

# Harley Davidsons heat up Heritage Parade

BY SARAH HENRY  
Record-Eagle staff writer

Rev up the engines, it's time for the AAA Michigan Heritage Parade, with Corvettes and Harley Davidson motorcycles leading the way.

Mike Suprenant, Corvette enthusiast and Traverse City resident said 2003 marks the 50th anniversary for corvettes.

"There's been five body style changes to Corvettes," he said. "We try to represent each generation of corvettes."

The first models, from 1953-1962 were all convert-

ibles. Suprenant's wife will drive a 1957 Corvette in the parade. In 1963 the first change was made to the design of the car, including the infamous split window, which was dismantled in 1964 because it interfered with the driver's ability to see out the rear window.

In 1968, the corvette morphed again- this time resembling the shape of a shark.

"One of the designers Bill Mitchell had the idea after a fishing trip he went on," Suprenant said.

The years between 1984 and 1996 marked the computer era changes, with

electronic gages and cutting-edge technology of the time period.

In 1997, the car was remolded again and hasn't been tinkered with much since.

Corvettes are only half the age of Harley Davidson motorcycles, however.

Two sets of brothers with the surnames of Harley and Davidson collaborated in 1903 in a little shack in Milwaukee, Wis. and experimented with external combustion, according to the Harley Davidson Web site.

Well, the shack burned down, but the motorcycle

the brothers produced ran for over 100,000 miles and changed ownership five times, according to the Web site.

Since then, Harley Davidson has become an internationally known company and this year celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Don't miss the Harley Davidson and Corvette parade marshals in the AAA Michigan Heritage Parade.

The parade begins at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, on Front Street in downtown Traverse City. It continues down Union Street and ends at 13th Street.

# Bill LaCourse remembered

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and the President's PR people.

Bill and Betty had four children and four grandchildren. Shayrrl and son Peter, both live in Traverse City and work at Northwestern Michigan College. Peter is the Director of Physical Education at NMC, and Shayrrl who is assistant at the M-TEC Welcome Desk was named NMC's "Employee of the Semester." Son Greg lives part-time in Traverse City and part-time in Wyoming, where he owns an oil business. Daughter Michelle earned her master's degree in music and an Artist's Diploma from the Peabody Conservatory. She plays viola and heads the String Department at Boston University. Michelle also leads a summer seminar at Interlochen Center for the Arts.

Bill LaCourse was a man who was committed to being involved. He will surely be missed by all those who knew him through his involvement in Traverse City.

**Cathy Stathakis is a local freelance writer.**

## Volunteer Recognition Day

Volunteer Recognition Day for the National Cherry Festival will be held Wednesday, July 9.

A banner thanking volunteers for their service will be placed at the Open Space, and an open house at the National Cherry Festival office will be held from 2:30-4:30 p.m. for all volunteers to recognize Mel Gee's 50 years of Cherry Festival service. Cake, cookies and punch will be provided.

This year there are close to 600 volunteers to thank for running the Festival, according to Jeannine LaPointe, chairperson of the volunteer committee.

This year's Festival is dedicated to another 50 year volunteer, former Cherry Festival president and trustee, Bill LaCourse.

# Visit The Cherry Festival On-line at [www.record-eagle.com/cherry2003](http://www.record-eagle.com/cherry2003)



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