

WHEELS.CA



Track Time

TIM MILLER

Local auto racing news

Potter, Perno, and Straus go into Canadian Drag Racing Hall of Fame, and a sour shock absorber keeps Lichy from claiming ISMA Super Modified title

It was a call he never expected. The call came a few months ago.

"I am sitting here still in shock from a phone call from the Canadian Drag Racing Hall of Fame," said Dundas native Rob Potter. "It seems photographers are considered for this honor and for reasons I still can't understand, they are inducting me. This is almost surreal to me."

Well, Potter made the trip to Montreal last weekend to receive his honor as part of the second group inducted into the CDRHF. The non-profit organization was formed in 2014, headed up by Montreal businessman, auto dealer, and racing enthusiast John Scotti to rec-

ognize Canadians who have excelled in the sport.

An accomplished photographer and a self-proclaimed car guy, Potter has stood behind the wall shooting drag racing for years at many Canadian and US strips, but his home base has always been the Calgary Dragway of Toronto Motorsports Park. While he does not run up and down the track with his cameras as much as in the past, he is still actively involved as TMP's track announcer.

And along with his announcing, he continues as the most prominent historian of the sport. His collection of historical photos and other drag race material is second to none in Canada. Potter is also the main

force behind the popular Drag Race Memories shows which have been held for several years at Hamilton's Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum.

Also included in the class of 2016 are Stoney Creek speed shop owner Venice Perno, who not only races in the Can-Am Stock/Super Stock Series, but has several IHRA (International Hot Rod Association) and NHRA (National Hot Rod Association) class titles to his credit.

Waterford's Charlie Havilland, who raced with his blown Chrysler-powered Altered both in Canada and the US in the 1960s was honored, as well as Bert Straus of Kitchener, well-known for his famous "Chilly Willy" gasser which took the B/Gas NHRA record in 1973 and won the D/Gas championship at the 1971 NHRA Nationals at Indianapolis. Another prominent inductee is Bob Elliott, who now hails from Wingham. Elliott boosted Canadian drag racing with his succession of "Northern Force" alcohol, nitromethane, and jet-powered Funny Cars.

A broken shock absorber kept Mike Lichy from winning this year's ISMA championship.

Going into the season final, the Inerkip racer had a points lead over Ohio's Dave Shullick Jr in the International Super Modified Association for 2016. But during this last race, the ISMA World Series at Thompson, Connecticut, he had to



CDRH Photo
Noted track photographer Rob Potter was inducted into the Canadian Drag Racing Hall of Fame last weekend. He is shown with his daughter Yvonne, who crews for the Paton Racing Top Fuel Dragster.

park his Super on lap 33 of the 50-lap contest.

Lichy had a 39-point lead going into Thompson, but by not finishing the race, and Shullick winning, Lichy had to settle for second in championship points while Shullick went on to win his second consecutive championship. Taking third in the race was London's Mark Sammut.

The author of several books on auto racing, Tim Miller can be reached at timmillerthearguy@gmail.com.



Jim Feeney
ISMA racer Dave Shullick Jr is shown here winning the series final at Thompson, CT. A broken shock removed any chances for Mike Lichy taking the championship.

TAYLOR CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP

OCTOBER CLEARANCE ON NEW 2016 MODELS

HUGE PRICE REDUCTIONS up to \$16,000⁰⁰

0%^{0AC} FINANCING ON ALL JEEPS • DODGE JOURNEY'S GRAND CARAVAN SXT + CREW MODELS

NO FREIGHT AND AIR TAX CHARGE!

20% OFF MSRP ON CHRYSLER 200 DEMOS
*cannot be combined with any other offers.

260 Centennial Pkwy. N., Hamilton • 905-561-0314 • www.taylorchrysler.ca

"EASY TO DEAL WITH - BECAUSE WE CARE!"

LEXUS OF OAKVILLE

Certified PRE-OWNED

THE LEXUS IS PRE-OWNED BUT THE LUXURIOUS MOMENTS ARE ALL YOURS.

All Lexus Certified Pre-Owned luxury vehicles are offered with this commitment to quality:

- ✓ 131-point quality assurance inspection
- ✓ Minimum 2 years/Unlimited km Roadside Assistance
- ✓ Minimum 2 years/40,000km power train coverage
- ✓ CarProof Verified vehicle history report
- ✓ 10-day/1,500km exchange policy
- ✓ Complimentary first oil & filter service
- ✓ Lease and finance rates starting at 1.8% on most models

LEASE AND FINANCE RATES STARTING AT **1.8%***

<p>2014 Lexus IS 250 Premium Package, 2.5L 6 Cylinder, 18" Alloy Wheels, leather, 66,338 km. SIK#16598A</p> <p>\$33,288 + HST</p>	<p>2015 Lexus RX 350 Sport Design, SUV, blindspot monitor, heated steering wheel, Navigation, 86,978 km. SIK#16640A</p> <p>\$39,888 + HST</p>	<p>2015 Lexus RX 350 Sport Design, AWD, SUV, 3.5L 6 cylinder, Navigation, sunroof, heated seats, Bluetooth, 35,849 km. SIK#UC5779</p> <p>\$45,388 + HST</p>
<p>2015 Lexus RX 350 Sport Design, AWD, SUV, 3.5L 6 cylinder, Bluetooth, sunroof, memory seats, 33,542 km. SIK#UC6785</p> <p>\$45,888 + HST</p>	<p>2015 Lexus RX 350 Sport Design, AWD, SUV, Bluetooth, sunroof, cruise control, incl. eat wear til Aug 15, 2018, 32,140 km. SIK#UC6786</p> <p>\$45,888 + HST</p>	<p>2013 Lexus GX 460 Sport Design, SUV, 5 Sport Wheels, 5 Sport Grill, Navigation, 80,564 km. SIK#UC6859</p> <p>\$47,388 + HST</p>
<p>2014 Lexus IS 460 AWD, sedan, 4.6L 8 cylinder, automatic temperature control, leather, 35,396 km. SIK#UC6870</p> <p>\$61,888 + HST</p>	<p>2015 Lexus RC F Performance Package, Carbon Fibre Roof, 467HP, Sport Wheels Blue, 27,701 km. SIK#UC6830</p> <p>\$69,888 + HST</p>	<p>2013 Toyota Sienna XLE, Leather, Roof, AWD, 7 Passenger, Automatic, 100,106 km SIK#16575A</p> <p>\$28,888 + HST</p>
<p>2012 Lexus IS 250C Convertible, RWD, 2.5L 6 cylinder, hard top, leather, 62,462 km. SIK#UC6755AA</p> <p>\$32,888 + HST</p>	<p>2016 Toyota Venza V6, SUV, 3.5L 6 Cylinder, heated door mirrors, steering wheel audio controls, 11,216 km. SIK#160026A</p> <p>\$37,888 + HST</p>	<p>2015 Lexus RX 350 TOURING, SUV, 19" Alloy Wheels, Navigation, Leather, 33,551 km. SIK#UC6812</p> <p>\$41,888 + HST</p>

LEXUS OF OAKVILLE
1453 North Service Road West
Oakville, Ontario L6M 2W2
www.lexusofoakville.ca
905.847.8400 | 1.866.LEXUS.66

THE PURSUIT OF PERFECTION.

*1.8% lease/purchase financing available on most Lexus Certified Pre-Owned vehicles. Lease and purchase financing offered on approved credit through Lexus Financial Services to eligible retail customers only. Down payment and security deposit may be required. See your retailer for complete details.