



time machines

OWEN SOUND A NEW HUB

By road, Owen Sound is 190 km from Toronto, 430 km from Windsor/Detroit and 623 km from Ottawa — so it's not exactly the hub of the collector car hobby in Ontario.

Nor is Owen Sound the location most people would choose to stage a world-class Concours d'Elegance. But Rob McLeese is not most people.

The president and founder of Access Capital Corp., McLeese must have seen *Field of Dreams* because, two years ago, he decided that if you stage it, they will come. And thus was born the 2013 Cobble Beach Concours d'Elegance.

It could have been a one-off event, but it was so successful that Rob is doing it again this Sept. 13-14 and has hopes that it will continue far into the future.

Rob's wife, Rosemary, is from Oshawa's McLaughlin family, which started General

Motors of Canada, but he had no history with classic cars himself — unless you count the 1971 Porsche 911 that serves as his daily driver.

Rob has surrounded himself with some of the most knowledgeable people in the collector car industry: Billy Smilovsky is a founding partner of the restoration shop Engineered Automotive; Steve Plunkett is a world class collector of Cadillacs and host of a wildly popular annual car show at his estate near London, Ont.; Ed Lucas, who acts as master of ceremonies, helped start the Meadowbrook Concours d'Elegance in Michigan; and chief judge John Carlson from Vancouver is a Concours veteran who has assembled a judging team that includes expert restorers such as Doug Greer from Cobourg, Ont.

In all, 216 volunteers will help make this

year's event possible.

"We're working hard to make this a real international show," Rob said. "This year, cars are coming from as far away as Colorado, Florida, and Italy — 110 in total."

To keep things interesting for the public, owners can bring the same car just once every four years.

Cars must be in running condition and are judged for authenticity, workmanship, and "presence." General admission to the Concours on Sunday, Sept. 14 is \$30 for adults, \$25 for kids under 16, and a pass for a fam-



The Cobble Beach Concours d'Elegance is set to run Sept. 13-14 in Owen Sound, Ont.

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ily of four is \$85. VIP admission and transportation is available. See www.cobble-beachconcours.com for details.

— Glen Woodcock