

Born: September 1952

Voted in to the WCMC 1997

First Bike : 1976 650 Yamaha

Current Bikes: 2006 1800 Honda Goldwing, 1985 1200 Goldwing, 1992 50 cc. Yamaha.

Bikes owned: 1976 650 Yamaha, 1977 650 Yamaha, 1985 50 Honda, 1980 1000 Honda Goldwing, 1981 1100 Honda Goldwing, 1985 1200 Honda Goldwing , 1992 50cc Yamaha, 2006 1800 Honda Goldwing.



1976 650 Yamaha

I became interested in Motorcycles at an early age by the thrill of riding a bicycle around corners. I started riding motorcycles in 1984 after being married for 9 years and having four children. I am not as reckless as I was in my younger days.

I joined the WCMC Club for fun, meet the local motorcycle community, develop friendships and camaraderie with like minded motorcycle enthusiasts.

Before I joined the Welland County Motorcycle Club, I had belonged to many different organizations. I have always been an active member in all of them. I held executive positions in Labour Associations, Political Party, Environmental Groups and Outdoorsmen Organizations. This time when I joined the WCMC Club I joined just for fun, to meet the local motorcycle community, to develop friendships and camaraderie with like minded motorcycle enthusiasts. Soon after joining I began to get more involved in this club more than in any of my other groups because of the love I felt for this great, historical Motorcycle Club. At the time I joined I did not know that they held motorcycle races.

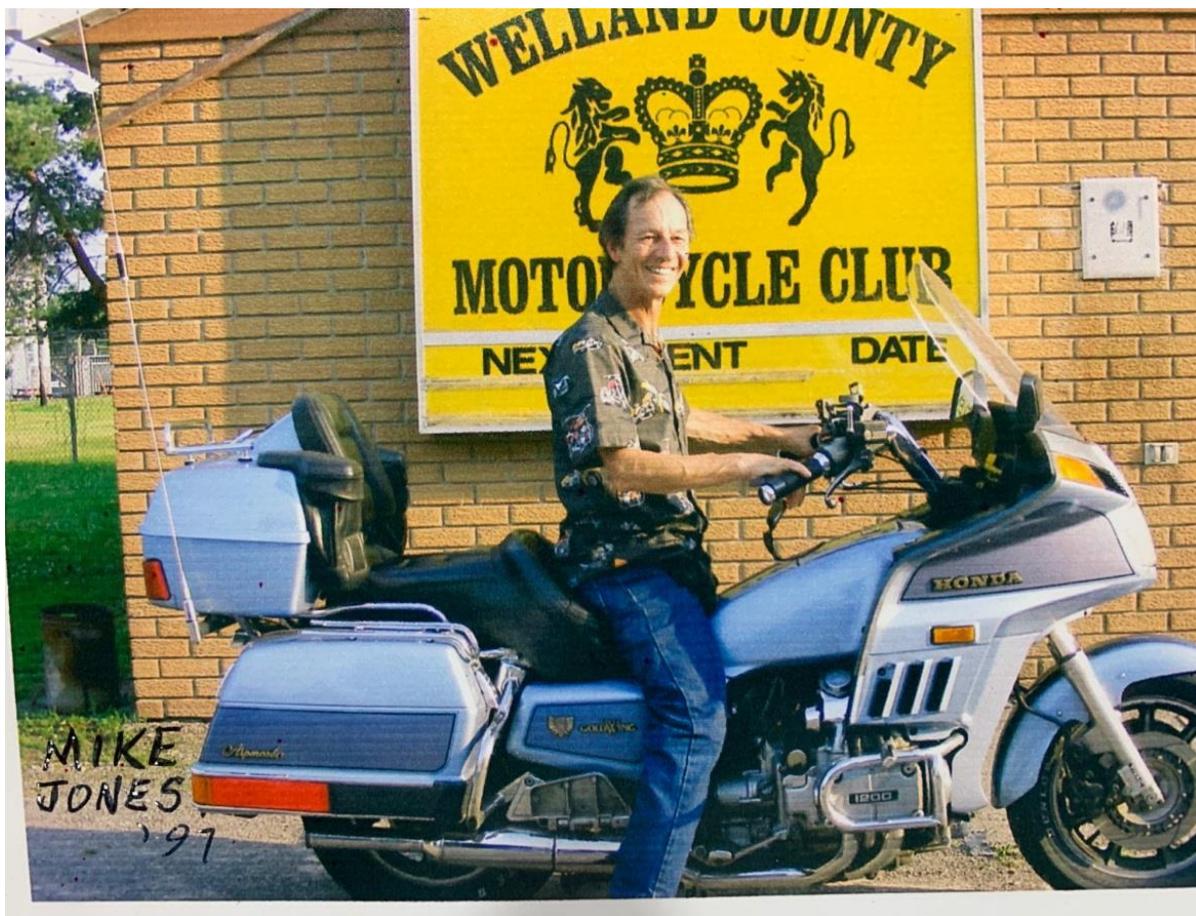


1981 1100 Goldwing

For years, I rode alone throughout Southern Ontario before I joined the WCMC. The first trip that I rode on was the Annual Fishing Trip. I enjoyed riding to the fishing trip for 5 years from 1999 to 2004. I don't remember actually doing any fishing. There was always plenty to eat and drink at night with amazing road trips daily in and around Geneva on the Lake, Ohio. Much comradely was shared amongst our members during this weekend trip. Thanks to both Al Fair and Rene Landry for annually organizing this trip.

My buddy Norm Fisher asked me to help him with his Bucket List for his seventieth birthday by a ride to the Tail of the Dragon in Tennessee in 2013. We rode for 11 days there and back following the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Sky Line Highway and then many other back roads until we got home. We did this trip twice because it's definitely a fantasy ride there and back.

I also rode with Pat Maddalena and the boys to Lake George to the Americade Rally four times from 2014 to 2017. We rode through the hills and mountains around Lake Placid, Lake George and into the state of Vermont. There are exceptional paved roads with many thrills throughout that region. Every year we took advantage of both the Bike Events and daily road trips. We rented a chalet which accommodated eleven people. We cooked most of our meals at the chalet exposing ourselves to many great cooks that kept their culinary talents a secret.



1985 1200 Honda Goldwing

My longest trip was with my wife Carol, Norm and his wife Lurrean in 2017. We took 3 weeks travelling through New York State to Quebec and up the St. Lawrence River around the Peninsula to Gaspé Bay. Then we followed the coast to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, up to the Cabot trail, Peggy's Cove and Digby. After the Ferry from Digby Nova Scotia to St. John New Brunswick we rode home going through Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York. For me, it's always the journey, not the destination and that trip was one that proved that thesis.



On the Cabot Trail with Norm and Lurrean Fisher (Carol is taking the picture)

Since 1997, I've worked every race season doing various jobs. I've worked security, late pit gate, Parking and 8 years coordinating the food booth. I only started the Food Booth when Archie Hardie agreed to help me organize this major task. We took it on as the last resort, due to the fact that no other members were willing to do so. We realized the importance of this resource. I've helped organized, create and sold Race programs in the last few years. You can always find me selling programs by my wild and crazy outfits with my persistence and loud announcements.

I have organized the Poki Barbi Dan for 19 years. This event starts off the riding season. It is held on the last Saturday of April. It is also the first organized event for our club in the New Year, therefore it requires me to conduct the spring cleanup of the club grounds. Our members always volunteer making the clean up a happy task. This major event includes mapping out the Poker Run routes and choosing the stops, along with developing the questionnaire sheets. I also went out and got the musicians. I helped organize the dinner and was lucky to have had John Vucanics, Ritz Rainville and their crew cook the steaks. Getting volunteers to work on this event has always been easy. Like most events both members and their spouses worked on something. Lately I have given the route and questionnaire to one of our Road Captains, Ron Turnbull. Ron has been doing a wonderful job.



I am proud to have earned the Rookie of the year in 1997, the Blue Balls award ten different years, the members appreciation award for five separate years. I received the Most Valuable Member two times, in 2013 and again in 2019. I'm also proud to have received the Chester Osten Outstanding Service Award in 2018.

I got roped into organizing The Annual Club Banquet because my friend Bob Lovejoy drunkenly agreed to put on this party at a club meeting, I felt I could not let him hang himself out to dry so I took it on with Bob doing the organizing of this event, selling tickets, and doing seat arrangements since the year 2000. Karen Gamm, Rick Coutu's spouse was always there to help with the banquet. We were lucky to have Karen's twins Shelly and Sara continue her tradition.

I performed the duty of Membership Secretary from 2005 to 2013. This was a very enjoyable task of introducing prospective members to the membership and getting to personally know each individual. I am very proud of the members that were accepted during my time in the position. Many now have become good club members and many have become life members. I have made many good friends from my time in that position. My greatest thrill was introducing my own brother as “My brother from a different mother and a different father” (our inside joke) unfortunately John is no longer a member. I created the first motorcycle Show and Shine in 2013. “Whine, Dine and Shine. Was this event very successful? In my opinion not very however it did provide other clubs a view into what our club stands for and allowed for those who wanted to stay for our weekly meeting to do so.



Riding the Goldwing on the Club Sign

I was a Board Member for the years 2013, 2017, 2018 and 2019. These were insightful years into the inner workings of the organization. I feel to this day that during my time as a board member that I brought with me a different perspective and logical view on many issues. Seeing that I was a successful business person for over twenty five years I brought with me a bundle of ideas on how to make our club more financially profitable and how to preserve our club camaraderie.

I have overseen the WCMC website and helped with the WCMC Facebook group page and Speedway Facebook site. I promoted club events, rides and races on our Facebook pages 2017-2019. The interviews I had with our Race Announcer Wes Pierce that was posted on the Facebook sites weekly video during our Race Season, they were always a delight. I never knew what to expect from the lips of Wesley but it was always entertaining.

I have been a Road Captain for 8 years with Norm Fisher from 2013 to present. Due to more interest in that position that we developed, we now have welcomed both Ron Turnbull and Todd Fournier as our newest Road Captains.



1985 1200 Goldwing (Tail of the Dragon)

When Jim Ewart and Randy Doan gave up the Friday Night Ride, I organized the Sunset Rides for the last 6 year until the Covid Pandemic forced it to be put on hold. This ride starts at 6:30 sharp at the Tim Horton's on Prince Charles Drive and Lincoln St. every other Friday from May to the end of September or early October depending on the weather. We now end the rides at a member's home which has made it a ride not to miss. Because of the increase in number of bikes and participants, we now use as many road captains as possible with constant communication to help keep the ride safe and enjoyable. You can see me leading the ride with my side kick Ron Putman right beside me.

Jim Ewart started the Euchre night in the fall and winter time. When he resigned, I took it over for five years because we had so many people coming out and it was such a fun night. In 2019 Mark DeRuyte took it over. It is still a high light in the darkest hours of the year.

I am a pool player, one of the many players in the club. Our club goes into an every other week meeting from November to the first of April. During those times I always came out on that social night to play pool with other members. There were very few that attended those social nights, leaving me with few club members to play pool with and few members that enjoyed our clubhouse during winter. I was determined to find a way to increase our camaraderie during those months so in 2016 I started up the bi weekly pool league. It took a couple of years to catch on but now the Pool Nights are running well. We now have as many as twenty participants and many others come out to enjoy the camaraderie and the delicious hot dogs that are freshly cooked by Joe Montovani. Last Pool Night Season, knowing that I was going away for most of the winter, Sid Scott took over this bi-weekly event and kept it very running successful.



2006 1800Goldwing (Tail of the Dragon

In 2016 our club welcomed Bruce Bissel and the Biketoberfest Event to our club. This event is the Largest Motorcycle Event in all of Niagara. The first year I helped with parking the thousands of motorcycles and cars that showed up. The following year I ran the very successful Food Booth thanks to all my volunteers. I organized over 100 volunteer workers for the last two years for of Biketoberfest event. I also realized the importance of getting companies involved by helping cover our costs by becoming a sponsor. I have raised thousands of dollars worth of Sponsorship money over the years. It gives the club and I great pleasure in the knowledge that we have been able to donated over a hundred thousand dollars to Pathstone, a charitable organization that helps children and families with mental health problems.

I was truly blessed that Ron Putman, Jimmy O and Jim Strokes all convinced me to join the best motorcycle club in all of Canada. I would like to thank both Jims for your sponsorship of my application.