

Name: René Landry – Lifetime member.

Profile Date: March 2024

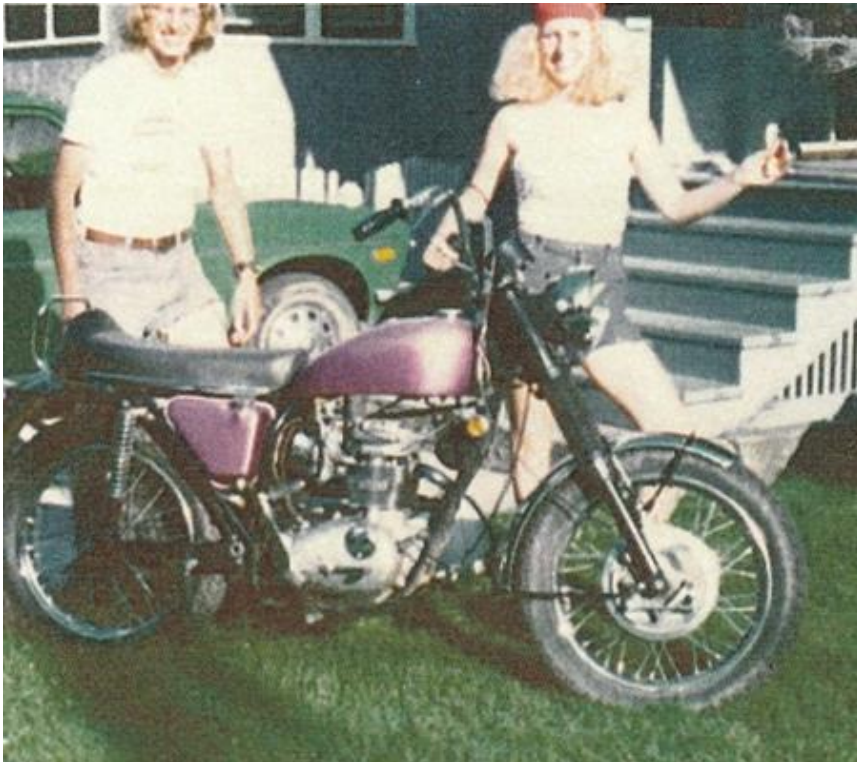
Born: Welland, Ontario

Voted in to the Club: August 19, 1987

First Bike : 1970 250cc BSA Starfire Single Cylinder

Current Bikes: 2002 Honda ST 1100

Bikes owned: 1970 250cc BSA Starfire , 1981 CB750F Honda Supersport, 1984 XJ 1100 Yamaha Maxim, 2002 Honda ST 1100.



1970 250cc BSA Starfire and my 1955 Sister (Circa 1973)

I became interested in motorcycles about the time I started high school.

Where my brothers and friends had pictures of cars and calendar girls on their bedroom walls, I had pictures of motorcycles and calendar girls.

The reason I joined the club: I had bought my CB750F from “Farmer”

Twerdolib and I went to see him for information about the Ride for Sight and he invited me to come to a meeting at the Club to get the Ride for Sight

information. The ride to that Club meeting was with Farmer, Moe and Jocko Gagnon, Jim-O, Bill Hamilton and Pete Thompson. That was an eye-opening

ride! I was intrigued by the Club history and impressed by its plans for upcoming events so before the meeting was over, I realized that I wanted to

become a member. Farmer sponsored me for membership and I will always be grateful to him for that.

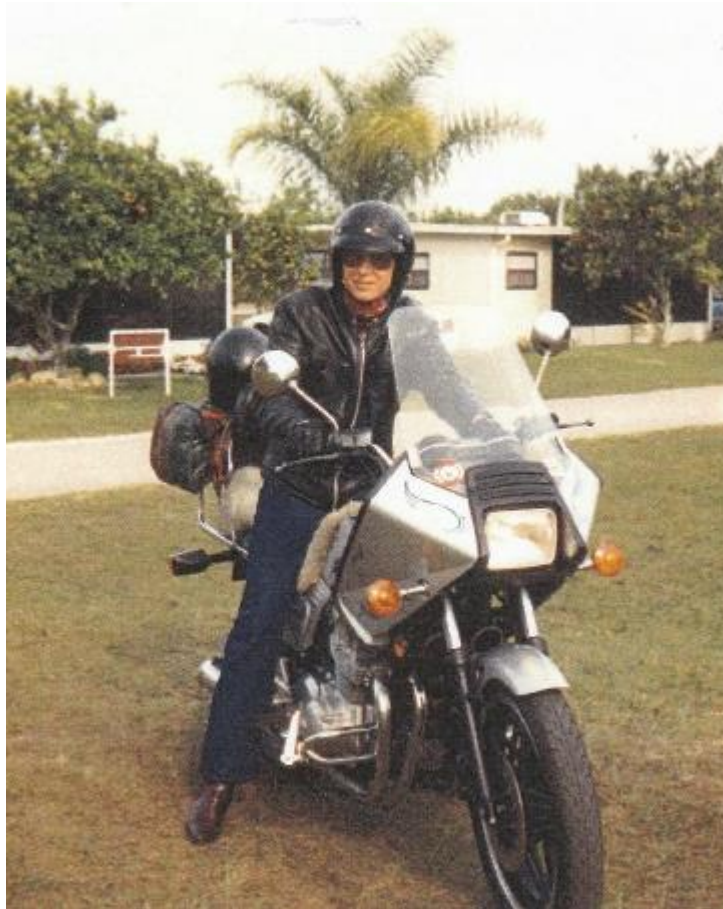
My first motorcycle was a 1970 250cc BSA Starfire single cylinder with an upswept exhaust pipe. There was a guard on the exhaust pipe so that passenger would not burn their leg. The bolts holding the guard would shake loose and the guard would fall off. When I lost the bolts on the way to Sauble Beach, I got bolts at a Massey Ferguson dealership in Owen Sound, which were a different pitch or maybe slightly larger and needed more force to install them. Bolts never shook loose again while I owned the bike.

I think back on that trip to Sauble Beach, my first long trip on a motorcycle. Four of us going to meet four college girls at one's family cottage for a May 24 weekend. My British bike, two 250cc Yamahas and a 350cc Honda. Running shoes, change of clothes, light jacket, no rain gear; we were such rookies! Got caught in a huge rainstorm on the way home. Hours and hours in a steady rain, soaked to the skin, trying to find shelter behind trailers to cut the wind. Lesson learned? Some of the Club members who know me are likely to say no.



1981 CB750F Honda Supersport (Photo 1988)

My second motorcycle was a 1981 CB750F Honda Supersport, a huge jump from the BSA. Certainly, better for long trips and I took many of them after my separation. Lots of family in Quebec and I went there often and over much of Ontario except for the north and northwest. It was the bike I owned when I joined the Club, so it went on all the fishing trips to Dorset, Ontario, Pennsylvania and Ohio: as well as Bike Week in Daytona and a number of times to West Virginia. In 1989 fellow Club member Jeff Hall and I rode to the Maritimes and back through Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and New York to home. I really liked that bike and have great memories of it. It was written off in 1994 when a drunk smashed into the back of me coming out of the Townline Tunnel after a Club meeting.



Early 1990's Daytona Bike Week
Leaving Bonita Springs on the Gulf Coast to Return to Daytona

My next ride was a 1984 XJ 1100 Yamaha Maxim, which I purchased in November of 1994 to replace the CB750F. That bike also did a number of trips to Quebec, Americade, West Virginia, Ohio and other parts of the US and another Maritimes trip, including Newfoundland with fellow member Jamie Schooley. That bike came off the road in 2017 and was the centerpiece of the 2018 bike blow-up and burn-out at the Club. Entertaining to its very end. The burnt-out remains are in a place of honor along the laneway to the campground in the pits.



1984 XJ 1100 Yamaha Maxim (Photo 1995)

In 2017 I bought a 2002 Honda ST 1100 (Photo Next Page), which I am still riding today. The ST has always been the bike of my dreams, since they first came out in the 90's and I really enjoy the one I'm riding now. It also has been to the Maritimes three times although regretfully, the first time was on a trailer with my partner's bike. There will be more trips with it.



2002 Honda ST 1100

In 1994, Remi Fournier, Al Fair and I planned a ride to Ashtabula, Ohio to see if it would be a suitable location for the Club's Annual Fishing Trip since interest in the one to Tionesta, Pennsylvania seemed to be fading. At a restaurant in Erie, Pennsylvania a fellow overheard us and said that it was unlikely that Ashtabula would be suitable and to continue along Lake Erie to Geneva-on-the-Lake, Ohio. Was he ever right! Since what happens in Geneva-on-the-Lake stays in Geneva-on-the-Lake, there will be no details about that weekend or any of the others that followed.

Some trivia – there is an historical plaque at the Ashtabula Harbour that states that, in its heyday, Ashtabula was the 2nd most dangerous port in the world, after Shanghai.

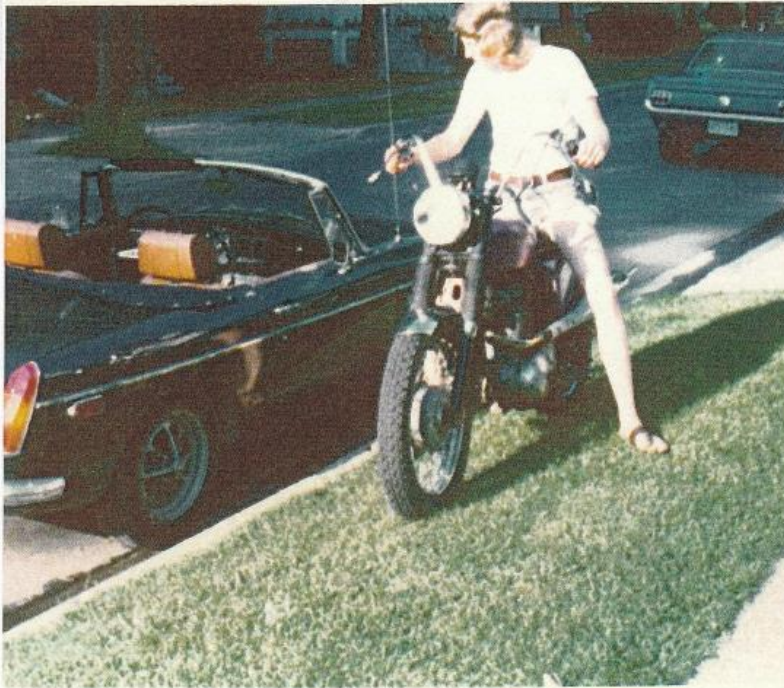
With help from Remi, Al and, later, Brian Jamieson, I organized the annual fishing trip to Geneva-on-the-Lake from 1995 to 2014. We met some great people in GOTL, made friendships that still endure today and had incredible, almost unbelievable, fun. In 2015 and 2016, I organized fishing trips to Erieau, Ontario. We had fun because we always do, but Erieau is not Geneva-on-the-Lake so it stopped.



1998 Relaxing on the Fishing Trip in Geneva-On-The-Lake Ohio



2003 Run Aground at Survivors, Geneva-On-The-Lake Ohio



1970 250cc BSA and my 1972 MGB (Circa 1973)
I say, so vedy, vedy British.



1999 – Jamie Schooley and I leaving on our Maritimes Trip



1999 Relaxing Somewhere in the Maritimes, P.E.I. Maybe



1999 Bikes Tied Down on the Ferry to Argentia, Newfoundland



1999 Bikes Tied Down, Time to Party



1999 Partying on the Ferry



1999 Stopped at Mt. Washington, New Hampshire on the way Home

I became a member on August 19, 1987 and received the Rookie of the Year Award in 1988, one of the awards that I am most proud of.

I have served as Secretary and as a Director at various times. I was elected Treasurer in 1998 and served in that capacity until I was elected President in 2004 and also served as President in 2005. I also served as Steward for a number of years on two different occasions, as well as Membership Secretary and Road Captain.

I am very involved with the Huntington Society of Canada and organized fund raising and awareness rides for Huntington's for a number of years. The Club has always been very supportive of the Huntington Society, amongst its other charities.

I became a Life Member in 2003.

In 2009 I was approached by then President Randy Doan who asked if I would re-start the Deceased Members Ride and I have been organising the Ride since then. It has become one of the Club's signature rides.

In 2012, I became involved, with Jim Stokes, in the Mustache Ride. It also has evolved into one of the Club's annual signature rides. As of 2023, the Ride has raised over \$55,000.00 to support research and awareness of prostate cancer in the Niagara Region.

I have been involved in many of the Club's projects and events since 1987 and am grateful that my contributions have been recognized and acknowledged with the following awards:

Rookie of the Year – 1988

Doug Browse Memorial Outstanding Service Award – 1996

Most Valuable Member Award – 1998

Lifetime Service Award – 2012

Lifetime Service Award – 2023

Appreciation Awards for Outstanding Service – 1989, 1990, 1994, 1995, 1997, 2017

I am very proud to be a member of the Welland County Motorcycle Club and hope to be able to continue to be involved and to contribute for many more years.