

# My Studebaker Story

By Frederick B. Hall

*What a magical day*, six year old twin boys playing on the laneway of the family farm with their black Lab x pup "Tinkerbell", a BB rifle and a Muskrat. Tink(sounded better) had found the Muskrat swimming in the ditch, my brother Steve and myself were target shooting "something" at the time. We ran over to the ditch, and gazed upon the wet rodent.

Before we go any further, no animal(S) or persons was harmed in any way. My older brother, Mike, was the owner of the BB Rifle and he had all the BB's, Mom would only let us play with the rifle if we used a payload of Play-Do. It was one of those crack the barrel type guns, we would take a bucket, fill it full of water, poke some holes in the sides, run back about 20 feet, lie down, "crack" the barrel, wad a chunk of Play-Do in the barrel, close it and shoot.

The "pellet" of Play-Do was effective enough and if your aim was true, it would plug the hole on the side of the bucket and stop the stream of water....Such Fun!

Back to the ditch. Steve and I ran up to where Tink was barking. The Muskrat in hind site was much wiser in years then the three of us combined. The wasketly rodent had toyed with "Tink", making her run in and out of the water, splashing getting all wet, and when we showed up, making us do the same. At some point the Muskrat took off into the field, leaving us standing beside the laneway.

The Laneway was about a 1/8<sup>th</sup> of a mile long, ending where the Barn was, the house about 100ft. before that. It was a working hobby Farm, we raised Chickens, Goats and Rabbits, and we grew Strawberries and a large Apple Orchard. Our Father worked for Stelco

At the time.



This afternoon my world changed.

A car pulled onto our laneway, it was White and Red and long. As it got closer, the front end look as it had 2 big eyes and a big grin. Tink ran towards the car, I could see a mans arm waiving for the dog to get away, closer, that mans arm was my Dad.

Dad drove by us slowly still trying to keep Tink away, as I stood there that car looked about 40 feet long as it passed by, all shiny, bright and tall. Dad stopped at the house, we ran up the driveway, Dad stepped out of the car, Tink was barking, Mom came out of the house and stood on the porch. "Honey how do you like our new Car?" Dad said to Mom. Mom Shouted Back" It's nice what is it?"

"It's a Studebaker, Dad said, a 1957 Provincial 4 door Station Wagon with a V8 and I bought for \$600.00 from my foreman, we are the second owner, Kids what do you think?"

*What a magical day!*



The Provincial Wagon is the one on the left.

Let's jump 24 years, just before I turned 30, It was time for a pleasure ride. I must have had(69'Fairlane, 2Dr Hardtop, 302, 74' Volvo 144, 69'Vauxehaul Wagon, 66'Epic Coupe, 71'Dodge Demon 340, 74'Pontiac Lemans Coupe 400, 74' F-100 Custom, 360, w/Camper, 2-77'Honda Civics, Brand New 86'Honda Prelude Special Edition and a brand new 88'Honda Accord Coupe) had 11cars and trucks by then all makes domestic and foreign but never a Stude. So I joined the Hamilton Chapter Studebaker Drivers Club. I figured I would find a good car from people who loved them as much as me. Some months into my membership, member Kevin Mullett says to me "Hey, Mike Morrison from the Ontario Chapter has a real nice car for sale, it's a 57' wagon." My mind raced back to the Farm laneway, a *Wagon, Cool!*

I had test driven a couple of cars by then, a 56'Power Hawk, 3 tone Blue(needed some help), 63' GT(a little more then I ear marked to pay, but what the heck), attended Reedsville(no Luck) and had some rides in club members cars, Kevin's 58' Packard Hawk, Al Stevenson's 55' Speedster, Gene Majonavich's 50'Bullet Nose and one of Jim Wooley's many Larks.

### ***What a magical Day (relived...some what different)***

"It's mine" as I said to a friend who came with me (who later became my X wife's 5th. Husband, I was second). Mike Morrison lives in London and at the time had a stable of cars. I called him up and made arrangements to see the Wagon on a Saturday late morning. We entered on to Mike's street, and from a ¼ mile away, I said to buddy "It's mine". Sitting on the front lawn was a 1957 Studebaker President "Broadmoore" 4Dr wagon, Canyon Copper and Ermine White, full dressed, 17 ½' of chrome...what a site.

45 min test drive a Deal was made.

Took my baby home on Dec.30<sup>th</sup>. 1989. What a ride!, it looked like a 57'Chev from the front and a 58' Pontiac from the back, people would ask, "What is that?", "It's a Studebaker!" Cruise nights, Car Shows, Drive In Movies, daily driver in the good weather. I always stored it over the winters, dependable, good on gas(who really cares what gas mileage is like when we drive these cars), drove that car for twelve years. Lot's of memories, ahhh memories....



"Broadmoore",