



Affiliates

SEARCH

[Home](#)

[News](#)

[Sports](#)

[Editorial](#)

[Columns](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Entertainment](#)

[Deaths](#)

[Weather](#)

[A thousand-mile adventure](#) **Team Kearsley completes British Reliability Run**

by Andy Campbell

10/1/2004

The 2004 Michigan British Reliability Run exceeded its fundraising goal last weekend, raising more than \$32,000 to send kids to diabetes camp.

John Kearsley, of Elmira also surpassed his fundraising goal. Kearsley raised \$1,246.

"And people are still dropping off cheques at the house," he said. "They've been very generous."

Kearsley and his son, John Jr., joined 43 other British car enthusiasts for the 850-mile fundraising drive around Lake Huron. All but one of the 44 completed the drive.

Kearsley got his own mechanical malfunction out of the way early. He installed an electric oil pump in his 1976 Triumph Spitfire the previous evening, but made one small error.

"I put it in backward," he said with a laugh. "I didn't even make it out of town and I had problems. I guess that's what happens when you do it at 7:30 or 8 o'clock at night."

It was embarrassing, but easily fixed, and Team Kearsley were on their way.

The fun began in Sarnia at 6:45 Saturday morning, proceeding north to Tobermorey, where the wait for the ferry turned into an impromptu car show, with everyone checking out the British classics.

After crossing, they headed west. The Kearsley's mostly travelled in a group of four or five cars.

"People found groups that were travelling their speed," said Kearsley.

The first day's driving did not end until they pulled into Bruce Mines at 8:30pm.

"That was a long day, even with the ferry," said Kearsley.

The group set out bright and early the next morning, bound for the United States. The border crossing was anything but easy, however.

"Everybody got their trunk searched by the US guys," said Kearsley. "Boy, did they check us out."

They headed south, finally stopping for dinner near Port Huron at 6:15pm. The Kearsleys were home by 11 o'clock that night, after travelling more than 1,000 miles in total.

Driving the small convertible was a different experience from driving a modern car. The pace was slower, and the view was wide open.

"You see a lot of things you don't usually tend to see," said Kearsley.

One of the more interesting sights was a layer of fog, eight feet overhead on the Mackinaw Bridge.

The Kearsleys also had a brush with a minor celebrity in Espanola. One of their souvenirs of the trip is a photo of Jacob Hoggard with their car. Hoggard, having just finished third on Canadian Idol, was on his way home.

"He was at McDonalds," said Kearsley. "He was just passing through on his way back out west."

Between the fun, the fellowship and the worthy cause, team Kearsley found the British Reliability Run to be an all-around positive experience.

"I'm going to do it again next year," said Kearsley. "But next year, I'll have overdrive and better seatbelts."