

The Bulletin



May, 2017

Volume 63, Issue 5



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- Watch Winder Solo

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 - Videos: Tesla Dragster??





The Peterborough Motor Sports Club, Inc.

PO Box 131

Peterborough, ON K9J 6Y5

www.pmsc.on.ca

Also on Facebook and Twitter

Meetings

Club Executive meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the call of the President.

Social meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at The Souvlaki Pit, 75 George St. North, Peterborough. (Meetings in June, July & August are often highlighted by fun events and venues.)

Affiliations

The Peterborough Motor Sports Club is a multi-discipline club, organizing ice races, solos, auto crosses and rallies. It is affiliated with the Canadian Automobile Sports Clubs-Ontario Region, Rally Sport Ontario and the Canadian Association of Rally Sport.



Canadian Automobile Sport Clubs Ontario Region
CASC-OR, the Official Sanctioning Body of Motorsports in Ontario.



2017 Executive

President	Mike van Rees president@pmsc.on.ca
Vice President	Travis Grubb vicepresident@pmsc.on.ca
Secretary	Kevin DeVries secretary@pmsc.on.ca
Treasurer	Matt Ballinger treasurer@pmsc.on.ca
Competition Dir.	Committee competition@pmsc.on.ca
Director at Large	Vacant publicrelations@pmsc.on.ca
Communications	Len Arminio bulletin@pmsc.on.ca



From the Editor's Keyboard

May 2017

April Showers brought May floods!! We hope you were not affected by all that rain and cresting water.

It looks like things are starting to dry out and that means our warm weather events are underway.

Congrats to Louis and Alain for putting together the Spring Run Off Rally at the end of April. Despite a traffic accident involving a competitor, the event was a great challenge for ORRC teams and one "Touring" entry in an awesome VW Westphalia (with German license plates, yet.)

The Cob Web Solo at Kawartha attracted 45 entries. Outstanding! Thanks to Travis for organizing and thanks to the competitors, including many from Oshawa and the GTA, who came up for the day.

Our next events are the double header weekend of May 27-28 with the "Watch Winder Rally" and "Watch Winder Solo".

The "Touring"-level rally starts and finishes on the Bewdley waterfront on Rice Lake while the solo takes place at the Douro-Dummer Community Centre. Info on both events are in the next two columns of ***The Bulletin***.

And as always, thanks to Lesley Wimbush for her monthly reviews.

See you at the meeting, May 24th at "The Pit", 75 George Street North in downtown Peterborough.

Your Humble Scribbler,

Len Arminio



***The Peterborough
Motor Sports Club
Presents***

The Watch Winder Rally

Saturday May 27, 2017

- Approximately 120 km, 2+ hour "touring" navigational rally with simple distance, time, and speed instruction
 - Good Gravel and Paved Roads
 - Bring clipboard, pencils, calculator and watch/clock

Start/Finish:

**Bewdley Waterfront,
Optimist Park, Rice Lake Drive
(Runs parallel to Hwy 28)**

Registration Opens: 12:00 pm

Drivers' Meeting: 12:45 pm

First Car Out: 13:01 pm

First Car Finish: 15:30 pm (approx.)

**Cost: \$ 5.00 PMSC Members
\$10 non-members**

Contact: Louis Cabardos lcabardos@gmail.com 905-376-0591

Directions to Start

Approximately 25 minutes south of Peterborough/
15 minutes north of Hwy 401
GPS 44.09210/ -78.33013 (+/-)





***Watch Winder Solo
(Autoslalom,) Part II of
Double Header Weekend
for Peterborough Motor Sports Club***



The Peterborough Motor Sports Club (PMSC) will host its annual **Watch Winder Solo** (Autoslalom) on **Sunday, May 28th, 2017** as part of the club's first double event weekend of the

year.

The Watch Winder will be the only solo event this year to be held at the Douro-Dummer Community Centre parking lot at the intersection of Highway 28 and County Road 8 in Douro-Dummer Township.

Competitors will be challenged by a fast but twisting pylon course to test their driving skills.

Registration opens at 8:30 am with the walkthrough at 10:00 am.

Entry fees are \$20 for PMSC members and \$30 for non-members.

This event scoring will be combined with scores from the Watch Winder Rally on Saturday, May 27th to determine the winner of the weekend trophy.

For more information, contact Dan Demers:
ddemers67@gmail.com



Canadian Automobile Sport Clubs
CASCOR, the Official Governing Body of Motorsports in Ontario

PMSC

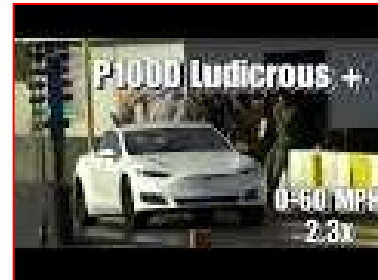
May membership meeting.

Wednesday, May 24th

7:00 pm

Join us for eats at 6:00 pm.

***7:45 - Video presentation:
Tesla blows away “Good
Old Boys’ muscle cars.***



***See what the “Battery Car”
can do on the dragstrip.***



Peterborough Motorsports Club													
Final Results													
#1 - Cobweb - Sun 04-23-2017													
Total Registered: 46, with Times: 46													
DS - 'D Street' - Total Entries: 3 Trophies: 1					Car Color	Times						Total	Diff.
1	DS	10	Danby, Martyn	2013 Subaru BRZ	Blue	56.476	54.307	54.796	53.963			53.963	-
2	DS	5	Matthews, Richard	2014 Scion FR-S	Blue	63.738+OC	61.886	61.054	61.943	60.609+1		61.054	[-1.071]
3	DS	35	Matthews, Foster	2014 Scion FR-S	Blue	71.325	64.832	64.330	62.125			62.125	-
FS - 'F Street' - Total Entries: 2					Car Color	Times						Total	Diff.
1	FS	11	Austin, Glenn	1988 Rustang	Blue	48.429+OC	60.000+OC	58.406	59.561+1	57.674		57.674	[-9.365]
2	FS	8	Dover, Tyler	1987 Olds Cutlass	Black	67.992	67.039	67.721	67.733			67.039	+9.365
HS - 'H Street' - Total Entries: 6 Trophies: 2					Car Color	Times						Total	Diff.
1	HS	3	Dyck, Ian	2007 Ford FocusWagon!!!	Green	59.230+OC	56.651	56.545	56.850	56.236		56.236	+56.236
2	HS	33	Macphee, Dan	2011 Subaru Impreza	Grey	59.827+1	59.443	59.339	60.614+1	60.235		59.339	+3.103
3	HS	2	Demers, Dan	1992 Honda Prelude	Black	63.737	62.013	60.173	59.953+OC	60.507		60.173	+0.834
4	HS	10	Stogryn, Nathan	2005 Mazda 3	Silver	61.836	60.587	61.052+1	61.273	63.418+OC		60.587	+0.414
5	HS	9	Killing, David	1989 Austin Mini 1000	White	64.418	63.464	61.469	61.858	62.896		61.469	+0.882
6	HS	46	Whitmore, Troy	2003 GMC Sierra		72.389	68.818	69.509	69.339	70.343+1		68.818	+7.349
STF - 'Street Touring FWD' - Total Entries: 7 Trophies: 2					Car Color	Times						Total	Diff.
1	ST F	12	Barnard, Michael	2008 Honda Civic	White	57.515	56.650+OC	56.950	56.378	59.721+3		56.378	[-1.30]

													8
2	ST T F	26	Doherty, Ryan	2011 Honda Civic	White	60.46 6	58.303	58.973 +1	57.686	56.986 +2		57.6 86	+1.3 08
3	ST F	24	Jean, Eric	2012 Chevy Sonic	Black	74.66 1+OC	87.383 +3	60.493	60.244 +1	61.468 +2		60.4 93	+2.8 07
4	ST F	14	Mullin, Liam	2008 Honda Fit	Blue	69.78 8	65.476	64.302	63.994			63.9 94	+3.5 01
5	ST F	41	Manning, Phil	2003 VW Jetta Wagon		67.15 1	65.254	64.204	64.586			64.2 04	+0.2 10
6	ST F	31	Manning, Orville	2001 VW Golf	Black	68.99 0	66.133	71.079	67.288			66.1 33	+1.9 29
7	ST F	38	Courneya, Kennedy	2006 Ford Focus	Black	69.78 2+OC	74.018 +OC	72.716 +OC	75.255 +OC	72.820 +1		74.8 20	+8.6 87
STS - 'Street Touring S' - Total Entries: 4 Trophies: 1					Car Color	Times						Tota l	Diff.
1	ST T S	15	Graham, Tanner	1994 Mazda Miata	Green	56.86 3	55.836	55.175	55.219	54.851		54.8 51	[-]2.77 3
2	ST S	18	Courneya, Anthony	2005 Honda Accord	Black	60.16 4	58.292	57.624	57.728	58.716		57.6 24	+2.7 73
3	ST S	39	Quinn, James	2002 Mazda Protege	Silver	62.77 8	60.306	58.994 +2	60.751 +1	61.013		60.3 06	+2.6 82
4	ST S	20	Stogryn, Daryl	1987 Toyota MR2	White	68.78 7	65.744 +OC	70.765 +OC	65.610	66.119		65.6 10	+5.3 04
STX - 'Street Touring X' - Total Entries: 11 Trophies: 3					Car Color	Times						Tota l	Diff.
1	ST T X	45	Mitch	2014 Ford Focus	Silver	60.50 2	57.617 +1	56.495	56.950	55.815		55.8 15	[-]0.40 0
2	ST T X	42	Day, Jon	2014 Hyundai Veloster	Orange	57.54 1+1	58.708	63.781	58.799	56.215		56.2 15	+0.4 00
3	ST T X	34	Souch, Darrell	1999 Honda Civic SiR	Black	51.17 2+OC	57.690 +2	57.375	57.759	56.777 +1		57.3 75	+1.1 60
4	ST X	40	Hotner, Kevin	1996 Acura integra	Black	63.06 8	59.021 +1	58.627	58.263 +OC	57.573		57.5 73	+0.1 98
5	ST X	13	Tuck, Liam	1998 Subaru Legacy	Silver	64.00 5+OC	61.548	60.466 +1	59.472	58.366		58.3 66	+0.7 93
6	ST X	44	Mahony, Zac	2006 Saab Aero	Black	62.91 6	72.297 +1	60.912	59.940	59.824		59.8 24	+1.4 58
7	ST X	23	Brough, Ryan	2007 BMW 335i	Black	60.53 4	61.762	69.322 +1				60.5 34	+0.7 10
8	ST X	25	Matthews, Connor	2006 Mini Cooper	Purple	66.53 6	64.490	61.568	61.442			61.4 42	+0.9 08

9	ST X	22	Erdmann, Devin	2002 Subaru Impreza	Red	69.31 4	66.058	64.849				64.8 49	+3.4 07
1 0	ST X	37	Zafor, Maaz	2007 Dodge Magnum	Blue	68.42 6+1	67.849	64.729 +2	62.924 +1			64.9 24	+0.0 75
1 1	ST X	32	Black, Corey	1990 BMW E30	Red	82.92 6+OC	68.383					68.3 83	+3.4 59
STR - 'Street Touring R' - Total Entries: 4 Trophies: 1					Car Color	Times						Tota l	Diff.
1 T	ST R	27	Johnson, Chris	2000 Mazda Miata	Orange	56.08 3	55.224	55.080	55.683	53.771		53.7 71	[-]0.15 5
2	ST R	19	Courneya, Rich	2001 Miata	Silver	55.94 0	53.926	54.147	55.540	54.464		53.9 26	+0.1 55
3	ST R	29	Angevaare, Brad	2001 Mazda Miata	Silver	55.85 3	55.936	54.186	55.625	45.918 +OC		54.1 86	+0.2 60
4	ST R	7	Grubb, Travis	2000 Miata	Orange	57.67 4+OC	57.372	55.707	56.606	55.469		55.4 69	+1.2 83
ASP - 'A Street Prepared' - Total Entries: 1 Trophies: 1					Car Color	Times						Tota l	Diff.
1 T	AS P	36	Reid, Don	1993 Mazda RX7	Black	58.49 0	56.466	56.474	56.078	56.004		56.0 04	-
DSP - 'D Street Prepared' - Total Entries: 3 Trophies: 1					Car Color	Times						Tota l	Diff.
1 T	DS P	16	Norval, Stewart	1987 Mazda RX7	White	60.22 5	58.446 +1	58.371	59.256	60.153		58.3 71	[-]1.69 7
2	DS P	6	Norval, Rob	1987 Mazda RX7	White	53.40 8+OC	61.015	60.648	60.068	60.038 +1		60.0 68	+1.6 97
3	DS P	21	Prentice, Tanner	1994 BMW 325is	Green	63.61 1+OC	70.071	73.281	60.460			60.4 60	+0.3 92
ESP - 'E Street Prepared' - Total Entries: 1 Trophies: 1					Car Color	Times						Tota l	Diff.
1 T	ES P	17	Dover, Jay	1997 Pontiac Firebird	Silver	58.29 5	57.894	57.006	57.279			57.0 06	-
FSP - 'F Street Prepared' - Total Entries: 1 Trophies: 1					Car Color	Times						Tota l	Diff.
1 T	FS P	28	Gray, John	1966 Chevy Corvair		62.41 8	58.561	59.351 +2	59.252			58.5 61	-
SMF - 'Street Modified F' - Total Entries: 1 Trophies: 1					Car Color	Times						Tota l	Diff.
1 T	SM F	1	Nishitoba, Ken	1993 Honda Civic		58.37 3	58.006	56.035 +2	56.549	55.622		55.6 22	-
SM - 'Street Modified' - Total Entries: 1					Car	Times						Tota	Diff.

Trophies: 1					Color							1	
1 T	SM	4	Kidd, Al	Lotus 7	Black	57.54 9	55.557	57.525 +1	55.880			55.5 57	-
SSM - 'Super Street Modified' - Total Entries: 1 Trophies: 1					Car Color	Times						Tota l	Diff.
1 T	SS M	30	Bateman, Greg	2007 Lotus Elise	Krypton Green	56.80 5	54.697	57.234	54.474	54.751		54.4 74	-

Top Times Of Day	Time	Class	#	Driver
Raw time	53.771	STR	27	Johnson, Chris
Pax	43.224	DS	104	Danby, Martyn
Street	53.963	DS	104	Danby, Martyn
Touring	53.771	STR	27	Johnson, Chris
Street Prepared	56.004	ASP	36	Reid, Don
Street Modified	54.474	SSM	30	Bateman, Greg



Results: Spring Run Off Rally, April 29, 2017.

Car	Driver	Navigator	Class	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	A10	A11	A12	A13	A14	A15	A16	A17	Sub Total
8	Leonard	Leonard	E	0.1	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.3	-1.1	0.1	-0.4	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	0	3
11	Neil	Dammelier	E	0.0	0.1	0.2	-1.2	0.2	-2.0	-0.3	0.3	0.1	-0.3	0.0	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0	6.7
10	Olmstead	Hooper	E	0.2	0.0	0.2	-0.5	-0.1	-6.0	-0.2	-0.6	0.1	1.5	-0.1	-5.0	0.3	-0.4	0.0	0.7	0	15.9
12	Mayes	Mayes	E	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	-0.6	0.2	-2.0	-0.4	-1.4	-0.2	-0.9	-0.1	-12.0	0.4	-0.2	0.0	0.6	0	19.3
7	Layton	Evens	E	2.2	1.3	-0.1	0.9	-0.2	-1.0	-0.8	-1.3	0.9	3.1	-0.1	-1.0	-0.1	0.1	0.0	-1.9	11	26
13	Johnston	Pace	E	0.2	0.1	0.0	-1.4	-0.1	20.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	-0.8	-0.1	8.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	-0.3	0	32.6
9	Deneka	Gamble	E	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.2	0.1	20.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0	42.3
15	Boudreau	Boudreau	E	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	-0.1	-1.0	-0.2	-0.3	0.6	-0.4	0.1	-1.0	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.4	50	54.8
14	Sanderson	Wharton	E	0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	-2.0	-1.7	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	5.0	20.0	20	189.2
4	Skurski	Holland	N	0.3	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.9	0.1	-0.4	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	-0.2	0	2.8
6	Thompson	Kirton	N	0.3	-0.1	-0.1	2.9	-0.2	-2.0	-1.1	-1.5	-0.3	-0.9	-0.1	-2.0	0.4	-0.9	0.0	-0.1	-1	13.9
16	Marek	Marek	N	-0.6	-0.2	0.1	-0.6	-0.2	-7.0	3.4	-0.5	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	-0.7	0	19.4
2	Drake	MacDonald	N	-4.8	0.2	0.2	0.2	-0.3	-4.0	-3.7	-3.1	-1.0	-2.9	0.1	-3.0	-0.1	-0.9	0.0	-0.2	-1	25.7
3	Dewar	Askett	N	-3.1	0.3	0.7	11.3	-0.1	0.0	0.0	1.8	1.3	-1.9	0.1	2.0	0.1	1.6	0.0	2.6	-5	31.9
5	Drake	Drake	N	20.0	20.0	-6.6	3.3	-0.1	-3.0	-3.7	-5.3	0.8	-3.2	0.0	-4.0	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	-0.9	0	71.2
1	Busch	Barrett	T	-2.4	0.6	1.3	2.4	0.4	0.0	1.5	15.0	2.3	3.8	0.5	8.0	0.4	1.7	0.0	0.0	-4	44.3

Lanark Highlands Forest Rally (May6-7, 2017) Overall Results

Pos	Time	Vehicle	Class	Driver/Co-driver
1	1:23:00.9	Subaru Impreza 94	4wheel Open	Simon Vincent - Terrebonne Martin Cadieux - coteau du lac
2	1:23:40.8	Mitsubishi Evolution 8 05	4wheel Prod	Nicolas Laverdiere - Laval Vincent Trudel - QC
3	1:26:23.7	Subaru Impreza 98	4wheel Open	Patrick Rainville - Gatineau Dominik Dumont - Vaudreuil-Dorion
4	1:29:57.3	Subaru Impreza 2.5 07	4wheel Open	Alex Kuklov - Warwick Aris Montopoulos -
5	1:33:00.4	Mitsubishi Lancer 03	2wheel Open	Zoltan Kovacs - Kitchener Jonathan Desgroseilliers - Montreal
6	1:33:45.7	Subaru Impreza 01	4wheel Open	Cedric Tanguay - Thurso Annie Seguin -
7	1:33:53.9	Subaru Impreza WRX 02	4wheel Prod	Matthew Ballinger - Oshawa Bruce Leonard - Georgetown
8	1:38:44.0	Subaru WRX STI 07	4wheel Prod	Peter MacDonald - Vanier Ferd Trauttmansdorff - Nepean
9	1:39:34.0	Subaru 2.5 RS 01	4wheel Prod	Paul Batman - West Grove Michael Hordjik -
10	1:40:12.6	Volkswagen Jetta 95	2wheel Prod	Mike Halley - Sand Springs Mal Swann - Ellershouse
11	1:43:11.6	Subaru Impreza 95	4wheel Open	Lindsay Webster - Keene Glen Webster - Keene
12	1:48:32.5	Mazda 323 93	2wheel Prod	Michael Ketchum - Port Elgin Savanna Kovacs - Kitchener
13	1:55:37.1	Volkswagen GTI 97	2wheel Open	Mathieu Ayotte - Kemptville Tom McCabe - Ottawa
14	2:00:08.8	Subaru Impreza 94	2wheel Open	Kevin Turner - Newark Matthew Rhoads - Oxford
15	2:02:36.4	Mitsubishi Starion 85	2wheel Open	Conor Malone - Toronto Ralph Blauel - Belwood
Regional only				
	DNF	Subaru Impreza WRX STI 04 Differential	4wheel Open	Jeremy Norris - Kitchener Jeff Hagan - Windsor
	DNF	Mini Cooper S 04 Suspension	2wheel Open	Phillipe Benoit -Mirabel Philippe Poirier - QC
	DNF	Ford Focus ZX3 00 Mechanical prob.	2wheel Open	Gary Sutherland - Burlington Kylee Davis - Burlington
	DNF	Volkswagen Golf 92 Suspension	2wheel Open	Alexandre Sabourin - Gatineau Anabel Cliche - Gatineau
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Competition Calendar 2017

~~Line thru~~ = Event concluded or cancelled

Red = Next events on calendar

Event	Date	Location	Organizer
Ice Race	Feb. 18 & 19	Minden	Dan Demers
Rally Cross	CANCELLED	Burnt River	Pete Gulliver
Snoecross	CANCELLED	Shannonville	Al Pawling
Snoecross	CANCELLED	Shannonville	Al Pawling
Cobweb Solo	April 23	Kawartha	TBA
Spring Runoff Rally	April 29	Cobourg	Louis Cabardos
Watchwinder Rally	May 27	Bewdley	L&A Cabardos
Watchwinder Solo	May 28	Douro	Dan Demers
Speed Weekend Solo	June 18	Kawartha	TBD
Mid-Summer Solo	July 23	Kawartha	
Dog Days Solo	Aug. 20	Kawartha	
Fall Ball Rally	Sept. 9	TBA	TBA
Fall Ball Solo	Sept. 10	Kawartha	Dan Demers
Last Chance Solo	Oct. 15	Kawartha	Travis Grubb
President's Prize	Nov. 4	Peterborough	Travis Grubb/Chris Johnson
Fun Rallies: 1 (Wednesdays)	June 28 (Poker)		Alain Cabardos
2	July 26 (GPS)		Len Arminio
3	August 23 (Golf)		Dan Demers



It's not the most popular choice, but in the midsize sedan world, the Mazda 6 is the driver's choice



by Lesley Wimbush | Originally published March 31, 2017



Overview

2017 Mazda Mazda6
CAR REVIEW 82%EDITOR'S CHOICE

- Sportiest offering in midsize segment
- Pros Beautiful design, engaging drive
- Cons A bit underpowered
- Value for money Good
- What would I change? Add a turbocharged engine to the lineup

How I would spec it? Much as I appreciate the extra technology, the \$26,525 6-speed GS gets my vote

A memory rose, unbidden, from the misty, forgotten recesses of my brain: I was barely six years old, transfixed by the treasure being proffered – a wondrous red globe so slick it appeared dipped in molten glass. Refocusing on the present, I took one last admiring look at the [Mazda](#) Takeri Concept, thinking while its style would very likely influence the next [Mazda6](#), there was no way it would arrive dipped in that rich, candy apple red paintwork.

Well, what did I know? Six years later, the Mazda6 GT is a virtual clone of that concept car, right down to its slick paint. The current iteration of Mazda's midsize sedan debuted in 2014, but it's seen a few mild upgrades to keep it relevant in a segment where "extremely good" is the standard. It may look the same, but some of the most important changes to the Mazda6 occur underneath its lovely sheet metal.

Although it's a favourite among enthusiasts, the Mazda6 has to compete with the feature-laden [Honda Accord](#) and [Hyundai Sonata](#), the handsome [Ford Fusion](#) and redesigned [Chevrolet Malibu](#), and the Teutonic [Volkswagen Passat](#). Most fall within the same price range, with the Malibu being the least expensive and the Passat the most, and all offer a similar level of amenities.



2017
Mazda6 GT

Surprisingly, given its zoom-zoom ethos, the Mazda6 is one of the least powerful in the segment and has only one engine choice: a 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine with 184 horsepower. There's no turbocharged option and it no longer comes with a V6 engine. By comparison, the V6-equipped Accord and Passat put out 278 and 280 horsepower, respectively, and even the hybrid versions of the Fusion and Sonata are more powerful.

Yet it's my hands-down favourite among the aforementioned sedans. We've already talked about its style; the Mazda6 can visually hold its own against premium sedans nearly twice its cost. While some of the cabin materials are consistent with a car costing under \$30,000 and not \$60,000, it's nicely executed, laden with features and, in the case of the GT trim, rendered in eye-catching white and black leather. The infotainment system's controller is a reasonable facsimile of [Audi's](#) MMI, although the head-up display and its pop-up screen seem like an afterthought.

There's plenty of leg- and headroom up front, and while the rear seats boast standard heating, they're less accommodating than others in the segment. Available as an option only on top-of-the-line GT models, our tester's

Technology package featured the full raft of driver's safety aids, plus fuel-conserving regenerative braking and active air shutters.



2017 Mazda6 GT

The Mazda6 is often overlooked by mainstream customers due to its firm

suspension and reputation for poor noise, vibration and harshness levels. Better insulation and laminated side glass have helped, but it doesn't dispel the four-cylinder's rather buzzy engine note and road noise inside the cabin. Driving enthusiasts are less likely to be concerned if the dynamics are there, but the average midsize sedan buyer wants comfort and refinement. The [Toyota Camry](#) may not be exciting, but its sense of comfortable isolation and predictability appealed to more than 15,000 customers last year; likewise the Accord, which sold nearly 13,000 units. By comparison, the Mazda6's sales number of 2,053 is very paltry, indeed.

But there are still some who value driver engagement and composed handling over a few extra layers of cossetting. For them, the Mazda6's beauty is more than skin deep. And for 2017, [it gains a slick new technology called G-Vectoring Control](#) (GVC). While the name suggests a torque or brake vectoring system, it's actually a subtle modulation of engine power in response to steering inputs.

Like the race and rally driver technique of lifting off the throttle to rotate around corners, GVC cuts engine torque very slightly while turning, to transfer weight to the front wheels, thereby enhancing grip and improving steering response. The benefits of GVC go beyond driver satisfaction; with fewer abrupt corrections, the car is more comfortable and functions more efficiently.

Efficiency is also improved by a new regenerative braking system called i-ELOOP, available only on the GT trim, which stores recouped brake energy and uses it to power on-board accessories. By reducing parasitical engine drag, i-ELOOP lowers fuel consumption and drain on the battery. Combined with active grille shutters, i-ELOOP helps the Mazda6 achieve a 5.9 L/100 km highway fuel economy rating. Overall, my week of city driving returned 9.1 L/100 km, combined.

While I have to admit that there were times I wished for more power, the four-cylinder and six-speed automatic powertrain is responsive, particularly with Sport mode and paddle shifters engaged. Push this car hard into a tight corner, and you're rewarded with the sort of snappy handling and steering feedback you'd expect from the [MX-5 Miata](#).

Easily the prettiest and probably the most fun, the Mazda6 is the perfect solution for the buyer who craves driver engagement yet still needs the safety and practicality of a midsize sedan. Let's hope the long-promised turbodiesel eventually finds its way under the hood of this compelling car.

Lesley Wimbush

In Grade 5, Lesley traded drawings of muscle cars for chocolate bars – and things really haven't changed much since then. After nearly 20 years in the newspaper industry working as auto section editor, layout artist, and editorial cartoonist, she turned to full-time freelancing in 2010 – a career choice made easier by the fact that she doesn't eat much.

Lesley is a former PMSC member and lives in Peterborough. We use her articles with her permission.



*Our club email has been getting the weekly notices from **Legendary Motorcar Company** in Milton about their restored classics. Here is the latest for a cool \$69,900 USD (about \$91,000 CDN). Spare change anyone??*



