

OFF-ROAD FUN CANADIAN STYLE

The OVL R is Canada's oldest and largest Land Rover club. We join them for their 22nd annual get together, at Silver Lake Ontario

SILVER LAKE Ontario, a half way point between Montreal and Toronto and a rather shorter distance from Ottawa, Canada's capital, was the site for the OVL R's 22nd annual get together for off-roading and fun. Pre-registration had 120 participants coming from as far away as Vancouver B.C. and many points in the US.

This event, the largest of its kind in Canada, is hosted by Canada's oldest and largest Land Rover enthusiast Club. The participants' vehicles range from various Series models, 110s, Defenders, Classic Range Rovers, Discoverys, Freelanders and an orange 101 from the US.

The event is headquartered on privately owned land and offers free camping and some of the important facilities. At the nearby Silver Lake Provincial Park, campers have all the expected amenities as well as the added feature of a pretty, sandy beach for sunbathing after a refreshing swim in the lake's cool waters. This is totally ideal after a hot day's off-roading adventures to wash off trail mud, especially if one has brought children and dogs that seem to be particularly fond of this kind of frolicking washing up.

At the OVL R 2003 Birthday Party,

by
Mary Kaye

Mike Ladden of Connecticut had the misfortune of rolling his orange beauty on a very difficult stretch of trail. It was the vehicle's maiden off-road adventure. This year, this very same 101 had a blow out on the highway coming up for the event. Mike's expert driving and determination got him safely to the event but alas, now he doesn't have a spare.

heat wave

The weather was very hot and sultry for the three-day event. An average of 34°C. Anything over 32 is considered a heat wave, and precautions for people, pets, and vehicles should be taken. The event coordinators were well prepared with a chest filled with cold water bottles that they encouraged all partici-

pants to stock up on before venturing on to the trails.

It wasn't a great stretch of imagination to feel like we were in a jungle somewhere. High humidity, the torment of insects, mud, and heat, however, did not seem to deter anyone from venturing forth. This is our brand of fun. This is why we were there.

Saturday morning there was a choice of trail runs. Vehicles lined up behind the guide trucks in great anticipation. Those new to the sport or with vehicles needing a little 'easy going' went out first for the light off-road course and wouldn't you know it, they came back last, big grins on their faces brimming with stories of mud stuck and other tribulations.

One participant of this first



Above: RTV Grant Lawson's XD Discovery.
Below left: Ted Matthews going into the mud. He bet everyone that he could get at least halfway through.
Right: Logs have been removed just in case. Trying to restart the Range Rover so that she can use his winch.
Below right: The left hand tires grip solid ground like claws.

