



# VDUBFEST:

## A LOVE-IN FOR CLASSIC VOLKSWAGENS

By Rob Caldwell

Why do we love classic Volkswagens – the Beetles, the camper vans, the sporty Karmann Ghias? Maybe it's because they represent a simpler time. Or maybe we have fond memories of a relative's vintage vehicle. Perhaps it's the friendly appearance older VWs have, all rounded edges and

curves: cars with seemingly carefree and indomitable personalities. And let's not forget that classic VWs are relatively easy to maintain and fun to drive. When it comes down to it, a combination of all these factors is the reason these spunky autos still turn heads.

So beloved are older VWs that a whole culture has grown up around them, complete with collectors, clubs, shows and conventions. Durham Region is no exception, with the Volks 'R' Us club going strong since 1990. Each summer the group presents VDubFest, an event that consists of a classic VW cruise night in Whitby and a car show just outside Port Perry in the hamlet of Manchester. All proceeds go to the Sick Kids Hospital Foundation, for which more than \$12,000 has been raised the last few years.

At the show, you'll find stretched out on the grassy field lovingly restored (with some restorations-in-progress) Beetles and old

microbuses/campervans, and newer models from the 1980s including Golfs and Westfalia Vanagons. The vehicles are every colour under the rainbow, including some with varying shades of rust (but a little rust in the right places adds character, right?).



Some are hippied out, some are outfitted for the surfing lifestyle, and some function as the family auto. Classic VW culture is a lifestyle, and many owners are roamers, decorating their cars and vans with travel stickers from points far and near. Adding to the time-warp feel of the show, many of the VWs are adorned with vintage suitcases and coolers. As an adjunct to the cars, there are vendors at VDubFest selling memorabilia and parts. If you're looking for that headlight replacement for your 1969 Beetle, you'll probably find it here. Giving the show a festival vibe, games, raffles, food, music, door prizes and hourly draws happen throughout the day. Above all, a spirit of community reigns at the event, and a slower, more innocent time in car culture is celebrated and shared. If you weren't a classic VW enthusiast before, you're bound to be one by the time you leave VDubFest.

**THE VOLKS 'R' US SUMMER CRUISE NIGHT WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, JULY 18 AT 6 P.M. AT SHAKE, RABBLE & ROLL IN WHITBY, WITH THE VDUBFEST SHOW OF CLASSIC CARS TO BE HELD THE FOLLOWING DAY, SUNDAY, JULY 19, AT HAUGEN'S BBQ IN MANCHESTER STARTING AT 9 A.M.**

**ADMISSION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS FREE.**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING HOW TO JOIN VOLKS 'R' US, VISIT [WWW.VOLKSRUS.CA](http://WWW.VOLKSRUS.CA)