

The Caterham Maple Leaf News

Canada's only bi-monthly publication for Lotus/Caterham 7 owners and enthusiasts. Volume 2 No. 5



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My life with a Super 7

It may have started with you as it started with me. An off beat British TV show with a great opening. A car like I have never seen before blasting along an open road, through the streets of London and into my heart. What was it? After a bit of research, without the help of the internet, (since it hadn't been invented yet!) and I had the name of this amazing car. It was a Lotus Super 7 and I wanted one. But where in the wilds of Alberta would you find such a beast? Little did I know that nestled in the heart of Edmonton was a new dealership called Anglo Canadian Motors and they imported Lotus! This was great news, but in the late 60's I wasn't exactly flush with money, yet regardless of my circumstances I had set my heart on owning one of these amazing little cars. Little did I know how these youthful decisions would change my life forever.



I had a friend in high school that had a car and like most teenagers in the 60's we would cruise the streets looking for someone to race. One night in town we saw it. A blue Lotus Super 7. One second it was there, next it was gone. It was so quick I thought it was a dream. I had never seen one in the flesh or should I say fibreglass. It was so small! The top was up which made it look even smaller than I remembered from the TV show. So there was one in Edmonton and now I knew that ownership might be possible.

Time passed and winter arrived. It was on one of these cold winter days when out of the blue I saw it again parked outside a restaurant with the top up but no side curtains and full of snow, it saddened me to see it this way but at least I had found its home. I contacted the owner Larry Everett who promised that once the weather improved he would give me a ride. The day came and we drove around the university campus and round a roundabout faster than I had ever been before. I now wanted it more than ever but the lack of cash was looking like a mountain that couldn't be climbed.

I never lost sight of the idea of owning a Super 7 and since I had now entered the world of the sports car ownership with a TR, I had discovered the Anglo Canadian dealer. One day whilst there for some parts I discovered to my amazement that they had not one, but two used Lotus 7's for \$2800.00 each. The one that caught my eye was an orange one, complete with its orange suspension, I wanted it! With the TR now relegated in my mind to a previous life, it was now or never. Next stop was a visit to my friendly Bank manager who kindly loaned me the necessary funds. My dream had come true.

That winter I rented space in a shop that was leased by the MGT club in Edmonton. I was introduced to them by the parts shop that I had discovered while I owned the TR. Euro Auto Parts was the best thing since sliced bread for British car owners in Edmonton. Ben and Rick were able to magically produce parts that we thought were impossible to get and they did it with a smile. When they found out I had purchased a Lotus Seven they knew I needed some help and help they did.



That winter my friend and I painted the orange beast behind curtains of plastic surrounded by MGTD's and a white TR3. I had removed the fenders for painting. It was here that I found out the interesting effects of red oxide primer! My first run was just up the street with my high school friend in the passenger seat. The car looked great. I had painted the body black and the fenders and nose bright yellow. This was one of the longest winters I had experienced, the car was ready but the roads were not. **PART 2 IN OUR NEXT ISSUE.**

This newsletter is published by 7CARS, Canada's only used Lotus/Caterham 7 dealer. Further information on our current stock of quality used 7s can be found at www.7cars.ca email: sevencars@shaw.ca



NEXT ISSUE

In our next issue we will continue to hear from Robert Woodcock.

Robert lives in Edmonton, Alberta and has owned a 1970 Lotus 7 S3 for the past 33 years.

Robert will talk us through how he got hooked on the car we have all come to love.

LOTUS 7 CLUB-



For those of you who have yet to join the Lotus 7 Club, let me encourage you to take the leap. The club's monthly magazine 'LOW FLYING' is a superb publication with excellent articles from enthusiastic owners.

For further information on joining the club use the link below:
www.lotussevenclub.com

ARTICLES WANTED

If you would like to write an article for this publication, please email us and we would be pleased to include it in the next available issue.