



Ewald Penner with the 1938 BMW car he restored with the help of his Jellybean AutoCrafters crew in Surrey. The top-to-bottom restoration job involved more than 5,000 hours of work over the past couple of years, resulting in a vehicle valued at around \$550,000.

PHOTOS/Michelle Kalyk

CLASSIC CAR

Rebirth of an old Beemer a highlight of 'hobby gone bad'

Wherever Ewald Penner drives in the 1938 BMW he helped restore, heads are turned. When the rare convertible makes a stop, from White Rock to West Van, the cameras start clicking.

Tom ZILlich
Staff reporter

"We couldn't leave one place for half an hour," Penner said with a smile. "People love to look at it and learn about it – even non-car buffs."

Owned by a retired couple from Washington State, the ivory-and-black Beemer was restored from scratch by Penner and crew at Jellybean AutoCrafters, a shop located in the Sullivan area of Surrey.

The restoration job involved more than 5,000 hours of work over the past couple of years, resulting in a vehicle valued at close to a whopping \$550,000.

"It was nothing but a frame when it was brought here," recalled Penner, who runs Jellybean with his brother, Kurt.

"There wasn't a bolt attached anywhere, nothing assembled."

It took hundreds of hours of research to



figure out what it all looked like back then, and how it could all be pieced together using modern technology. Some 4,000 photographs document the painstaking restoration process, from bare frame to finished beauty.

"We designed it, engineered it, fabricated parts, built it, painted it, everything, top to bottom."

The Penners are youngest of 12 kids who immigrated with their parents from Brazil in the 1960s. In Canada, the boys' older

brothers got into cars and the passion was contagious.

"It's a hobby gone bad," said Ewald, who lives in North Delta and launched Jellybean about eight years ago.

"This is the most expensive restoration job we've ever done, no question," he added.

People in the car world are amazed by what the Jellybean crew has accomplished, Penner said. The vehicle was a highlight of the Classic Alley collection of vehicles at the recent Vancouver International Auto Show, held following a Feb. 23 "unveiling party" at the Jellybean shop.

The vehicle is considered one of the most significant in auto history, with its leading-edge performance and handling, tubular frame and inline six-cylinder engine.

This month, the car is being driven on test runs before it's picked up by its owner for touring and street rallies in the U.S. "It's part of the family now, like our son growing up and moving out" Penner said of the Beemer. "It was an honour to build this car."

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Malbec and more Sunday at Surrey wine stores

It's all about malbec at a pair of Surrey wine stores this Sunday, April 17.

It's World Malbec Day, declared in honour of Argentina's iconic varietal. Free tastings of the red stuff will happen at the Everything Wine shop at Morgan Crossing and the Signature BC liquor store in Fleetwood, along with some tango music.

The celebration is rooted in history: On April 17, 1853 in Argentina, the bill to create the Quinta Agronomica, a government program to improve all aspects of agriculture, including the nation's wine industry, was submitted to the provincial legislature of Mendoza. Learn more online at www.wineso-fargentina.org.



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