

## Island home to rare Corvair

A rare set of wheels has lived on the Island since 1986. That's when Bill Gworek Sr. became the third owner of a 1969 Corvair convertible.

It's not just any Corvair said Pat Murphy, president of Chapter 140 of the Niagara Frontier Corvair Club, the oldest Corvair club in New York. Gworek's car was at Adrian's Custard and Beef's cruise night in July when the club met. Murphy said then, "We have some pretty good specimens here. And this one is the rarest of them all. They only made 521 1969 convertibles and then to make it rarer its got a four-speed."

Only 150 were manufactured like it in '69 and as recently as two years ago there were only 57 or 58 still registered in the U.S.

The appeal of the Corvair to Murphy, he said, is "the uniqueness of the rear engine."

"A Corvair has basically every model conceivable. Two doors, four doors, station wagons, panel vans, window vans, convertibles."

"All of the engines were manufactured at Tonawanda Engine Plant," Gworek added.

All the Corvairs at Adrian's looked like they were built this model year because, as one chapter member said with understatement, the owners all "have a tendency to take care of them."



Members of the Niagara Frontier Corvair Club, chapter 140 of the national club, gathered during a cruise night at Adrian's Custard and Beef on July 23. Among the Corvairs at the cruise night was the 1969 Corvair above, owned by Bill Gworek Sr. of the Island, second from right. (Photo by Larry Austin)