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## Backroads of Bancroft July 27-29, 2021

This is an informal 3 day drive around some of the best backroads in Ontario. No "pre-driven/tested" route, no stops at "attractions", and, most important, no "TMC Bio-Breaks" (because there are almost no Tim Hortons). ***This is not a repeat of the 2019 or 2020 event and uses 3 new routes.***

Bancroft is about 60 Km south of Algonquin Park and the surrounding areas are lightly populated, with old established roads that follow the layout of the land, which is typically hilly with an extensive network of rivers and lakes. It's a great area, well known to motorcyclists, but is really lightly travelled (and monitored) on weekdays and makes it the perfect "playground" for a group of enthusiastic MX-5 owners.

The 3 day format will consist of: **Day 1** driving from Orillia to Bancroft, usually a 2 hour trip via Kinmount and Gooderham, but extended to about 7 hours by diverting along roads not normally accessible on a day trip from the GTA. **Day 2** will be a full day experiencing the best twisty roads around Bancroft. **Day 3** will also be a full day of driving on great roads returning to Orillia, with a planned lunch at Zachary's on the Lake of Bays in Dorset. There will be three Bail Points for those needing to be home by supper time!

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Gas stations are not widely available in the Bancroft area. Gas tanks must be FULL at the start of each day's drive. If gas is needed during the scheduled route, then all cars must refuel at the same time.

### Schedule

#### Day 1 - Driving distance 330 Km:

- Meet at Tim Hortons, 298 Memorial Ave, Orillia at 10am and top-up gas at adjacent station.
- Depart Tim Hortons at 10:15am.
- Bio-break at Minden at 11:30pm.
- Stop in Haliburton at McKeck's Grill for lunch at 1:15 pm (R). Depart at 2:15pm.
- Arrive in Bancroft at 4:40pm.
- Participants should Check in at the Sword Inn this time.
- Meet for dinner at 6:00pm at BC Cafe (NR) - 5 mins north of hotel on Hwy 62, north of Y Rd.
- Visit Eagle's Nest overlook for sunset.

#### Day 2 - Driving Distance 484 Km:

- Ensure you and your car are prepared for departure from the Sword Motor Inn at 9am.
- Coffee break at Old School Cafe, Comberemere at 10:30am
- Stop at Ash Grove Inn for lunch at 12:00pm (R). Depart at 1:00pm.
- Arrive at Black Donald Hydro Dam at 3:15pm.. Depart 3:30pm.
- Return to Bancroft 5:15pm.
- Meet for dinner at Bancroft Brewing Company at 6:30pm (NR). Corner of Hastings St N and Bridge St.

#### Day 3 - Driving Distance 350 Km:

- Check out from accommodation and be prepared to depart at 9:00am.
- Bio-break at Ft Irwin at 10:30am.
- Bail Option #1 Hwy 35 & 118 at 11:10am. **Note:** Lunch is reserved at Dorset.
- Arrive at Zachary's on Lake of Bays, Dorset for lunch at 12:00pm (R). Depart 1:00pm.
- Bail Option #2 at Hwy 117 & Hwy 11 at 1:35pm
- Short bio-break at Bala at 2:25pm.
- Bail Option # 3 at Hwy 169 and Southwood Rd. at 2:40pm. Southwood Rd condition is poor in places.
- Return to Orillia at 3:50pm.

## Routes

The routes are available in the file Bancroft July 2021.GPX. Refer to your GPS Owners Manual if you need help transferring the routes to your GPS. The routes were prepared in Garmin BaseCamp with the Route Options set to: *Fastest, No Unpaved Roads, Other Highway Speed 85kph*. The Map used was City Navigator 2021.1. You may get a different result if your equipment is set different. The tracklogs in the GPX file show how the route should calculate.

If you have trouble with the GPS routes, call me for assistance.

A turn-by-turn listing for each day's route, in PDF format, is available on request. Do not use this type of directions when driving without a passenger/navigator.

## Contact Numbers

In case of emergency during our tour, here's a list of our cell phone numbers. Create a temporary Group in your phone Contacts so we can communicate by texts, with everyone in the loop.

Bob Morpew	905 464-3115
Gary Kornstein	519-573-1241
Richard Sorrentino	519 852 4646
Vern & Carolyn Parker	289-274-4901
Michael Cole	647-865-7125
Brian Spivak	416-822-8196

## Group Driving Instructions

We will be driving in a single group with a leader using a GPS to navigate the routes. We will **NOT** be using CB Radio to broadcast every turn off or stop. At EVERY turnoff (left or right at a 4 way intersection, left or right at a 3 way and/or T-off) each driver **MUST** safely stop until the following car is plainly in sight **AND** has acknowledged the upcoming turn using their turn signal light. **NO EXCEPTIONS**. If you reach a 4 way intersection and no one is waiting, proceed straight ahead.

This procedure will guarantee the group stays together. We will not be relying on each driver using a GPS unless we verify **BEFORE** the tour starts that each GPS is displaying the **EXACT** same route.

If the group does get split - e.g. a following car not arriving at a turn off in a reasonable time - the stopped driver should phone the group leader and we will stop the tour and resolve the problem.

If it is not possible to continue as a group we will arrange to meet at the next designated STOP on the route.

## Weather

The weather is obviously unpredictable and this trip will go rain or shine. I prefer top-down driving and just dress accordingly.

## CAA Membership

I recommend that each driver has CAA PLUS membership as this is a remote area and breakdowns could be traumatic! I speak from experience after getting my MX-5 hauled back from this area on a CAA towtruck (\$800 if no CAA PLUS) with a slashed rear tire.