



A THUNDERBIRD WEEKEND IN ALBERTA

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Calgary

Thunderbirds were everywhere during two warm summer days in August with both the Calgary and Edmonton Thunderbird Clubs hosting their yearly show and shine on the same weekend.

Sunny warm weather graced the Calgary event, and while Edmonton had a high overcast, the day was just as warm and inviting.

Both shows were well attended – Calgary featured 100 vehicles on the Saturday, while Edmonton hosted 88 on Sunday.

A new venue hosted the Calgary show and was met with great enthusiasm. The Richmond/Knob Hill Community Association allowed the use of their community centre and grassy field, which proved to be very comfortable as the warm sun beat down. The Red Wagon Diner food truck served up delicious smoked meat sandwiches, wraps, and icy cold drinks.

Club members displayed a wide variety of birds from all eras, starting with

the Baby Birds of the 1950's to the final edition Retro Birds of the early 2000's. Other Ford car clubs were invited to attend, including Mustangs, Mercury's, Lincoln's, trucks, and modified cars. One lone vintage Chevy truck graced the special interest group and drew many admirers.

Beautiful plaques were awarded to first and second place winners in each category, grouped by the vehicle's age and model, as well as the Young Guns award going to Bill MacKenzie Jr. for his modified Ford Focus SE sedan featuring Canada's only full ST turbo conversion. Best in show went to Jules Klepak, for his gleaming black 1955 Baby Bird.

The Make-A-Wish foundation was the charity chosen by club members and a generous donation was given on behalf of the club.

The Edmonton show was located at the Gateway Village A&W in St. Albert and offered lots of room for all participants as well as great burgers and root beer within a few short steps.

Registration was either \$10 or the donation of a teddy bear, which were be-

ing collected for Victims Services. Wasn't long before a huge mound of bears and other assorted plushies spilled over from the TBird on display and started stacking up on the ground in front.

The Root Bear made a guest appearance, and a DJ kept the atmosphere lively by playing the hits from the 50's and 60's.

Several cars from Calgary and other surrounding towns were present, but a special visitor from Quesnel B.C. in his beautiful Baby Bird should be noted, as he and his little companion dog were at the Calgary show the day before and enjoyed visiting with everyone.

Also present was a beautiful creamy white 1963 Monaco Edition Thunderbird, and an adorable white 1957 Baby Bird named Sophia. Both were gorgeous and in immaculate condition.

The Thunderbird brand has played a significant role in automotive history, and it was a privilege to talk to the owners and see their beautiful cars. Long may the love affair with these iconic automobiles continue.

