



An Historical Perspective

The Lincoln Soapbox Derby started in August of 2017 and each year the Mayor, or Deputy Mayor, has helped with opening.

When we started the Derby, we were an element of the Beamsville Lions Club and part of the International Soapbox Derby Association, based in Akron, Ohio. This meant that our local winner of the Stock Car division was eligible to attend the International Derby in Akron in July of 2018. Our local winner was Isaac Bucknall and he not only attended, but finished 9th in the world.

The following year our winner was from a single parent family and even though our Derby provided significant funding the local winner was not able to attend.

In 2019 our local winner, Melissa was all set to go the following July and well, we know what happened....Covid 19 scuttled the International Derby both in 2020 and 2021. As such we made the decision to disassociate from Akron using those savings to provide cash prizes in both divisions, allowing the winning money to be used locally.

In 2022, to honour the sponsorship agreements with the Stock Car sponsors, Ken Southward, our Communications Director, and I took the responsibility of the Derby from the Beamsville Lions and have had a very successful Derby in each of 2022, 2023 and 2024. In taking over the responsibility for the Derby we needed a storage facility. We purchased a decommissioned sea container, and we were invited by Great Lakes Christian High School to site the container on their property making it significantly better for the operation of the Derby. The container is now referred to as "The Soapbox" and rests at the rear of the school adjacent to the mechanical building. In it, we are able to store all of our equipment including our ramp trailer which significantly improves our security concerns.

In 2024, Erin Marshall joined our management group replacing Lloyd Haines and is our treasurer. A very welcome addition to our group. Erin has, however, decided that her personal life with three young children and a business is keeping her quite occupied and

has now “retired” from the committee. We will be replacing her when a suitable candidate has been found.

Over the 7 years of Derby racing, we have proudly impacted over 175 racers and their families, the vast majority of whom live in Lincoln.

The vast majority of our original Stock Car sponsors continue on but with changing times, we have lost some sponsors and brought on new ones, not dissimilar to the ebb and flow of a business.

We have had some change in our T-shirt and Trophy sponsors and as you know, the Town of Lincoln has been our Title Sponsor for the last 3 years. In 2023 Rempel Electric became our T-shirt sponsor and in 2024, The Lincoln Lions became our Trophy Sponsor and they also sponsor a car, which satisfies a cornerstone of the Lions International platform of Youth Development. Ken Rempel also sponsors a car as of 2024.

We have now just held our 2025 Derby that was the best attended thus far. We had great racing, great sportsmanship and a great many smiles on the faces of the racers and their families alike.

We could not operate the Derby without our sponsors both large and small and without the cooperation of Great Lakes Christian High School. Having the Derby on their property avoids the necessity of closing a street and all that entails. We have also had the cooperation of Firehouse #1 with their assistance in providing emergency services, another significant element of the Town of Lincoln. As well, a Town Crew delivers three bleacher units each year for spectators to be seated.

We look forward to continued support from The Town and inviting all councillors to attend the 2026 Lincoln Soapbox Derby on Saturday, June 20th.

Thank You,

Gord Gerrie,

Race Director

June 25, 2025