



Contact:

Randy Bird

Tel: (905) 342 – 3053

Email: randy@randybird.ca

Official website: www.randybird.ca

2014 AUTOFEST WRAP-UP

Aug 22, 23 and 24, 2014 began the 21st Annual Auto fest Car show run by The Motor City Car Club held at beautiful Lakeview Park in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada. A special feature to this years show was the celebration of the iconic Ford Mustang's 50th anniversary. The Durham Region Classic Mustang Club partnered with the Motor City Car Club to create a special feature at this years show called "Ponies in the Park" with the tag line "Collected but never tamed". The two day car show saw over 200 Mustangs join the celebration in the park which set an all-time record number of Mustangs at Auto fest and an all-time first of having 50 years of Mustangs (1964.5 - 2014) present at this 1983 and older car show. The main attraction to the Ponies in the Park feature was the creation of a western theme at the main entrance to the Park which could not have been what it was without the partnership of The Durham Region Classic Mustang Club and Randy Bird Equine Education.

Randy arrived on Friday afternoon to find a western theme created at the entrance to the park consisting of a main gate, banner, and a split rail fence constructed only a few short hours prior to his arrival. Randy brought with him the finishing touches to the display which included hay bales, a saddle, chaps, two rocking chairs, and his amazing Mustang carriage. Feedback received from the Motor City Car Club and spectators at this show was that this display was truly a highlight of the show. Randy got an opportunity to bring awareness of his efforts to the 10,000 spectators that went through the park over the course of the weekend which we hope will help support the great work that he does. The Ponies in the Park feature held ended up being a car show within a large car show and created a venue for local residents and Mustang owners to celebrate the Mustang brand close to home. The actual Auto fest events start prior to the car show and consist of a soap box derby, a press release and a sponsor night all in support of the Grandview Children's Centre. This year's donation at the end of the weekend was over \$15,000 and will continue to climb prior to the end of the year. All in all an amazing cause which we are very proud to have supported and thankful for everyone involved to make it a success.

There have been many Mustang celebrations this year all over North America. This event would not have been possible if The Motor City Car Club had not been open to, and asked, The Durham Region Classic Mustang Club to host it. Also critical to its success was the The Durham Region Classic Mustang Club's 9 sponsors that stepped up, the many volunteers, spectators, Mustang car owners who attended, and of course Randy Bird who really put the icing on the cake that made the entrance so spectacular. As Randy stated to me, upon my ask of how it was going given this was his first car show, "You know Paul we have a saying, it's just another day at the ranch". I will remember that quote for some time. We really appreciate Randy spending the weekend with us and hope that we can continue to work together in the future given our common bond - the Mustang.

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