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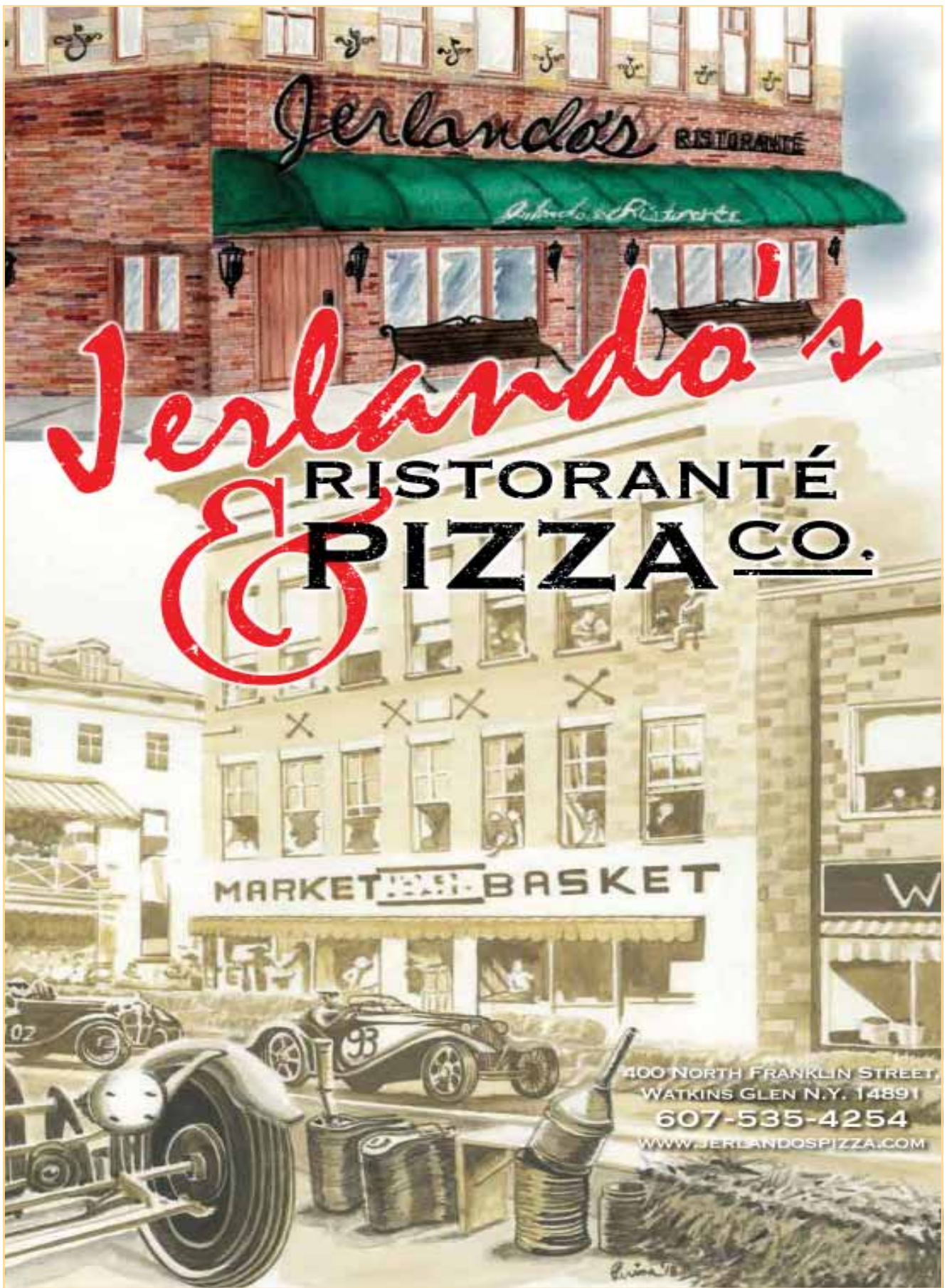


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# Welcome to the 30th!

Dear Visitors,

Welcome! We are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the very first Grand Prix Festival this year! Many of the original volunteers and attendees will be on the streets during the event helping to celebrate the racing heritage of our beautiful Community.

Corvette is this year's featured marque as we honor the 75th anniversary of the first post-World War II road race in the United States – held right here in Watkins Glen. To see an impressive collection of Corvettes, be sure to visit Lafayette Park – one block east of Franklin Street between Fourth and Fifth streets. The cars should arrive from their Tour de Marque rallye at around 2 p.m. to park on display.

The Tour de Marque rallye is one of five that will arrive in the village throughout the day. You'll also see displays of memorable cars at the Concours d'Elegance at Watkins Glen State Park and the Concorso Speciale at Community Bank.

We are honored to announce that Willy T. Ribbs will be serving as this year's Grand Marshall. Willy is a veteran of Trans-Am, sports car, stock car and Indy Car competitions. A partial list of his wins include: 17 Trans-Am wins including a win at Watkins Glen in 1984, 10 IMSA GT wins including Watkins Glen in 1987, and he also competed in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series from 1981 – 1987. Don't miss the opportunity to spend an hour "Up Close and Personal" with the great Willy T. Ribbs during the Legends Speak program presented by the International Motor Racing Research Center. It will once again take place from 3:00PM – 4:00PM in the gazebo in Lafayette Park.

The SVRA vintage race cars will roar into town at 4:45 p.m. to park on display on Franklin Street. "Pre-Race" ceremonies will be held at 5:45 p.m. in front of the courthouse and the Grand Prix Race Tribute cars will fire up their engines at 6 p.m. and take 2 laps of the original 6.6 mile race course.

The rest of the action for the evening is throughout the village as our local pubs and eateries welcome you to their establishments.

Experience a day filled with memories – from racing's earliest days in Watkins Glen to the new ones you'll be building with us.

Welcome and enjoy!

In the Spirit of the Sport,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marianne Marts".

Marianne Marts  
Festival Management Team Leader



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**Grand Prix Festival photographs  
courtesy of Bill Green, Alex Stiles,  
Angelo Lisuzzo, Steve Butchko and  
other contributors.**

# Generous Sponsors Fuel Our Festival

The Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival, presented by Chemung Canal Trust Company, would not “return to the streets” without our family of sponsors. We hope you will help celebrate their dedication by visiting their businesses and thanking them for their support!

- Chemung Canal Trust Company, headquartered in Elmira with branches in Watkins Glen and Montour Falls, is the presenting sponsor of the festival. Chemung Canal Trust Company is the oldest locally owned and managed community bank, dating back to 1833.
- Corning, Inc., and the Corning Museum of Glass, located just off NY State Route 414 in Corning, NY, sponsor the Corning Concours d'Elegance, a collection of beautiful and historic cars on display near the original Start-Finish Line. The Corning Museum of Glass is an area “must-visit,” with new exhibits and lots of hands-on fun!
- Cayuga Health System, uniting Schuyler Hospital in Montour Falls and Cayuga Medical Center in Ithaca, provides integrated health services and advanced care for the Central Finger Lakes Region. Cayuga Health sponsors the Stone Bridge Driver Laps of the Old Course.
- Watkins Glen International, on County Rt. 16, sponsors the Tour de Marque and Opening Ceremonies for the Grand Prix Tribute. WGI hosts the U.S. Vintage Grand Prix on the weekend following the festival and helps the festival with great logistical support. The present world-class racetrack grew directly from the Watkins Glen street racing we celebrate with this event!
- Chateau LaFayette Reneau Winery & Inn launches the WGI Tour de Marque. Chateau LaFayette Reneau, located on Route 414 in Hector, has been producing award-winning rieslings and red wines since 1985. Stop by for tastings, food, vineyard picnics and a guest house, all in a spectacular setting with breathtaking views of Seneca Lake, the vineyards, and the hillsides!
- Ryan William Vineyard sponsors the Ryan William Vineyard Founders Tour, which begins its day by hosting a magnificent group of sports and classic cars gathering at the Tasting Barn, just up from Watkins Glen on Rt. 414. Visit the Tasting Barn to enjoy a café featuring a scratch kitchen using locally-sourced ingredients and tastings of the 100% Estate-Grown wines produced by Ryan William Vineyard!
- Community Bank, with a branch at Fourth and Franklin Streets, sponsors the Community Bank Concorso Speciale and hosts the Lane's Yamaha Motorcycle Rallye, presented at Community Bank. Community Bank provides friendly, full-service banking!

- Jerlando's Ristorante, also at Fourth and Franklin Streets, sponsors this Festival Program. Enter Jerlando's in front for a full-service restaurant, or in back for their Pizzeria. Either way, thank them for this complimentary program!
- Lane's Yamaha, Rt. 14 in Watkins Glen, sponsors the Lane's Yamaha Motorcycle Rallye, presented at Community Bank. Lane's offers motorcycles, ATV's, plows, winches, generators, and much more!
- Lotus of Western NY, located in Amherst, sponsors the Lotus Owners of NY (LOONY) Lotus Rendezvous. They have beautiful new and pre-owned Lotus vehicles ready to roll!
- Glenora Wine Cellars, north of Watkins Glen on Rt. 14, sponsors the very popular Glenora Run. Glenora helped start the festival as its very first sponsor! Visit the winery, the Inn At Glenora, and Veraisons Restaurant for a gourmet meal and view of Seneca Lake!
- Hector Wine Company of Hector is the sponsor of the Hector Wine Company Glenkhana. At Hector Wine Company, you'll find small-production, long-fermentation wines made from handpicked grapes!
- Maguire Family of Dealerships sponsors the Maguire Pace Car, which leads each of the Cayuga Health System Laps of the Old Course. Maguire's 12 dealerships include Maguire Chrysler-Jeep in Watkins Glen, and others in Ithaca, Trumansburg, and Syracuse. They offer Ford, Lincoln, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Chevrolet, Cadillac, Toyota, Nissan, Subaru, Honda, Hyundai, Kia, Fiat, Volvo, Audi, Volkswagen, and Genesis vehicles!
- Grist Iron Brewing Company is the Official Brewery of the Grand Prix Festival. Grist Iron offers Brews and Chews and Lodging at their headquarters on Rt. 414 overlooking Seneca Lake. Visit their booth on the Courthouse Lawn! Grist Iron also sponsors our "early bird" event, our Grist Iron Ramble for sports and classic cars whose drivers want to rally and enjoy the Grist Iron food, drink, and entertainment in the springtime!
- Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards, our newest sponsor, supports the Hazlitt Vineyards Sporting Roadster Tour. Hazlitt offers a full tasting and dining experience on State Route 414, next door to the Valois-Logan-Hector Fire Department in Hector. Hazlitt features Red Cat Wine, Rieslings, and great food and entertainment at the Oasis!
- Lakewood Vineyards, Rt. 14 north of the village, sponsors our Thursday event for our featured marque, the FLX Corvette Journey! Great tastings of great wines!
- Colonial Inn and Creamery, 701 N. Franklin Street, for our use of their parking lot at Franklin and 8th Street for Festival activities.
- VanSkiver Motors, at 801 N. Franklin Street, for their donation of workspace for our Festival Headquarters.
- Specchio Motors, on Franklin Street, generously donates space for some of our Festival operations each year.

- Schuyler County, for our use of the Courthouse Lawn and other strong support.
- Village of Watkins Glen, for the use of Franklin Street and other important help.
- International Motor Racing Research Center on Decatur Street in Watkins Glen sponsors and produces "The Legends Speak" in Lafayette Park.
- Smalley's Garage, on Franklin Street, the location of the Technical Inspection Reenactment.
- Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce supports this event with a Tourism Assistance Program grant.



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# Tour de Marque Spotlights Corvette

By **BRUCE COULOMBE**

The Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival Tour de Marque has a unique venue and format that provides drivers of the honored marque of the year with an opportunity to experience the best of Watkins Glen. This year Corvette, last celebrated here in 2016, returns as the featured marque in celebration of its 70th anniversary.

Corvette has a long and unique history that forms an essential chapter in the history of the sports car, and more to the point, the history of the AMERICAN sports car. The story of Corvette is well known, but less well known is that the idea for the Corvette began right here in Watkins Glen when GM chief of automotive styling Harley Earl came to the village for the 1951 Grand Prix. Earl's vision for an American sports car appeared just two years later, and one of the very first Corvettes built was displayed at the 1953 Grand Prix. This makes Watkins Glen the ideal place to celebrate Corvette's 70th birthday. In the time since that creation first came to The Glen, Corvette has gone from standing on its early wobbly legs to becoming a world-class runner. The evolution continues today, with the new mid-engine cars joining Corvettes of all ages in the Tour de Marque.

The Tour de Marque begins with arrival and registration of 85 Corvettes at the Chateau Lafayette Reneau Winery, overlooking Seneca Lake and our famed wine country. From there, the cars will then quickly disappear up into the hills above the lake to begin a 60-mile road rally across some of the finest sports car roads our region has to offer. After a stop for lunch at Watkins Glen State Park, the rally will end at the famed Watkins Glen International race circuit, where the participants will wheel their Corvettes around the track following the official pace cars.

After the visit to WGI, the Tour heads downtown to join the festival. The cars will come to a stop behind the Corvette pace car at the original Grand Prix start/finish line on Franklin Street, and with the wave of the starter's flag the cars are off, and the excitement of entering the first turn of this historic course will be felt by all. Two Cayuga Health System Laps later as the cars return to the village, they travel down Fourth Street to Lafayette Park, where the cars will be directed by the Tour's crack team of volunteers to line up on proud display for all to enjoy, and for their owners to bond over stories of the joys of owning and driving such an iconic marque. Don't be afraid to strike up a conversation with any of them – the participants on the Tour are here to share their cars and their experiences with all of us.

All of those who participate in the Tour de Marque automatically become members of the Festival's Stone Bridge Drivers, whose motto is "We drive the Old Course!" For more information about how you can become a Stone Bridge Driver by participating in the 2024 Tour de Marque or any of our other driving events, visit the Grand Prix Festival's website at [www.grandprixfestival.com](http://www.grandprixfestival.com). And don't wait to sign-up, or you may find that your place on the grid has already been filled!



## Free Shuttle Bus Available for Festival Attendees

The Grand Prix Festival of Watkins Glen is offering free shuttle bus service and parking for spectators again this year. When you use the shuttle, you will find convenient parking and ride downtown to easily access the excitement downtown!

Free parking is available at Clute Park - Lakeside on Route 414, just east of downtown Watkins Glen and Walmart. Spectators and volunteers can park, cross Route 414 to the pick-up location near the camp office and board the shuttle to get closer to the event sites along Franklin Street. Reduce walking and avoid the downtown traffic. Clute Park is the only location for shuttle parking.

A passenger drop-off and pick-up site will be located on

the east side of Lafayette Park on Porter Street, site of the Tour de Marque display featuring Corvette. There may be another stop farther along Porter near the Middle School Apartments. These sites are for bus passenger pick-up and drop-off only, with no parking. Spectators can get on or off at any location. Programs are available on the shuttle bus.

Utilization of this service helps to reduce traffic flow in the village and make parking and road traffic easier for everyone. Save yourself some walking and use the shuttle.

The free shuttle will begin at 1:30 pm and run until after the streets reopen. The last run will be at 9 pm.

Watch for yellow signs directing traffic to parking areas and at pick-up and drop-off points.

# Corvette Inspiration Born In Watkins Glen

By KIP ZEITER

The following are excerpts from a document titled “The Corvette Story,” written by Nick Fraboni, former owner of Glen Chevrolet and on file at the International Motor Racing Research Center.

In July 1951, Mr. Fraboni received a letter from Harley J. Earl, Chief Stylist of General Motors. Earl was planning to come to Watkins Glen for the sports car races, accompanied by a GM engineer and photographer, driving a radical new show car – the Le Sabre, where he needed a place to store it – and what better place than the Glen Chevrolet dealership?

The Le Sabre was one of the most influential concept cars of the 1950s, with aircraft-inspired design elements such as the wrap-around windshield and tail fins, which became common on cars designed during that decade.

It had a body made of aluminum, magnesium, and fiberglass and was powered by a supercharged 215 cubic inch aluminum block V8, able to run on gasoline or methanol. The car also featured GM’s first rear-mounted automatic transmission.

Other advanced features included a 12-volt electrical system instead of the usual 6-volt, heated seats, electric headlights concealed behind the center oval “jet intake,” a water sensor to activate the power top, and electric “lifting jacks” integrated into the chassis to aid in tire changes.

It was GM’s first use of the Le Sabre name, which Buick would later adopt. And like all of Earl’s cars, it was built to be road worthy and would become Earl’s “daily driver” for a period of 2 years after finishing its tour of the show car circuit.

Fraboni took Earl to the Town House “Grog Shop,” which was a haven for race enthusiasts. Earl’s stature and relaxed personality made him popular with everyone he met. Warren Clute Jr. and his wife also hosted them, and the night before the race they all went to the Argetsinger home, where he met more members of the racing community.

The day before the race, arrangements were made to have Earl lead the “Concours d’Elegance” parade in the Le Sabre from the Courthouse to Fourth Street. The parade consisted of foreign sports and racing cars, and Earl was greatly surprised at the crowd’s enthusiastic reaction. While driving in the parade, he commented that the American auto industry lacked a sports car similar to the European models.

On the day of the race, Fraboni and Earl watched from the porch of Nick’s friends, the Woodwards, just a short distance from the start/finish line. Once again, Earl was amazed at the great turnout of fans and the extent of their enthusiasm and remarked on more than one occasion that American car companies lacked these types of cars. As Nick writes in his piece – “although he never said at the time that it gave him the idea of styling one – his ‘wheels’ were turning!”

Three races were run in 1951 – Seneca Cup, eight laps, Queen Catherine Cup, eight laps and Grand Prix, fifteen laps.

Starting positions for each race were determined by drawing from a hat – there was no qualifying.

Several days after Mr. Earl left, Nick received a very nice thank you letter, and a lasting friendship was formed between the two men. In the summer of 1953, when Nick learned that Chevrolet was building the Corvette, he contacted the Buffalo Zone Manager about having a car in Watkins Glen. He was told that only four had been built, and none had been allocated to a small Chevy dealership in a rural upstate NY village. While the Buffalo people were not helpful, they did authorize him to deal directly with the Chevrolet Promotions Office in Detroit.

Convinced that Harley Earl’s visit had inspired the idea for the car in 1951, Fraboni flew to Detroit, where the Promotions staff did not know much about Watkins Glen, let alone the story of Earl’s visit. With the same tenacity Cameron Argetsinger showed in 1948, Nick went directly to Earl’s office in the GM Building. Earl was out, but his Administrative Assistant who had been with Earl in 1951 remembered him and that memorable weekend. A call was made to Promotions indicating that Harley Earl’s office had approved releasing one of the four Corvettes to Glen Chevrolet Co. Inc.

The car arrived by van a few days before the 1953 race and, like the Le Sabre 2 years earlier, drew a great crowd to the dealership. Also, like the Le Sabre, it was at the head of the Concours d’Elegance parade a day before the race.

Should you think that this whole Watkins Glen / Corvette story is simply an “urban” or, more appropriately, “rural” legend, there is a recording of a radio interview that Earl did with Detroit journalist Stanley Brams in 1954 where Earl states: “I ran the Le Sabre up pacing a sports car race in Watkins Glen, and that’s where I got the idea for the Corvette” In his recent book, “Corvette 70 Years: The One and Only” author Richard Prince references that 1954 interview and that the inspiration for the car was born in Watkins Glen.



Nick Fraboni in Le Sabre being driven by opera singer James Melton

# New Bench to Honor Harley Earl

During the opening ceremonies for this year's Grand Prix Festival, a new five-foot bench will be dedicated. This bench, planned for the courthouse lawn, is made possible by a generous gift from the Rochester Corvette Club. The bench will be in honor of Harley Earl, the man credited with creating the Chevrolet Corvette while he served as General Motor's chief Design and Styling executive. Harley Earl was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame in 1986.



# FLX Corvette Journey

On Thursday, September 7th the FLX Corvette Journey took place.

It started off on a quiet morning at Lafayette Park in downtown Watkins Glen, where drivers were able to meet others and display their cars. The car show lasted from 10am to 2pm. At 2:30 all the Corvettes assembled left on a wonderful scenic drive through the heart of the Finger Lakes. By late afternoon the group stopped at our sponsor, Lakewood Vineyards on Seneca Lake for tastings on the deck, a commemorative bottle of Reisling, and tours of the winery. Lakewood Vineyards is located just 3 miles north of Watkins Glen on State Route 14. From there they headed to the Main Deck in Penn Yan, a fabulous restaurant specializing in locally-sourced products, with spectacular sunset views overlooking Keuka Lake...a serene ending to the day.

What a great way to prepare the drivers and their cars for the coming day's attractions of the 2023 Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival!



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# Lotus Cars Gather Once Again

By **TONY VACCARO**

37 Lotus Cars. 57 years. A dedication bordering on obsession. So, I get asked all the time, "Why Lotus?"

It all started for me when I was fourteen years old. I was a big slot car racer, and a guy named Bill Lane pulled into the parking lot of the slot car track with a special car. We always raced Ferraris, Chaparrals, Porsches, and quite a few car shapes that had no names at the slot car track. That fateful day Bill drove in with a Lotus Elan Series 2. I was immediately awe-struck and eagerly asked to sit in it.

What happened next is nothing short of magical when I sat in the Elan. The way the steering wheel fit my 14-year-old hands. The way my Keds sneakers fit just perfectly on the pedals. The way the gearshift felt in my right hand. It was love at first sight and touch. I knew right then and there that a Lotus Elan was in my future. I just didn't realize what that would lead to over the next half a century.

I bought my first Lotus in 1971. It was a Lotus Elan S2 that is now owned by fellow LOONEY, Jeff Kyle. However, I did not start living the Lotus Life until I joined Lotus, Ltd. in 1986. I had a passion for the car, but I didn't realize how impactful the passion of the Lotus community would be on my life. I helped form the LOONYs (Lotus Owners of New York) in 1987 because of the impact of the camaraderie and community that I found the year prior. This incredible community and passion for this marque led to the continuation of this event and our presence today as the LOONEY Lotus Rendezvous at the Grand Prix Festival, sponsored by Lotus of WNY.

We come together each year for a variety of annual-only events. The Watkins Glen Festival is a foundational and important event in our calendar. It stands alongside our national Lotus Owners Gathering (LOG). For these momentous events, it is hard to distinguish which aspect we enjoy more: driving to the event or spending time at the event with our friends. What I learned in 1987 still holds true today, however, and I tend to lean towards the latter. We do really love driving our cars, though, so it is not an easy choice!

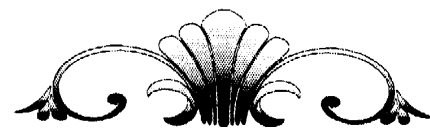
Even when on the road, driving a Lotus is a communal adventure. Very few cars evoke the attention and attraction that a Lotus garners when parked at a gas station. I frequently answer questions regarding Emma Peel on the Avengers television show when I am out driving my Elan. My Caterham equally draws attention, as it's always about the beginning of the Prisoner show with Patrick McGooohan driving his 7 into television history.

With the future of Lotus secured in the incoming Emira, I cannot wait to see how the community develops and unfolds as another chapter is written. Hopefully, we'll see an Emira on the streets of Watkins Glen soon.

Stop by, say hi to the LOONYs, and be part of the community and excitement that is owning a Lotus. Stop by and see our sponsor, Lotus of Western New York, whose support and dedication to the Lotus community make special events like this possible.



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# Motorsports Fans Urged to Visit IMRRC

International Motor Racing Research Center – not sure what that means? Racing archives? Sounds academic and a bit dull – and dusty. Not so! In the words of a recent visitor, “This is a great place preserving the history of all forms of motor racing. It’s a must-see attraction and deserves all the support the racing community can give” The big news for friends of the Center is that property on Franklin St., the site of the former Glen Chevrolet dealership, has been purchased as the premier location for future expansion.

In 1948, Cameron Argetsinger initiated the first post-WWII American road race in the little Finger Lakes village where his family had a summer home—and the rest, as they say, is history. That first race through the streets of Watkins Glen and the roads of Schuyler County led ultimately to the construction of Watkins Glen International, a world class race track that has hosted nearly every sort of racing event from Formula I to NASCAR.

In 1996, as local leaders and Watkins Glen International officials began to discuss how to celebrate the 50th anniversary of racing in Watkins Glen, Jean Argetsinger, Cameron’s wife and longtime Watkins Glen Public Library board president, proposed an addition to the library that would allow expansion of its small but excellent collection of motor racing books. Once again, in Argetsinger- and Watkins Glen-style, this initial gesture has resulted in a world class organization, respected throughout the motorsports community.

The mission: to collect, preserve and share the global history of motor racing. Does this mean lots of papers and books? Yes, but so much more.

No longer limited to books, the Center’s international collection includes nearly 5,000 volumes; hundreds of audio recordings; periodicals dating back to the 1930s; thousands of slides, photographs, negatives and films; race programs from around the world; trophies, artwork, models, race results, and much more. Bound volumes of every issue of National Speed Sport News – THE racing newspaper in the country for more than 50 years are here. The archives of the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) are housed in an offsite facility just minutes from the Center.

The founders of the IMRRC knew they wanted the look and feel of a library, but exhibit space was important, including space for a race car. Wide double doors have accommodated the rolling in and out of dozens of cars since the Center opened. Currently “On the Grid” is the 1985 Roush Prototab Mustang that dominated the IMSA GTO class that year. Drivers Wally Dallenbach and John Jones won 8 races in the Motorcraft sponsored machine. It’s spectacular and well worth stopping by for a look.

Cars from a variety of series and disciplines have added their unique history to the Research Center through the past 20+ years. Poison ‘Lil, a 1936 Maserati that led the very

first competitive lap through the streets of the village in 1948 has sat alongside the OSCA that took the last checkered flag flown on the street circuit in 1952. Indy roadsters from the 1950’s as well as Mark Donohue’s Sunoco Eagle evoke images of the great speedway in Indiana. Trans Am, Can Am, and F5000 cars from the glory days of the 60’s and 70’s, Short track fans have enjoyed numerous sprint and midget car displays in addition to an Oswego supermodified and the famous Gary Balough “Batmobile” that dominated the 1980 Super DIRT Week at the Syracuse Fairgrounds. From Formula One to NASCAR, the variety of motorsport competition is reflected in the cars that have spent time in the Center’s “pits”.

Do you have a vintage race car you’d like to know more about? Are you writing an article on some aspect of motor racing? Just looking to settle a bet? The Center provides access to their extensive motor racing history collections and to material in the SCCA archives to patrons throughout the world through its research services program.

The Center is a not-for-profit organization, funded by member support, corporate sponsorships, grants, income from an endowment, as well as by fundraising activities, including an annual car sweepstakes and an awards ceremony, each year honoring a motor racing great.

The Center earns a significant portion of its operating revenue via its annual car raffles and sweepstakes. This year’s sweepstakes car is a 2024 Chevrolet Corvette E-Ray convertible. The E-Ray is also the only sports car pairing two separate propulsion systems to provide naturally aspirated V-8 power with electrified responsiveness powered by eAWD. The E-Ray is the quickest production Corvette in history, clocking a 2.5-second 0-60 mph time before breezing through the quarter-mile in 10.5 seconds!” Tickets may be purchased through the Center’s website, and one lucky winner will be selected in December.

To become an IMRRC member, join our sweepstakes, or for more information on motor racing history and the Center, visit: [www.racingarchives.org](http://www.racingarchives.org). Have questions? Give them a call or – better yet - stop in to visit! There’s lots to see. Come swap stories with the staff and watch short films about Watkins Glen’s rich racing history. The International Motor Racing Research Center (IMRRC) is located at 610 Decatur Street, Watkins Glen. Admission is free. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.





# Concours d'Elegance at Watkins Glen

By **STEVE BUTCHKO**

From 1949, the second year of the Grand Prix of Watkins Glen, a Concours d'Elegance was held along with the race. It became part of the Grand Prix spectacle. People came to not only see the cars race, but to view them close up in a Concours setting and admire their design, beauty and mechanical engineering.

The 1949 Concours was in the Watkins Glen State Park with Chief Judge John S. duMont heading up four other judges and five categories of cars, 1) 1949-50; 2) 1946-8; 3) 1937-40; 4) 1928-36; 5) 1927-and earlier. After the display and judging, the cars paraded down Franklin Street which was lined with spectators.

This was the beginning of a tradition that would last many years. Through the 1950's until 1963, the event was held at various locations around Watkins Glen: the State Park, the Schuyler County Fairgrounds, Lake Side Park, Lafayette Park, and in 1961, up at the new racetrack. Sponsorship changed nearly as frequently as the venue location. Spon-

sors included the Sports Car Club of America, the Antique Concours d'Elegance at Watkins Glen Car Club of America, and the MG Car Club (MGCC) among others. It wasn't until 1993 that the Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival included the Concours d'Elegance once again to the event this time sponsored by Chemung Canal Trust Company. Chief Judge Dave Wild of the MGCC and Gil Langswager continued the event to 2017 at the State Park with one year returning to Lafayette Park. In 2018 Corning Incorporated began sponsoring the event with Chief Judge Steve Butchko and four judges reviewing 50 cars in the State Park.

This year the Concours will once again be sponsored by Corning Inc. While the State Park's redevelopment of its parking lot has limited the space to 45 cars, we have been able to include a wonderful variety of marques and years to the Concours. The many people who attend the Festival enjoy it as enthusiastically as those that did in the early years.

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# Grist Iron Brewing Grand Ramble

By **TERRIE SAUTTER and CARL D. BENSON**

Join the spring driving season with an exclusive regional scenic tour and on-track driving experience in the fabulous Finger Lakes and world-famous Watkins Glen and at the Watkins Glen International racing facility.

The Grist Iron Brewing Grand Ramble will help kick off your driving fun for the year and is the region's most sought-after exclusive spring driving experience.

This one-day event features a fun road tour targeted at releasing the driving spirits of both driver and automobile originating at Grist Iron Brewing Co., 4880 NYS Route 414, Burdett, about five miles north of Watkins Glen.

The event is open to sports and classic cars that represent automobiles aimed at the spirit of sports car driving. A cross-country grand tour featuring pretty roads, great twisties, beautiful vistas, the occasional waterfall and stops to view the beautiful views is highlighted by three dynamic pace laps of the Watkins Glen International race track's long course. Drivers cap the day at Grist Iron to show off their cars, relive the day's activities, and purchase food and beverages.

The original 1948 6.6-mile road course is the root of our existence! Therefore, for your pleasure and historic significance, drivers are given a special route sheet to include only

the original 1948 course. This allows everyone to completely enjoy the rich Watkins Glen history of United States road racing at their own enjoyable pace.

Add it up: one sports car + one each driver and navigator + Grist Iron Brewing + the historic, original 6.6-mile 1948 road course + Watkins Glen International's on-track lap experience = one full day in the fantastic Finger Lakes for drivers! How's that for distinctive fun and value? Watch the website for the date!!

Don't wait, next year's event will fill-up quickly. Register now online at [www.grandprixfestival.com/Stone Bridge Drivers Events](http://www.grandprixfestival.com/Stone Bridge Drivers Events) or call Michaela at (607) 535-3003. This event will sell out.



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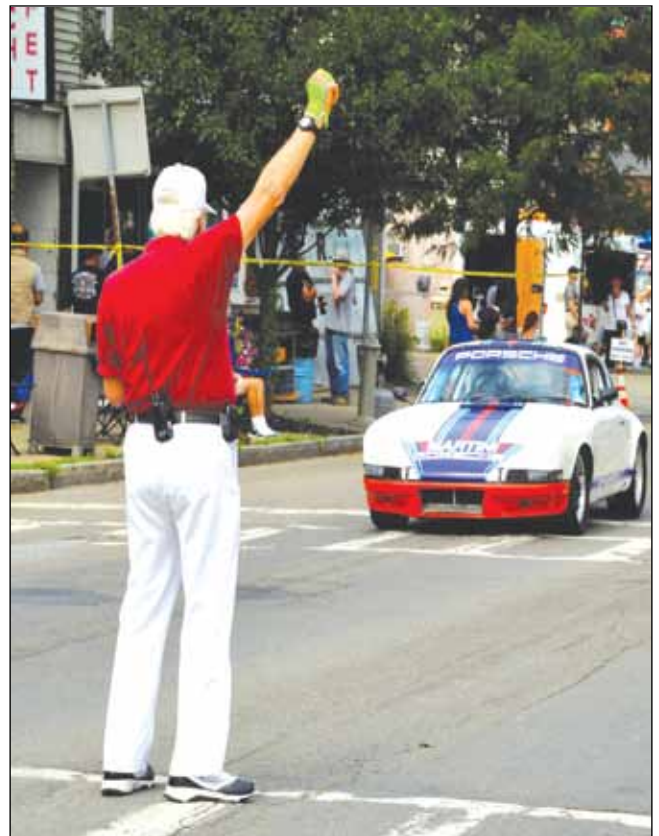
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# The Grand Prix Story

**BY ARTHUR H. RICHARDS**

*This story originally appeared in the official 1950 International Sports Car Grand Prix of Watkins Glen program.*

At the end of World War II there was a great desire among sports car enthusiasts to revive road racing in America as it was known on the Continent, and as it had been known in America in the days of the Vanderbilt Cup Races before World War I. In 1948 the obstacles facing such a venture were many, and racing on the roads seemed an impossible thing.

The Watkins Glen race was conceived in the mind of a young man from Youngstown, Ohio-Cameron R. Argetsinger-who had spent much time in the Seneca Lake country. Encouraged by Russell G. Sceli, president of the Sports Car Club of America, Inc., he placed his idea before the Watkins Glen Chamber of Commerce. The instant enthusiasm of Arthur H. Richards, who actually presented the plan to the Chamber of Commerce, and Donald L. Brubacker, both of Watkins Glen, infected the community, which wholeheartedly supported the project. Cameron R. Argetsinger chose a course for the race, and as general race chairman for the Sports Car Club of America has organized the Grand Prix in 1948, 1949 and 1950.

Leon R. Grosjean, Henry Valent, and Eaton Hurlbut of Watkins Glen have headed the local Grand Prix committee in turn, Mayor Alan D. Erway from the first took upon himself the responsibility of obtaining permission to close and police the roads, Lester Smalley and a hundred other Watkins Glen citizens served upon the "Committee of One Hundred" that made possible the successful running of these three road races, and firmly re-established this great sport in the United States.

From the Sports Car Club came the cars and drivers, and the technical knowledge necessary to organize and run the Grand Prix races. Alec Ulmann, chairman of Activities for the SCCA, William F. Milliken, Jr., of the Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory, Nils B. Mickelson, secretary of the club, and many others pooled their knowledge and abilities to revive the sport of road racing. This revival was the result of a concerted effort by many people. A vast organization was assembled, designed to function just one day a year, and its successful operation could not have been achieved without the unreserved cooperation of everyone concerned.

With each running of the race speeds have gone up, more and faster cars have appeared. For those who participated, however, perhaps no race will every bring the thrill of the start of the first event in 1948. Twenty-seven snarling sports

cars lined up, two abreast, on Franklin Street, and the first mass start with its shattering noise and confusion sent them off round the 6.6 mile circuit. The race was hotly fought and produced thrills for crowd and driver alike. Bill Milliken in his Bugatti, in a duel for third place with Haig Ksayian, overslid and rolled over at famous "Milliken's Corner," and Denver Cornett spun at Stone Bridge in White's hollow and landed upside down in Glen Creek. No one was hurt, and Denny had his M.G. ready, with borrowed wheels, for the main event an hour later.

Frank T. Griswold, of Wayne, Pa., won the first Grand Prix in an Alpha Romeo, with Briggs Cunningham, of Green Farms, Conn., second in his BuMerc. The last lap saw Cunningham pass Griswold into first place, but the superior Alfa Romeo brakes told on the long downhill stretch into the village, and Griswold repassed to win. Haig Ksayian in Cunningham's supercharged M.G. was third after a marvellous display of driving.

The Second Annual Grand Prix in 1949 was sanctioned by the American Automobile Association, which enabled this third race [1950] to be run under authorization of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile in Paris, the international governing body for motor racing. Alec Ulmann initiated the negotiations which resulted in the Grand Prix being officially recognized by the national automobile club and American representative to the international body. Thanks to his efforts, Watkins Glen is now a full fledged International event, the only such event in America besides the Indianapolis 500 Miles Race.

Nearly seventy entries were received in 1949 and the first race, the four lap Seneca Cup Race, saw 39 cars backed into the curb for the Le Mans type start. George Weaver, of Boston, Mass., in his red Maserati was first away, and led through-out, with Briggs Cunningham second in his Ferrari, and Sam Collier third in a supercharged M.G.

Forty-five cars lined up for the mass start of the Grand Prix. Milliken's FWD. Huntoon's Alfa Romeo, Robert's BuMerc, Cunningham's Ferrari, and Miles Collier's Ford-Riley, all fought for the lead, and on the lap of the 99 mile race Miles Collier, of Everglades, Fla., passed Roberts and Cunningham to win at a new record speed for the race. Cunningham and Roberts were second and third.

The first race attracted 10,000 spectators, and it is claimed that 100,000 persons jammed Watkins Glen for the races in 1949. What the attendance will be this year no one can tell, but the huge entry list, the fine cars and the international flavor may well bring in the 350,000 people that some predict. You count them.

# Join the Stone Bridge Drivers Crew

By CASEY CREAMER

More than 600 sports and special interest street cars enter our Stone Bridge Driver events each year. As they each get their chance to drive the Old Course, they become the stars of the Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival, and are a great tribute to the birth of post-World War II road racing in the USA.

If you want to observe just how much fun a bunch of Stone Bridge Drivers can have, just show up anywhere on Franklin Street between 1 and 4 pm and watch as the fun commences. Warning, if big smiles frighten you, look away because you will most likely see the biggest collection of large grins and huge smiles you have ever seen in one place at one time.

If you consider yourself a gearhead and have a car or motorcycle that you think is cool, then one of your motoring goals for 2024 should be to become one of our Stone Bridge Drivers. Just join any of our Stone Bridge Driver events for which you qualify: the Founders' Tour, the Glenora Run, the Tour de Marque, the Concours d'Elegance, the Sporting Roadster Tour, the Glenkhana, the Concorso Speciale, the LOONY Lotus Rendezvous, the Lane's Yamaha Vintage

Motorcycle Rallye and the FLX Corvette Trip to the Top for the Thursday before the Friday Grand Prix Festival. We also extend the fun to late spring with our Grist Iron Brewing Grand Ramble. Perfect timing for those who need an excuse to get their cars out of winter hibernation.

Keep in mind that the featured marque for 2024 will be MG. That means that the FLX MG Journey and the Tour de Marque will both feature MGs.

Share the fun and exhilaration of our magnificent Festival where the participants and their cars are the focus. Enroll early, as limited openings fill quickly.

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# Tech inspection Reenactment at Smalley's

Clipboard in hand, she notes if the car has a fire extinguisher. Does it have a safety harness? A roll bar? How do the wheels look? And that exhaust system, is it OK?

All these items are on a long list reviewed by "Flossie Smalley," during the Smalley's Garage Tech Inspection Reenactment first thing in the morning beginning at 9:30am. It's the first event of Friday's Grand Prix Festival.

Located at Smalley's, still at 204 S. Franklin St. since opening in 1941, the Tech Inspection Reenactment is a popular event for both spectators and the owners of vintage cars who hand over their vehicles for "Flossie's" scrutiny.

Florence Smalley, who owned Smalley's Garage with her husband, Lester, was involved with race car tech inspections from the first competition in 1948. In the first year, inspections were done at the various local gas stations and garages along Franklin Street. William F. Milliken Jr., George B. Weaver and Florence together checked the cars. As the entries grew in 1949, it was recognized that a better-organized central location was needed for inspection.

The Smalleys offered their garage and gas station, where they did general auto repairs and sold foreign cars. Famous marques of the time, which were sold and maintained, included MG, Morris Minor, Triumph, Renault, Riley and Citroen.

Even today, Smalley's Garage remains the place to go for foreign sports car repair, and the small, stone-faced building looks much the same today as it did in those early days nearly 75 years ago.

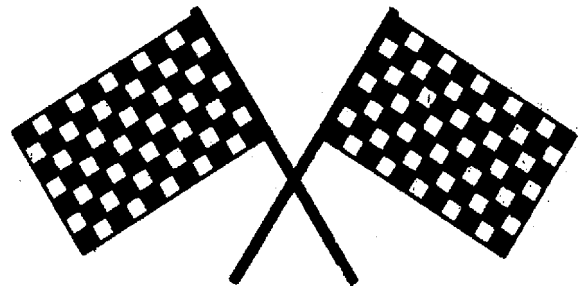
A large tent would be erected behind Smalley's in which the race car inspections were carried out. The cars were routed behind the garage and then through the tent in two lines. Passing through several "stations," the cars were checked for safety equipment, appearance, proper numbers and mechanical soundness. If all tests were passed, an "OK" sticker was placed on the car and it was ready to race.

Even after 1952, when cars no longer raced through the streets, race car inspection continued at Smalley's Garage, until it was moved to the track in 1962. The tech inspection procedure established by Florence and Alfred Momo is still being used today in Sports Car Club of America sports car racing.

Visit the original showroom and enjoy the historic memorabilia on display. See the large metal plaque that was placed in the old tech inspection building to honor Florence, who passed away in March 1967. The plaque reads: "Florence Weaver Smalley Technical Garage, Technical Inspector 1948-1960."

During the 1998 Grand Prix Festival, a Drivers Walk of Fame stone was placed in front of the garage in honor of Lester Smalley, who drove at Watkins Glen in the 1956 Glen Classic.

Lester drove his last race at the dirt track in Dundee, NY at the age of 82. He died in August 2004.

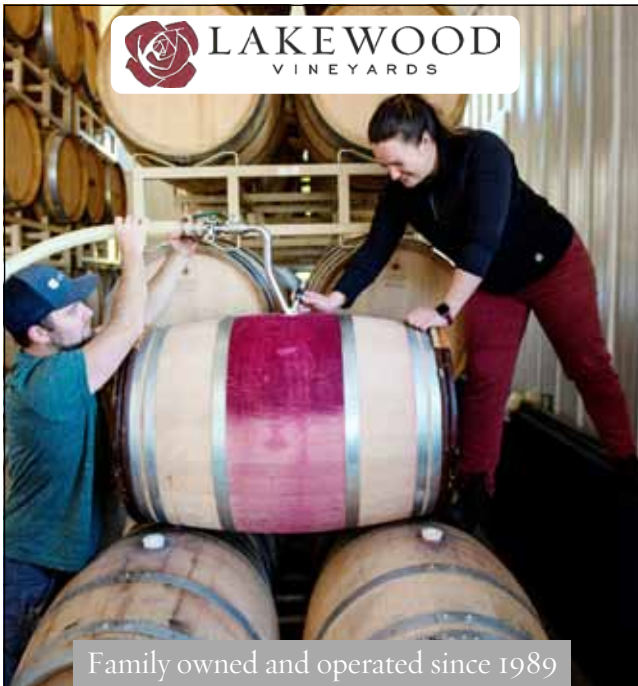


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The relationship between Chemung Canal Trust Company and Watkins Glen goes back nearly 190 years with the completion of the Chemung Canal, “the waterway.” The canal allowed barges to move coal, lumber, and agricultural products from the Chemung River in Elmira to Seneca Lake at Watkins Glen and then northward to the Erie Canal, so the goods could make their way into the world market. The waterway contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of the Southern Tier.

The New York State Legislature approved the formation of our bank in 1833, in an effort to assist businesses and residents with their accumulation of wealth resulting from the opportunity to ship goods to a larger and more diverse market through the canal system.

At that time, land transportation was just beginning to gear up. Stagecoach lines were still thriving. The steam-propelled locomotive had made its maiden voyage from Albany to Schenectady only two years earlier. It was 27 years before the pony express reduced mail delivery from months to days. In addition, the first gasoline-powered automobile was still 52 years down the road.

Today, as we celebrate racing in Watkins Glen, Chemung Canal Trust Company has grown from humble beginnings into a \$2.6 billion, full-service financial institution. With 31 offices located in 13 counties in New York and Bradford County, Pennsylvania, Chemung Canal continues to meet the financial needs of families, businesses and organizations within our footprint.

While much has changed since our founding, one principle has remained the same—the importance of providing quality products and services, combined with superior customer service to our clients and communities. This “high touch,” personal service philosophy is what sets us apart from our competition.

As you enjoy the sights and sounds of this one-of-a-kind event, we encourage you to experience the life we live every day in the beautiful Finger Lakes—tour the wineries, sample the food, visit museums, take a walk through the state park, stop at our local businesses and enjoy the friendly hospitality that makes our region one of the premier tourist destinations in the world!

To learn more about Chemung Canal or our products and services, stop by any of our convenient locations or visit [chemungcanal.com](http://chemungcanal.com).

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# Founders' Tour

By **CARL D. BENSON**

Ryan William Vineyard, in Burdett, NY, presents the Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festivals' Founders' Tour! We welcome you to join us for a most unique gathering of sports and classic automobiles. The invigorating Tour is one of the eleven classic Stone Bridge Driver events representing about 100 extraordinary vintage and classic cars as well as, yes, electric sports cars. By entering, you become an Official Stone Bridge Driver celebrating, again this year, the beginning of Post WWII Road Racing in the United States at World Famous Watkins Glen, N.Y! The Founders' Tour drives the historic Original 6.6-mile Grand Prix Road Course as a stunning group display for all to see!

Ryan William Vineyard is convenient, pleasant to visit only 6 minutes north of Watkins Glen and can be reached at 607-882-9098.

Festival day, Friday, beginning at the Ryan William Vineyard, features an exciting welcome, a magnificent road tour, consisting of two cross-country routes, lunch, two laps of the original Grand Prix course as well as special reserved group parking in Downtown Watkins Glen for all to enjoy. All our Festival guests will welcome the extraordinary Founders' Tour as it rolls its way along downtown to a special reserved and uniquely accessible parking location across from the State Park Entrance. The Founders' display complements the famous Grand Prix Festival and is open for everyone to enjoy.

We exclusively design the Tour field into two separate routes, Cruise & Spirit, initially departing from the Ryan William Vineyard and offering drivers the exciting road challenges the original Grand Prix drivers encountered on their way to the winner's circle. The Stone Bridge Driver and guest will enjoy the region's most spectacular world-class driving topography a motoring experience can offer with tight switchbacks, gorgeous lake views, dotted with vineyards and their fine wine cellars. Following the tour the group stages for the featured motoring display, the 6.6 mi. Original Grand Prix Course Pace Drive, steep in the history of our motor racing heritage.

At Ryan William Vineyard, the drivers arrive at 9:00 am Festival Day. They enjoy the Vineyard's ambiance, pleasant hospitality, and camaraderie. And, of course, there's time at Ryan William Vineyard to share ones' automotive and driving interests with other tour guests as well!

After a special warm welcome, drivers briefing, and a Ryan William Vineyard gourmet box lunch, the tour bursts alive with excitement at about 11 a.m. for the challenging cross-country tours. The drivers ultimately reach downtown Watkins Glen and grid on Franklin Street to take their Original Grand Prix Course 6.6 mi. pace laps.

We invite you to join the absolute fun next year. But enroll early, as limited openings fill quickly. Follow us on the web, at [www.grandprixfestival.com/Stone Bridge Drivers Events](http://www.grandprixfestival.com/Stone Bridge Drivers Events) or by phone at (607) 535-3003.



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# The Glenora Run

By **TERRIE SAUTTER**

In 1948 local sports car enthusiast Cameron Argetsinger envisioned an amateur road race on the streets of Watkins Glen. That first “Watkins Glen Grand Prix” began a future of automotive excitement in this village that continues to this day. Today’s drivers can relive the experience of those days of Racing in the Streets as participants in the Grand Prix Festival of Watkins Glen Stone Bridge Driver Events.

Imagine - Driving your own sports car down the hill into Watkins Glen and rounding Milliken’s Corner to the cheers of hundreds of spectators – on the same roads that Denver Cornett, John Fitch, Otto Linton, Bill Milliken, Sam and Miles Collier drove at speed – now that’s automotive excitement!

THAT very experience brings all of the Grand Prix Festival of Watkins Glen Stone Bridge Driver events close to the hearts of so many sports car enthusiasts! The Glenora Run - the first Stone Bridge Driver event - was soon joined by seven other driving events, all of which have roots in the Glenora Run format. That thrill of driving the same road course as the 1948 Grand Prix greats spread like wildfire and now entices over 600 vehicles to participate every September.

Early Friday morning, while downtown Watkins Glen is still preparing for other Festival events to begin, 100 vintage

sports cars gather at Glenora Wine Cellars, nine miles north of the village on Route 14. Drivers and navigators prepare for a lively drive on one of several rallye routes through adjoining counties – this is Glenora Run!

Among vintage car events, Stone Bridge Driver events are unique; car show participants rarely have the opportunity to be the stars of the day as they drive their cars as part of the event. In Watkins Glen, that’s the raison d’etre: as the first Stone Bridge Driver event, Glenora Run honors the “vintage” aspect of the Festival by including only vehicles that are built pre-1986.

Glenora Run rallies depart Glenora Wine Cellars on one of several twisty-turny 50- to 65-mile rallye-style routes, while driver and navigator test their skill (and relationship) as they watch for checkpoints, follow clues and answer questions along the way. Routes converge in Montour Falls to be staged for a lap through the Schuyler Hospital Seneca View Nursing Facility parking lot – aka the “Seneca View Chicane.” The Seneca View parking lot lap has become a highly-anticipated tradition for the drivers as well as the residents and staff who wave racing flags and cheer on the drivers – remembering days past when they saw similar cars racing through the streets in the village from positions on the curb or as corner-worker, medical personnel or at Smalley’s Garage helping with inspection.

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After lunch and awards, “Glenora Runners” take to the streets again for two laps of the original road course -as do all Stone Bridge Drivers. For many, this is the most significant part of the day - to re-trace the route that the original race cars followed from 1948-52. All Stone Bridge Drivers share the thrill that Briggs Cunningham, Cameron Argetzinger, and others felt on these country roads. It can be a little tricky to navigate the historic course, as Denver Cornett discovered when he entered the Stone Bridge in Hidden Valley that now bears his name and headed out the other side, only to find himself upside-down in the stream below.

After the excitement of these laps of the old course, the Glenora Run cars assemble on Franklin Street for spectator review until the day’s events are over.

The Glenora Run is much enjoyed by the participants and registration fills early. Along with the other Stone Bridge Driver events, the Glenora Run is a great reason the Grand Prix Festival of Watkins Glen is one-of-a-kind in sports car circles, nationwide.



## Volunteer

It takes over **100** volunteers to make the Grand Prix Festival the event we all love. We need you. Whatever your skill set, we have a place for you. Please help us out. Contact Michaela Christensen at Watkins Glen Promotions:  
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# The Legends Speak

The International Motor Racing Research Center (IMRRC) is honored to host the annual “Legends Speak” program as part of the Grand Prix Festival. The program will run from 3-4PM in the gazebo in Lafayette Park located one block east of Franklin St. between 4th and 5th Streets. It’s an hour well spent for any racing enthusiast. This year we welcome legend Willy T. Ribbs.

Ribbs’ love of cars and racing began at the age of four. His first foray into motorsports was driving Formula Ford cars in Europe soon after his high school graduation in 1975. He won the Dunlop Championship in his first year of competition, then returned to the United States and raced Formula Atlantic cars. Ribbs won the pole in the Long Beach Formula Atlantic race in 1982, outpacing veteran drivers before his engine failed. In 1983, he won five races in the SCCA Trans-Am and was honored as Pro Rookie of the Year. In 1991, he became the first African American to qualify for the Indianapolis 500, and he qualified again in 1993.

In 1999, Ribbs raced in the Las Vegas Indy Racing League (IRL). In 2000, he signed with Victoria Motorsports SCCA Trans-Am team and finished second at Long Beach, third at Detroit and fourth at Las Vegas. He was awarded the

Johnson Triple Crown. In 2001, Ribbs joined the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series with the support of Dodge, which initiated a motorsports diversity program to provide opportunities for minorities to race. This made Ribbs the first African American in the modern era to compete full-time in a major NASCAR division. Ribbs successfully raised his two children, Sasha and William Theodore Ribbs, III as a single parent.

Make your Festival experience even more complete by joining us for an hour with Willy T. Ribbs and an insightful look at life both in and outside the fast lane!





# Glenkhana Course all about Driving Fun

By DANIELLE HAUTANIEMI

What could be more fun than a handful of sports cars navigating traffic cones, executing “driving games of skill” and overcoming other obstacles, all against the clock? Nothing but the Hector Wine Company Glenkhana!

Drivers of skill, accompanied by their navigators of driving – and trust! – accept the challenge of the Glenkhana. After an introductory walk-through of the obstacle course, drivers are timed as they put the cars through their paces.

Drivers navigate slaloms and enter gates – forward and back – touching, but not “killing,” cones. Driving the Glenkhana Course will be all about Driving Fun complicated with silly, skill-testing tasks – sometimes playacting, drawing, answering outrageous questions – both in and out of the cars. Teams go head-to-head against the clock and each other.

Each year, the Glenkhana committee tries to incorporate themes reflecting the featured marque of the year. A plaque will be awarded for the best balance of driving skills and parking lot humor. What will it take to capture the event’s top award?

Truly as much fun for spectators as participants, the Glenkhana packs an amazing amount of automotive action into a small space, with fellow enthusiasts and their beloved vehicles as the main attraction. While some drivers look forward to pitting their skills against the devious committee’s new design year after year, each year new Festival participants learn the ropes, which is all the fun. Some folks attack with speed, letting finesse take the high ground, others learn that slow and steady often wins the race.

Stop by the Glenkhana course across the street from the entrance to the Watkins Glen State Park, on the east side of Franklin Street at 10th Street.

The fun and action start at 10:30 a.m.!



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# Motorcycle Sporting Tour



Classic motorcycles make a great addition to any gear-head's stable; most are still affordable, easier to work on than a vintage car and take up less storage space. Talk to our riders about how you can find a classic bike for your collection, and enjoy taking part in the Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival. So, you have no excuses: Find a bike, grab a helmet and join the fun next year!



By **KARL SMOLENSKI**

Early Friday morning, the parking lot of Lane's Yamaha just 2 miles north of Watkins Glen on Route 14 fills with the motorcycles of yester-year: Triumph, MV Agusta, Honda, Norton...

The air is filled with the bark of singles and bellowing twins and perhaps a whiff of two stroke oil. Vintage motorcycles are back for another year as part of the Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival!

This sporting tour of the Finger Lakes and the surrounding countryside is part of the Stone Bridge Driver events. The Lane's Yamaha Motorcycle Rallye is for riders and passengers on vintage, classic, and stunning motorcycles of all ages. A rousing early-morning ride on hidden gems of roads, through forest and glen. After lunch the riders make their way to the Grand Prix Festival, where the bikes will be on display all afternoon at the Community Bank and in action around the original 1948 Watkins Glen road course.

While you may be at the Grand Prix Festival to see the fabulous race cars and the vintage cars of days past, take a minute to enjoy the collection of motorcycles in the Community Bank parking lot. Their owners will be there and happy to discuss their bikes and how you too could take part next year, as we plan to grow the event to include yet more vintage bikes incoming years.





# The Watkins Glen Drivers Walk of Fame

The Watkins Glen Drivers Walk of Fame was established in 1993 by the Watkins Glen Historic Racing Committee with support from the Schuyler County Chamber of Commerce and Watkins Glen International to honor the drivers who have competed on the Glen's world-famous circuit since 1948.

The International Motor Racing Research Center helps the Historic Racing Committee develop the inscription for the Walk of Fame markers. The majority of markers are located in the east and west sidewalks along Franklin Street. All the markers in the Walk of Fame are sponsored by private donations.

To be considered for induction into the Walk of Fame, the driver must have driven a race car in competition at one of the four race courses used at the Glen since 1948. The first person inducted into the Walk of Fame was the gentleman whose vision it was to bring racing to Watkins Glen, Cameron Argetsinger. His block was placed in the Drivers Walk of Fame at the original racing start/finish line in front of the Schuyler County Court House in 1993.

A tour of the Drivers Walk of Fame is a walk through racing history. It is at the Glen that road racing had its rebirth

in 1948, and since that time it has been known as the Home of Road Racing in America. The Walk of Fame in front of the Court House is reserved for those drivers who competed from those early street races, from 1948 to 1952.

Begin your tour at Smalley's Garage at 204 S. Franklin St., where race cars had to pass inspection before being allowed to compete. Proceed north to the Court House and follow the path almost to Seneca Lake before crossing Franklin Street and enjoying the names on the west side. A few drivers are honored with markers at the Racing Research Center at 610 S. Decatur St.



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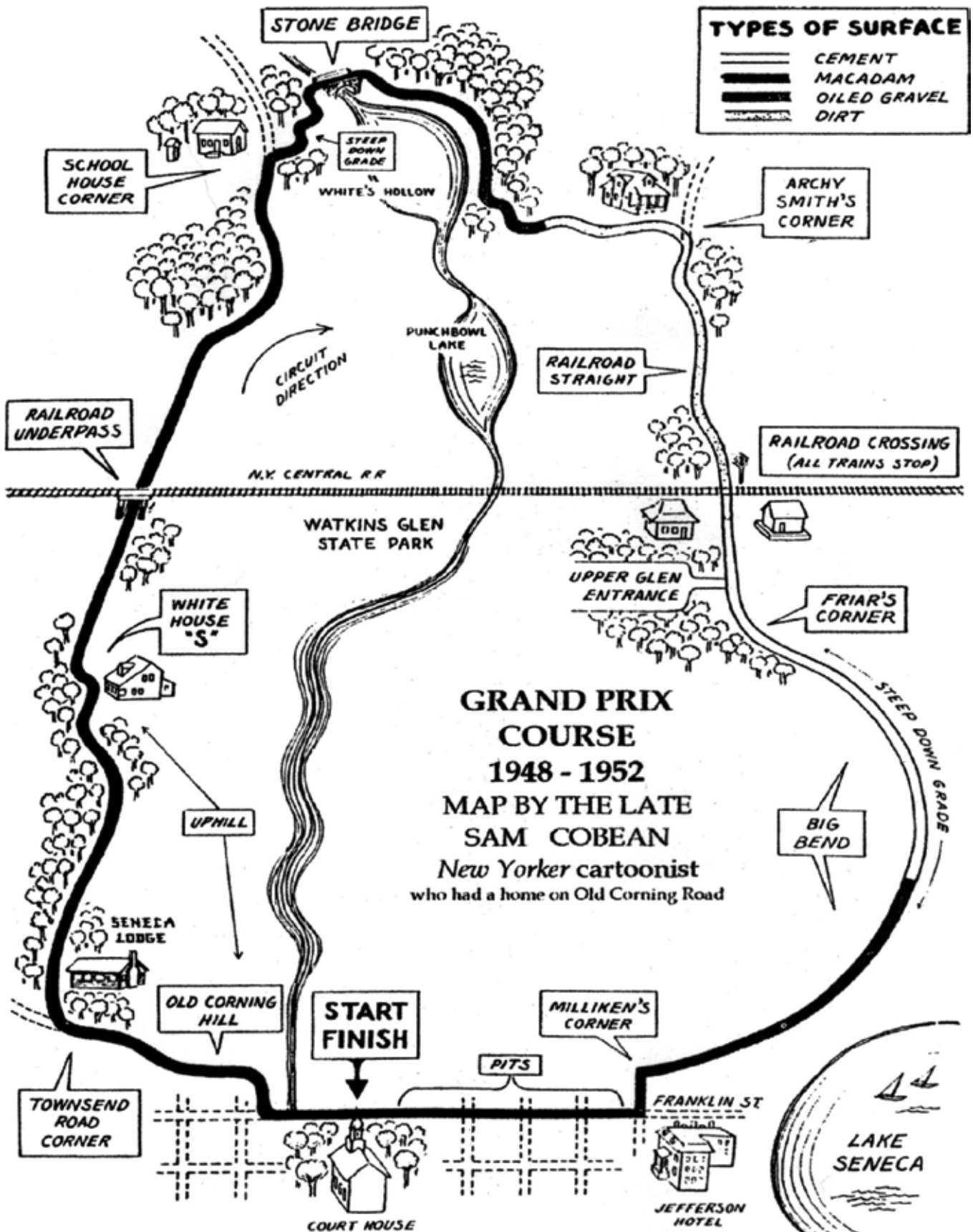
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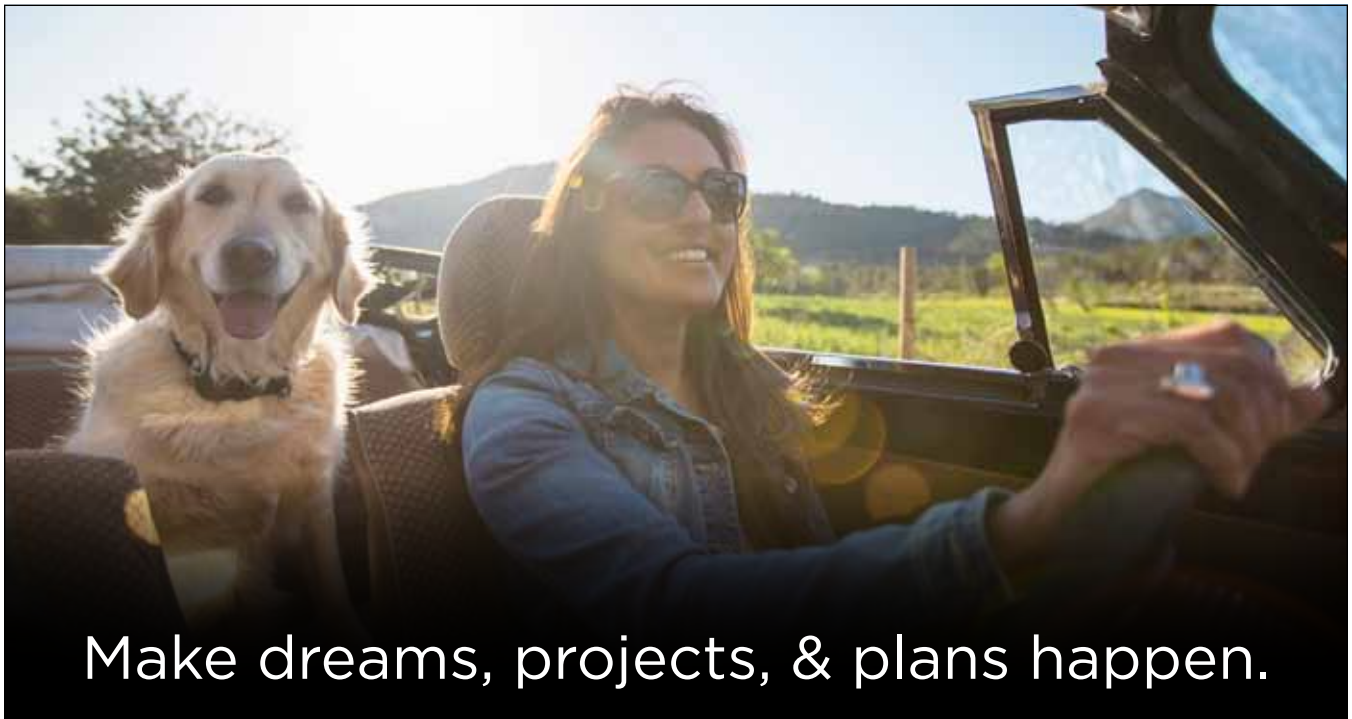




Andretti being informed he had won the pole in the 1968 USG







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# Concorso Speciale Celebrates the ‘ignored’

By GARY WHYMAN

If you love cars in all configurations, such as the overly appreciated right along with the underappreciated automotive orphans, and some of the downright ignored automotive jewels in the rough or not, we have the show event for you: the Community Bank Concorso Speciale.

The Concours Speciale is sponsored by our hometown friends and neighbors at Community Bank, NA. It celebrates (Really!) the cars that are special to their proud owners regardless of the standing of the cars, or their owners, in the upper echelons of the automotive world. After all, why should Jay Leno, Dr. Fred Simeone and Ralph Lauren with their Lamborghinis, Alfa Romeos, Corvettes, Talbot-Lagos, Packards, Porsches and Cords have all the fun when there are Humber Super Snipes, Borgward Isabellas, Trabants, Hudson Jets and Subaru 360s aplenty!

As befits the seriousness of such an August event (which happens in September), judging will be performed in a completely arbitrary and capricious manner by our very own event specialists. Their decisions are final and irreversible except through bribery (the liquid kind of course!).

Anyone disagreeing with the final judging should feel free to visit our sister event, The Corning Concours d’Elegance, where taste and personal integrity are far more

appreciated. This Festival event has one of the best parking lots on the main street, at the best rate going and we have fun. Fun, that’s what auto ownership and driving should be about. Fun! So we honor all arrivals, and the more ... um ... unusual, the more interest we get from the crowds! This lot is filling up faster and faster every year for just these reasons, and we hope you all will come and join our fun!

We look forward to you joining us this year and in future years (and we have photos to ensure that you will return).

We encourage you to periodically visit our website [www.grandprixfestival.com](http://www.grandprixfestival.com), where updates and pictures of our contestants will be posted throughout the upcoming year.



# Festival Begins with Dedicated Committee

A committee of volunteers works year-round to organize the Grand Prix Festival. It's a true labor of love for these folks who appreciate the history of racing in Watkins Glen and who admire the machines driven by the men and women who lived that history and who enjoy their cars today.

- Watkins Glen Promotions Director - Michaela Christensen
- Festival Management Team Leader – Marianne Marts
- Volunteer Recruitment – Judy Phillips
- Headquarters Chair – Tom Phillips
- Festival Marketing and Sponsorship – Tom Seem
- SVRA Race Tribute – Tony Parella
- Festival Logistics – Steve Klemann
- Festival Traffic – Casey Creamer
- Smalley's Garage – Dave Tobin
- Stone Bridge Driver Events – Casey Creamer
- Stone Bridge Driver Events Parking-- Trevor Carmody
- Corning Concours d'Elegance – Jef Franklin
- Community Bank Concorso Speciale – Gary Whyman and Cam Ashman
- Glenora Run – Terrie Sautter
- Grist Iron Brewing Grand Ramble – Terrie Sautter and Carl Benson
- LOONY Lotus Rendezvous sponsored by Lotus of Western NY – Tony Vacarro
- Ryan William Vineyard Founders' Tour – Carl Benson
- Hazlitt Sporting Roadster Tour – Eric Navestad
- WGI Tour de Marque/Corvette launched from Chateau LaFayette Reneau - Bruce Coulombe
- Lane's Yamaha Vintage Motorcycle Rallye – Karl Smolenski
- Hector Wine Company Glenkhana – Danielle Hautaniemi
- FLX Corvette Show and Journey – Randy Olson
- The Legends Speak – Dave Ward and Kip Zeiter
- Drivers Walk of Fame – Jim Scaptura
- Festival Photography – Alex Styles
- Festival Program – Schuyler County Hi-Lites and Jack Hoare
- Merchandise – Dena Carrigan
- Website – Eric Navestad





# Volunteers are the Backbone to a Successful Festival

By **MICHAELA CHRISTENSEN**

Do you attend this festival year after year, but want to be more involved? The answer is simple: **VOLUNTEER!** This festival, organized by Watkins Glen Promotions, is run entirely by volunteers and we need you!

While festival-goers may think that all the action is happening downtown on this beautiful Friday event, there are actually 11 Stone Bridge Driver events going on simultaneously, with all of them concluding with laps around the Old Course, and then showcasing their cars downtown. Each one of these events requires months of planning, driving routes to ensure accuracy, communicating with registrants, and coordinating with day-of volunteers to make certain everything is coordinated. Our management committee uses creativity and many, many unpaid hours of labor to make everything perfect. They have a lot of fun but are always looking for additional volunteers to bring new ideas.

Once all of our Stone Bridge Driver events are set, the other ominous task is to recruit and gear up our day-of volunteers. There is a headquarters location at VanSkiver Motors on Franklin Street, where most of the activity is coordinated on festival day. Volunteers can pick their t-shirts up, get all questions answered, and even borrow a golf cart to make a delivery to another part of the festival. Headquarters is a fast-moving and exciting place to be on festival day.

A hospitality tent is located on the courthouse lawn, where free programs are distributed, and questions from attendees new and old can be answered. This is also a central location for all of the Grand Prix Festival vendors.

Merchandise trailers that host a wide range of Grand Prix Festival merchandise can be found in front of Maguire, as well as near the courthouse. Responsible volunteers are needed to help our great attendees and assist them with purchasing any gear. There are also volunteering positions

available at Village Memorabilia, WGP's shop on the north side of Franklin Street. If you're feeling even more adventurous, there are Saturday and Sunday shifts available to sell at the trailers within Watkins Glen International during the Hilliard U.S. Vintage Grand Prix at the Glen. These are all great opportunities to meet a lot of different people, most primarily car enthusiasts and their families.

Throughout festival day, different Stone Bridge Driver groups drive laps around the Old Course as part of their event. Volunteers are needed for crowd control and helping to direct the groups' traffic in a safe manner. The most exciting portion of the day is when the SVRA cars come down from WGI and queue up on Franklin Street for the iconic "Drivers, start your engines!" The noise and smells take us back to those memorable days of 1948.

From 6am set-up to 9pm clean-up, every single volunteer that signs on to help us plays a pivotal role in the success of this festival, and we could not do it without them. Plus, what better way to experience the festival than by working the front lines? If you are interested in becoming a part of our volunteer community, let us know. Contact Watkins Glen Promotions (607) 535-3003, or reach out to us on our website, [www.grandprixfestival.com](http://www.grandprixfestival.com). We can't wait to hear from you.



# Must See: Showcase of Speed display in the Subway parking lot located at 8th and Franklin Streets.

“Showcase of Speed” display

“America’s Sports Car” – “America’s Race Car” Here at ‘The Glen’ as well as circuits around the world the Corvette has been an integral part of the sport for decades. These cars have written part of that history and the Festival is honored to have them as part of today’s celebration!

### Subway parking lot

Camoradi USA Race Team - # 4 – 1960 - competed in the 1960 24 Hours of Le Mans – 12 Hours of Sebring – Cuban Grand Prix – Nurburgring

# 3 – 1956 – One of only 4 Corvettes to compete in the 1956 12 Hours of Sebring – 3 were Corvette factory teams, this car was privately owned and driven from Chicago to compete

# 1 – 1959 – The famous “Purple People Eater”- 1959 SCCA National Champion winning 12 of 13 races that year

# 8 – 1967 L88 – 1 st in GT class 1967 12 Hours of Sebring – 1 st in GT class 1968 Daytona 24 Hours – 1967 SCCA Midwest Division Championship

# 18 – 1988 SCCA Corvette Challenge car – 1 of only 56 built in 1988

# 21 – 1989 SCCA Corvette Challenge car – 1 of only 30 built in ‘89

#82 – 2002 C5 Corvette final competition car driven by PL Newman

### ON THE COURTHOUSE LAWN

1951 General Motors LeSabre Concept Car – Driven to Watkins Glen in 1951 by GM designer / stylist Harley J. Earl – The Father of the Corvette

1953 Corvette “The Original” #75 of 300 built in 1953

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# Roadster Tour Just For Open-Top, Two-Seaters

BY ERIC NAVESTAD

The 20th Annual Hazlitt Sporting Roadster Tour is a spectacular tour, designed for those who own open-top, two-seat roadsters of any vintage and truly love to get out there and drive their cars on the most engaging roads in the region. We call this the “Running of the Roadsters.”

Each year the route is changed so those returning for yet another year can expect something new, but we do revisit our favorite stretches of asphalt often. The Friday after Labor Day is packed with lots of great driving on really fun roads, a stop at Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards in Hector, and the extraordinary two Cayuga Health System laps around the original 1948 6.6 mile Watkins Glen road course.

All participants get lunch at Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards, a commemorative bottle of Hazlitt wine and a special dash plaque for their roadster.

Confirmed participants sign in at Havana Glen Park in Montour Falls. The route is a nice blend of scenic and fun roads in the Finger Lakes Region. Detailed instructions and tour routes are provided at sign-in. The tour of approximately 150 miles is divided into several seat-friendly blocks of time. Participants wanting a shorter drive may start later, eat lunch later and have a shorter drive after lunch, cutting the drive down to approximately 100 miles.

At the end of the tour, all the roadsters convene at Watkins Glen State Park, where they grid into formation for their two, full laps of the Old Course. Once the call is received, the roadsters take to the Old Course in grand fashion, running the very same course the racecars ran 75 years ago.

While driving the Old Course laps, you are part of the show. Festival goers line the streets downtown and cheer when the cars pass by. On the country roads outside the village, spectators gather in fields waiting for the seemingly endless parade of fine sports cars to drive by.

After the parade laps, all the sporting roadsters will find themselves downtown, where special reserved parking is provided for the rest of the Grand Prix Festival. This parking not only allows drivers to showcase their special cars in the lot across from the Concours d’Elegance, but provides them a chance to wander around downtown and take in all the Friday night activities that have helped to make the Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival so popular.

Plan on joining us next year, and be sure to sign up early! [www.grandprixfestival.com/roadster.html](http://www.grandprixfestival.com/roadster.html).



# Watkins Glen Promotions

**BY MICHAELA CHRISTENSEN**

Watkins Glen Promotions was organized in November 1993 to organize quality special events in Schuyler County. The goal is to bring visitors into the community to showcase the natural beauty and creative talents of the area. Watkins Glen Promotions also operates a storefront at 211 North Franklin St., perfect for selling and showcasing festival memorabilia and locally made merchandise. Over the past few years, we have worked very hard to bring unique and local merchandise to our store, so whether you are local or from out of town, there is something perfect for everyone!

Watkins Glen Promotions organizes four major events annually. The premier event of the season celebrates Watkins Glen's racing history. Today's festival, the Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival, brings thousands of new and familiar faces to town each year in celebration of the rich road racing heritage enjoyed by the community. The highlight of the event is when the vintage race cars arrive to park on display in the streets and then take tribute laps around the historic original road course.

The Falls Harvest Festival, held the first Saturday in October on Main Street in Montour Falls, features hands-on activities and demonstrations celebrating the area's agriculture and the autumn harvest. In addition to a farmer's market, the family-friendly, day-long event includes live entertainment, a children's activity zone, fireworks, live music, and more.

In December, Watkins Glen Village Christmas brings together the community with a holiday kick-off celebration. From handmade gifts to the petting zoo and fireworks, this evening event is sure to kick off the holiday season for adults and children alike. Topped off with a parade with Santa and Mrs. Claus, it is a holiday tradition that is sure to please the whole family.

Make plans early next year and plan on attending the Watkins Glen Waterfront Festival and Cardboard Boat Regatta, held every June at Seneca Harbor Park on the shores of Seneca Lake in downtown Watkins Glen. It is a day of food, music, and activities for the entire family, highlighted by the Cardboard Boat Regatta, where as many as 50 boats made solely of cardboard and duct tape are raced through the harbor. You'll marvel at the ingenuity, smile at the themes and costumes and cheer to keep your favorites from sinking into Seneca Lake.

Watkins Glen Promotions is about community – bringing Schuyler County together for events that are organized and staffed by community volunteers. These events cannot function without the help of volunteers! Learn how you can get involved by visiting [www.watkinsglen.com](http://www.watkinsglen.com), or emailing [events@watkinsglen.com](mailto:events@watkinsglen.com). Continue to shop local!

# MG to Headline 2024 Festival

September 6, 2024 will see Watkins Glen's streets filled with thousands of racing fans for the 31st annual Grand Prix Festival. In addition to MG being the featured marque for the Stone Bridge Driver Tour de Marque event on Friday, there will be an exciting daylong MG only event on Thursday, Sept. 5th – The FLX MG Journey which includes a show, rally and dinner.

All Grand Prix Festival of Watkins Glen Stone Bridge Driver events feature a minimum of two laps around the original 6.6 mile road circuit, as used from 1948-1952. You can experience the thrill of coming down into the Village of Watkins Glen around famed Milliken's Corner to the cheers of thousands of sports car enthusiasts. Wind up Old Corn-ing Hill and pass many landmarks along the way, just as the original racers did – in your sports car!

Mark your calendars now for this special event and book your Stone Bridge Driver event early at [www.grandprix-festival.com](http://www.grandprix-festival.com)







# Festival Schedule

- |            |  |           |  |
|------------|--|-----------|--|
| 9:30 a.m.  | ~ Tech Inspection, Smalley's Garage, Franklin Street   | 1:30 p.m. | ~ Lane's Yamaha Vintage Motorcycles and Community Bank Concorso Speciale on display at Community Bank, Lotus on display at 8th and Franklin. |
| 10:00 a.m. | ~ Corning Concours d'Elégance begins, Watkins Glen State Park lot ~ Memorabilia booths open on Franklin Street ~ Community Bank Concorso Speciale, Community Bank parking lot              | 2:00 p.m. | ~ Tour de Marque Corvettes parked for display at Lafayette Park, 4th Street  |
| 10:30 a.m. | ~ Hector Wine Company Glenkhana begins at Watkins Glen State Park parking lot  | 3:00 p.m. | ~ The Legends Speak Event, Lafayette Park, 4th Street  |
| 11:00 a.m. | ~ Glenora Run cars do the "Montour Mile"   | 4:45 p.m. | ~ SVRA vintage race cars arrive on Franklin Street   |
| Noon       | ~ Drivers Walk of Fame Induction Ceremonies, Court House Lawn ~ Wine Tastings and Food Court open, Court House Lawn ~ 5th through 10th streets closed between Franklin and Decatur streets | 5:00 p.m. | ~ Corning Concours d'Elégance Awards Ceremony, original Start/Finish Line  |
| 12:45 p.m. | ~ Franklin Street closed, between 2nd and 10th streets   | 5:35 p.m. | ~ "Pre-Race" Ceremonies, original Start/Finish Line  |
| 1:00 p.m.  | ~ Stone Bridge Driver Events start their Cayuga Health System Laps of the Old Course   | 6:00 p.m. | ~ Original 6.6-mile course closed to traffic through 7:30 p.m.   |
|            |  | 6:10 p.m. | ~ Watkins Glen Heritage Tour Parade laps   |
|            |  | 6:30 p.m. | ~ Watkins Glen Grand Prix Race Tribute begins  |
|            |  | 8:00 p.m. | ~ Franklin Street re-opens   |
|            |  | 9:00 p.m. | ~ Last Shuttle Bus to Clute Park Parking   |



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