

## Ontario's 1st VMOA Ride

Ontario VMOA members got together on September 4<sup>th</sup> for a first ever ride in Ontario to Lake on the Mountain Provincial Park. The idea for the ride started in July when myself, Jim Rodgers #4046, Brad Cornish #2472, and Tom Coulby #4156 rode up to the Parry Sound Sportbike rally. Over breakfast that morning we discussed the fact that there were no organized rides for VMOA members in Ontario. It was decided then that we would look to get as many riders as we could together for a ride during the Labor Day long weekend. With a date in mind Brad, (aka "The Crazy Canuck"), and myself sat down to plan a destination and a scenic route to get there. We decided that the Lake on the Mountain Provincial Park located just southeast of Picton, Ontario would be our destination. The most difficult decision we had to make was which roads would provide us with the best com-



ination of twisties and nice long stretches to get on the boost.

Once we had come up with the details the next task was to get in contact with as many VMOA members and nonmembers who rode Max's as we could in our local area. Flyers were made up and passed out at our local bike cruise spot (Haugen's chicken and rib restaurant) which sees up to 1000 bikes on a Thursday night. Either emails or phone calls were made to all the VMOA members posted on the website and responses began to come in. I must say it was a distinct pleasure to make contact with all of the members who responded to the emails and phone calls. Some members couldn't make the ride, but still wanted to say hi and see if we were going to be planning anything in the future, while others were very enthusiastic and couldn't wait to go.



breakfast and to meet each other. As one would expect most of the discussion was centered on the different Max's and customizations. The count of the bikes was 10 V-max's and 4 others, (1 V-star and 3 sport bikes), to start the ride with 1 V-max rider having arranged to join up along the way. We had decided to follow Hwy 2 from Whitby to the town of Newcastle where the other rider joined up. We then followed Lakeside Drive, a very twisty and narrow road that parallels Lake Ontario for about 25 km (15 miles) to Port Hope. In Port Hope we got back on Hwy 2 and rode to our first fuel stop in the town of Brighton. In Brighton we began our longest stretch of nice and curvy roads punctuated with just the right amount of places to let the bikes stretch their legs. Following the shoreline we headed south towards the Sand Banks area on Lake Ontario. This is where the lead rider, yours truly, got a wee bit lost. We ended up in a Provincial park instead of on the road we were supposed to be on. After a short break and some good jokes at my expense we backtracked and got back on our route. After another 100km (60 miles) we, with a bit of luck I might add, arrived at our destination, Lake on the Mountain Provincial Park. The lake, yes there actually a lake,

is located on a mountain top overlooking Picton bay off of Lake Ontario.

Leaving the park we then headed to the town of Picton for a fuel and food stop. We then headed north on Hwy 62 with the intent of getting on another road headed west to continue on our planned

The group met on a very sunny, albeit slightly cold, Sunday morning at the local Denny's restaurant for



route. Unfortunately for us the map and the road signs the lead rider was looking for didn't exactly match. The group ended up about 20km (12 miles) north of where we were supposed to be. This was actually not too bad a thing as several of our group lived along the highway we were on and they needed to get home anyway so they split off as the rest of us followed our amended route. Back on the proper road we continued on to our next fuel/rest stop in Campbellford. One thing I immediately

heard was the V-star rider saying he is buying a Max after riding (and keeping up most of the time) with a group of Max's. I also realized that a group of people that just met that morning were fast becoming friends with a common bond, the love of riding and especially riding a V-max. This is why I personally joined the VMOA and why I like all the people I have met in the association. Everyone took advantage of the opportunity to learn some of the knowledge that long time members/riders had to share, which they always do without fail.

Back on the road again we hit our last stretch of road on the way back to Brad's house for the BBQ that we had scheduled for the night. This was also the longest straight away stretch area of the ride. I must say that more than once everyone took the opportunity to "get on the boost" and let 'em go for a bit. Finally, after 500km (300miles) we arrived at Brad's for dinner and the post ride chat. Over the fine dinner several ideas seemed to be the main topic of discussion, forming an Ontario chapter of VMOA, a fall ride sometime in late September or early October, and rides starting next year. When it is all said and done I will make one solid prediction, look for the "Crazy Canuck" and his band of gents from the north to be at Thunder next year looking forward to riding with our brothers in the US.

Ride safe,  
Jim Rodgers #4046  
Courtice, Ontario Canada

