

## Spirited Tour of Bancroft May 7-9, 2019

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).

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 MX-5s.

The 3 day format will consist of Days 1 and 3 driving to/from home and Bancroft, usually a 3-4 hour trip from Burlington via Hwy 401, 115 and 28, but extended to a full day by diverting along roads not normally accessible on a day trip. Day 2 will be a full day experiencing most of the twisty roads within about a 100 Km radius of Bancroft.

### Schedule

#### Day 1:

- Meet at **Tim Hortons**, 355 Memorial Ave, Orillia at 10:30am
- Depart Tim Hortons at 11am
- Stop in Norland at the **Food Mart** (SE corner of CR 45 and Hwy 35) for 5min to meet with other driver(s).
- Arrive in Haliburton at **McKeck's Grill** for lunch at 1 pm. Depart at 2pm.
- Arrive at Burleigh Falls for 2:20pm. Stop at **Burleigh Falls Inn** for 5 mins if required to meet other driver(s) - To Be Confirmed.
- Arrive in Bancroft at 5pm.
- Participants should confirm their accommodation at this time - either in person or by phone.
- Meet for dinner at 6:30pm at Vito's Pizzeria Restaurant 143 Hastings St N, Bancroft.
- Visit **Eagle's Nest** overlook for sunset.

#### Day 2:

- Ensure you and you car are prepared for departure and meet at **Tim Hortons** 234 Hastings St N, Bancroft at 8:50am for 9am start.
- Arrive at **Tim Hortons, Barrys Bay** at 10:50am for 10 minute break.
- Arrive at **Wilno Tavern** for lunch at 11:40am. Depart at 1pm.
- Arrive at **Denbeigh gas** station at 3:15pm - 10 min break.
- Arrive at **Black Donald Hydro dam** at 4:18 - 5 min photo-op.
- Arrive at **Calabogie Resort** at 4:45pm. Group to decide if we have early dinner here or wait until Bancroft which is a 2 hr drive.

#### Day 3:

- Check out from accommodation.
- Ensure you and you car are prepared for departure and meet at Tim Hortons 234 Hastings St N, Bancroft, ON K0L 1C0 at 8:50am for 9am start.
- Arrive at **Ft Irwin gas station** at 11:06am for short break.
- Arrive at **Carnarvon** at 11:50 for gas and/or lunch. 1 hr layover.
- ROUTE is optional from here to Orillia. Main route arrives in Orillia at 5:20pm, alternate route arrives at 3pm.

**NOTE:** Names in Bold Italics are Waypoints in the GPX file.

## **Routes**

The routes are available in the file Bancroft 2019 - Final.GPX. Refer to your GPS Owners Manual if you need help transferring the 4 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 2018.1. 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.

There is a turn-by-turn listing for each of the day's route in the PDF files. Please print it out and bring it with you for backup.

## **Contact Numbers**

In case of emergency, here's a list of the phone numbers I received from the Tour Events webpage (this is a new feature on the TMC website and is for Tour Organizers).

Bob Morpew 905 464-3115  
Rod Haig 905 466-5287  
Joel Daiter 416 347-5965  
Charlie Martin 705 741-6026  
Malcolm Elston 416 705-9232  
TBA

## **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 to turn using the indicator 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 - 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**

Last year on the way home from this trip I had an unrepairable flat tire at Carnarvon late in the afternoon. Fortunately I had CAA PLUS membership and my MX-5 returned home on a flatbed truck at a cost of \$720 with CAA covering \$500. This year I've added a Mazda6 donut spare in the trunk!