

Port Huron car show aims for 400-plus vehicles

Bob Gross

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Don't accuse the people behind the MainStreet Memories Car Show of not thinking big.

The organizers hope to fill downtown Port Huron, from Quay Street to Glenwood Avenue, with classic and antique automobiles on Saturday.



“We have every reason to believe we are going to be close to 400 cars,” said Ron Steward, president of MainStreet Memories Car Show Inc. “We have 195 pre-registered already.

“Two years ago, our first show, we barely had 200 cars.” He said the overflow from Huron Avenue will fill the side streets “and we will go down McMorran toward the city building.”

The car show opens to the public at 10 a.m. Saturday admission is free; it costs \$15 to register your car if you haven't done so already.

“The official hours are 10 to 4 p.m.,” Steward said. “We will be parking cars on the street at 8 a.m.”

He said the downtown streets will be closed to traffic and parking starting at 6 a.m. Organizers already have sent letters to downtown apartment and loft dwellers reminding them not to park on the streets.

“The last two years, it’s really not been an issue,” he said. “Friday night, do not park on (Huron Avenue) or the side streets.”

Registration fees, once the bills are paid, go to the Council in Aging Serving St. Clair County.

“We do it to try to bring the community together and raise money for the Council on Aging,” Gary Niver, MainStreet Memories Car Show vice president, said. “The last two years we’ve been able to donate about \$15,000. It looks like this year it’s going to be close to that for just this year.”



Scott Crawford, executive director of the Council on Aging, said Mary Taylor, assistant director, works with the car show group.

“Basically all the proceeds that they make from the show they donate back to the Council on Aging,” he said.

“We are very grateful to the group that they have chosen us to be a partner with them.”

Steward said MainStreet Memories is a return to the 1980s and 1990s when a large car show filled downtown Port Huron streets.

“The car show, there’s a little bit of nostalgia because the car show used to be so big,” he said. “We had our cars down there, and our kids would come down with us. “Our kids are now business owners and are some of our sponsors.”

He said the downtown businesses have welcomed the show. “We have 174 total sponsors, and 60 of them are downtown businesses, so they are embracing what we are doing,” he said

Niver said he has a 1955 Chevrolet two-door hardtop he shows.

“It’s been a passion since I was 16 years old — actually before that 14, 15 years old,” he said. “I had different hobbies and got out of it and always went back. If you’re a car person, it’s just a passion.”



Steward said the cars are not judged and no trophies are awarded.

“We see a lot of cars that normally don’t come out,” he said. “We just want people to come downtown, relax and enjoy themselves.”

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If You Go

- The MainStreet Memories Car Show is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday in the area of downtown Port Huron from Quay Street north to Glenwood.
- Besides the vehicles, the show will include a FIRST Robotics demonstration, raffles, a craft show, monster trucks, a detailing demonstration, a demonstration by a Model T build team, cookie decorating and face painting.
- For more information, visit www.mainstreetmemoriesph.com