

Peter Galea – Welland, Ontario

Date of Profile: August 18, 2018

Born on the Island of Malta and came to Canada in 1954

Voted in to the WCMC August 2018

Currently own: 2013 HD Dyna Wide Glide

2000 HD Dyna Low Rider

2005 Sportster 1200 Custom (Wife's)

2002 Sportster 1200 (Wife's)

My interest in Motorcycling started with my Dad who was a RAF Military Dispatch rider for 6 years on a 1940 Norton, stationed in North Africa during WWII dodging snipers and bomb craters throughout his term. For the Airplane enthusiasts, in the background those are Mosquito Fighters made mostly from wood as metal was in short supply during the War.



I always wanted to learn how to ride and one day own a Harley Davidson – a lot of my friends from school already rode and joined different MC's.

Really, I did not know about other bike clubs and soon started to ride with them in 1974.

I was in the Audio-Visual field and traded my Stereo Sound System for a used 1972 HD Sportster 900 with no electric start, no front brakes, no gas gauge and only 3 gears. If you didn't kick it right, you would find yourself 10 feet from your bike. Chain driven and always leaking fluids. Helmet laws were new with no real regulations and to get my licence, I just had to show them my car license and pay \$5.00 – no testing at that time.

Riding a HD in the early 70's, put a mark on your back and I was always stopped by the law. Riding the New England States, the no vacancy sign would come up as soon as I rode up to a motel. My wife had to get off the bike, clean up a little, go check in and then I would roar up. We were pioneers then, now they have Welcome Biker signs. I find that pretty ironic. I then bought a 1975 Golden anniversary Sportster 1000 black with gold pin striping – it was a great looking bike but had its own problems but at least it was my first electric start bike. Got tired of the life and along with my family we sold everything except our personal items and of course my HDMC and moved 5000KM away from Toronto to Vancouver to start a new life. Traded in the Sportster when we got there and bought a 1980 HD Low Rider – they called it an 80/80 and it was the first belt driven bike in 1980 with 80ci.

Well, things have a habit of catching up to you and the tax man ended up taking my bike so I did without for a few years.

Later I owned numerous used bikes. (All Harley Davidson's)

I then bought a 1999 Dyna Sport FXDX – it was a great riding bike with no issues and I put over 300,000 KM on it riding from Vancouver to Sturgis, Vegas 3 times, Los Angeles, Chicago, Olympia oyster run, Laughlin, Nevada, etc. Two of my favourite rides was to Whistler, BC along the Sea to Sky Highway and riding through the Rocky Mountains through Rogers Pass to Calgary from Vancouver. I did that ride about 50 times. Takes 12 hours on a bike.



1999 Dyna Sport FXDX

I've seen almost every state and province by bike except Alaska and Alabama. We also rented bikes in Europe. I was a member of the #1 club with Harley Davidson before HOG got started.

I then purchased my first Wide Glide but only had it a year as I was in an accident in Arizona and it got written off. The bill for one night in the Hospital was \$38,000.00US – good that I had purchased Travel Insurance.



My current bike is also a Wide-glide 2013 and very happy with it – upgraded Screaming Eagle fuel injector but mostly kept it stock.



We now own four Harley's – two kept in Arizona for winter riding and two kept here in Welland, Ontario.



I am proud to be a full member of the Welland County Motorcycle Club and enjoy the variety of bikes members own and having a dirt race track.

I love working the race track and have done many jobs from flipping burgers, security detail, working the gate and parking duties - I also was the proud recipient of the Rookie of the Year in 2018 and helped fix the grand stands and steered the clean up duties after the races.



I was fortunate enough to be awarded The Rookie of the Year Award.