

Welland County Motorcycle Club – 70th Anniversary 2016

Member: Don McCormack

Born: September 28, 1948

Received membership into club in 2012

In my late teens I rode a 1965 Honda 200 on the gravel roads where I grew up and never rode again until I retired. A life with three sons active in sports and the outdoors left no time for motorcycling. Upon retirement I purchased 1982 Honda 1100 c.c. Goldwing



Interstate and took up riding again. I first signed up at Niagara College to take the Motorcycle Course which was offered to new and seasoned riders. I would certainly recommend this course to anyone new to motorcycles. My next move was to find a place that would allow me to get advice on riding, tips to stay safe and a chance to ride with other more experienced people. The Welland County Motorcycle Club provided this atmosphere so I approached them through a mutual friend and applied for membership. I became a member in 2012.

During the first years of riding I participated in WCMC activities such as the Poki-Barbi-Dan, Barry's Blue Balls Brunch, visits to Port Dover on Friday 13th, a trip to the 75th Anniversary of the Harvard Aircraft at the Tillsonburg Harvard



Museum and a ride to the Canadian Motorcycle Fallen Heroes Monument erected in Port Dover to remember motorcycle riders killed on Canadian highways.

During these first few years I had some interesting things occur including discovering that the "Kill Switch" on the bike is just that, even when you accidentally push it and can't understand why the bike won't start. A lesson well learnt.

In the spring of 2013, I purchased a new bike – a 2005 Yamaha 1100cc V-Star Classic. This proved to be easier for me to handle with the center of gravity being much lower.

In 2014, I was one ticket away from winning the Harley at Biketoberfest, but taking home \$1000.00 was not bad either, enough for new tires and brakes with money left over.

My wife (Linda) and I ride on the Club's Friday Night Rides. This proved to be a great way for us to meet people during the social time before and after the ride. Euchre Nights and Pool Nights in the winter were also good ways to stay in touch with new friends.

Around the Club property I have worked in the food booth, cleaned up on Sundays after the races, helped repair and fix seating in the grandstands, parked cars on race nights, worked on the pavilion roof and helped wherever needed.



Other activities I have participated in include the Ride for Dad for prostate cancer for the last four years, BRO's Annual Kids Toy Ride, Clare's Bike Nights, the club's Moustache Ride, Ride of the Flags, Hare & Hound and Annual Lime Ride. As a couple we have participated in several rides to the States with Club members.

