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OHTM TO HOST CITY STOP ON 2018 GREAT RACE ROUTE

Owls Head Transportation Museum (OHTM) is excited to offer admission by donation to all visitors on Wednesday, June 27 in honor of the 2018 *Hemmings Motor News* Great Race presented by Hagerty. Throughout the day, hundreds of event competitors will cruise through OHTM's campus as an official City Stop on the race route as well as countless activities for the whole family. As the world's premiere old car rally, the Great Race will bring 120 of the world's finest antique automobiles to town for the \$150,000 event, with the first car rolling into the Museum starting at noon. During the City Stop at OHTM, spectators will be able to visit with the participants and to look at the cars for several hours. It is common for kids to climb in the cars for a first-hand look.

In all, the participants in the event will cover more than 2,300 miles in 9 days. The start will be at the Pierce Arrow Museum in downtown Buffalo, N.Y., on June 23 and end on July 1 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on the banks of Halifax Harbour as part of that city's Canada Day celebration. Teams and cars from Japan, England, Germany, Canada and every corner of the United States will be participating in their vintage automobiles dating back as far as 1913. "There are more than 500 people just in our entourage from all around the world taking part in this incredible adventure," director Jeff Stumb said.

The Great Race, which began 35 years ago, is not a speed race, but a time/speed/distance rally. Cars built in 1972 and earlier are eligible, with most entries having been manufactured before World War II. The vehicles, each with a driver and navigator, are given precise instructions each day that detail every move down to the second. They are scored at secret checkpoints along the way and are penalized one second for each second either early or late. As in golf, the lowest score wins. Cars start – and hopefully finish – one minute apart if all goes according to plan. The biggest part of the challenge other than staying on time and following the instructions is getting an old car to the finish line each day, organizers say.

Over the decades, the Great Race has stopped in hundreds of cities big and small, from tiny Austin, Nev., to New York City. "When the Great Race pulls into a city it becomes an instant festival," Stumb said. "Last year we had four overnight stops with more than 10,000 spectators on our way to having 250,000 people see the Great Race during the event." Started in 1983 by Tom McRae, the event takes its name from the 1965 movie, *The Great Race*, which starred Tony

Curtis, Jack Lemmon, Natalie Wood and Peter Falk. The movie is a comedy based on the real life 1908 automobile race from New York to Paris. In 2004, Tony Curtis was the guest of the Great Race and rode in his car from the movie, the Leslie Special.

The Great Race gained a huge following from late night showings on ESPN when the network was just starting out in the early 1980s. The first entrant, Curtis Graf of Irving, Texas, is still a participant today. The event's main sponsors are *Hemmings Motor News*, Hagerty, Coker Tire and Reliable Carriers. To inquire about getting involved as a local sponsor, contact Toby Stinson at (207) 594-4418 or ts@ohtm.org. For more information about this event, visit www.owlshead.org/events.

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About Owls Head Transportation Museum

From the world's first autos to vintage race cars and some of the most significant early aircraft still flying today, the Owls Head Transportation Museum is home to a world-class operating collection of pre-1940 ground vehicles, engines, aircraft and more. With a focus on education and audience engagement, the Museum hosts more than a dozen annual events where collection pieces are demonstrated to the delight of visitors from all over the world.