



ARCC UPDATE

July 2011

Ottawa's Italian Day

by Anthony Tersigni, Richmond Hill

I was fortunate enough to get away for the weekend in Ottawa, thanks to my in-laws, for watching the children. At 6:00 AM early Saturday morning, June 18th, Lina and I met up with other Toronto area Alfisti at the Esso located at Bayview Ave. and Sheppard Ave. in Toronto. We were a total of five couples including Pino and Rose in their 1975 GTV, Frank and Maria in their Acura, Aldo and Maggie in a red 1974 Spider and Frank and Teresa with a 1991 Spider.

Due to time constraints we left for Ottawa via the 401 East. At that time of the morning traffic was not a problem; if we had had more time we would have taken the back roads to Ottawa.

The drive was good, even though Pino and I later realized we had run over a turtle on the 401! We both heard a thump that was absorbed by our oil pan guards! A bit later Aldo's 74 Spider lost a chunk of his giubo, which hit the front end of my GTV as we were arriving into Ottawa, thankfully, no damage! All in all, the Alfas, drivers and passengers made it to Norman St. by 10:30 AM without a hitch.



Photo by Anthony Tersigni.

As we entered Norman Street, Delio D'Angelo of Frank's Garage greeted us all and advised us of where to park. Coffee and refreshments were served, and we registered for the Parade.

We had a few hours to kill before the start of the Parade so we used that as a chance to see what other cars were there and later walked down Preston St. to catch the dealer display of the new Fiat 500's in almost every colour available. Kollbec Fiat out of Gatineau did a great job of showing the crowds the new Fiats. Lina was quite impressed, and if it wasn't for the need for space at the moment, I'm pretty sure I'd have one in my driveway! The other half of the Fiat display showed some older 500's and rear engine Fiats, such as the 600, the Multipla and the 850 Spider. There was also a pair of Topolinos!

Along Preston St., I bumped into Ottawa member Dave Semel and Toronto Chapter member Delis Lus. Dave is now the new President of the ARCC - Ottawa Chapter, who is taking over from Jack Livingstone. Congratulations Dave!

The driver's meeting was held just before 1:00 PM, where Delio, President of the Italian Car Club of Ottawa, thanked all for coming to Ottawa and taking part in this event. This was the 32nd year in which this Parade was held. Amazing!

The Parade featured three laps up and down Little Italy's Preston St. The weather was perfect, and the crowds were delighted to see all the beautiful Italian automobiles. You can watch the Parade on YouTube, <http://youtu.be/MbrtY9mvGAs>

After the Parade, Delio had invited all participants back to his auto shop for a buffet style Italian lunch. Italian cold cuts, pasta, salad, etc. had been devoured by all. To top off the buffet, dessert was offered in abundance!!

At 3:00 PM a street just outside of Little Italy was sectioned and closed off. There, owners of Ferraris were able to open their cars up for some "hot" laps, on an oval type circuit. My favourite of them all was a yellow 348 Ferrari. It, in my opinion had the best exhaust note of them all.

After the “hot” laps, we checked into our hotel rooms, rested and freshened up before dinner. The ladies decided that their time was better spent shopping and window gazing at the Byward Market! Afterwards, our group went to an Italian restaurant called “Mamma Teresa’s” where we had an authentic Italian meal.

We arrived back to the hotel by midnight and called it a night. We were all exhausted! On Sunday morning, we had breakfast and prepped our cars for the drive back. We would have liked to stay in Ottawa for the day, but because of Father’s Day, we wanted to head back and spend the second half of the day back home.

Ottawa was great! I would seriously recommend spending a few days in Ottawa around the same time next year. You’ll have loads of fun. Thank you to Delio and the organizers, for a great event not far from home.

VARAC Vintage Festival

by George Beston, Cobourg

This year’s version of the annual vintage festival at Mosport was well attended by both participants and spectators, and we were blessed with magnificent weather.

The racers in the club made a good showing despite being down in numbers due to at least a few cars not being available for various reasons. Christopher Creighton has promised a full write-up of the Alfa Dogs’ adventures, and that will be published at a later date.



Photo by George Beston.

Roughly a dozen spectator Alfas from the Toronto Chapter showed up and participated in the car show and the noon-hour parade laps. A number of those participated in the group drive from the city led by Tony Adams. Enough Alfas were there to give us a noticeable presence amongst the mostly British cars in the show.

This year, one of our new distractions was a beautiful but innocent looking light ochre GT Jr. brought to the event by Faisal Huda.



Photo by George Beston.

Innocent, except for the 200 plus H.P. twin spark lurking under the hood, improved suspension, wheels, tires and brakes, and a roll bar!



Photo by George Beston.

This is the very car that showed up on the Alfaholics web site a number of months ago, with a tantalizing reference to the fact that it had been tuned to run on Canadian Premium gasoline.

We’re fortunate to have such a fine example of an improved Alfa GT in the Toronto area.

A Day to Remember

by Deni Bellai, Waterdown

June 20th was etched on my calendar. It was going to be my Alfa Day. I took the day to work on the Alfa and I planned on going to watch my fellow Alfisti take to the track at Toronto Motorsport Park.

I had already resigned myself to not running an Alfa but figured I should support the event since this was to be a preview of the track where we’ll have the competition I am co-chairing for *Alfa Canadese*.

The event was to start at 5:00 PM so I figured I could put some time into working on one of my Alfas beforehand. I haven’t looked at my ‘91 Spider since I put it away in disgust last year.

This is the car that I bought last year that I was going to use as my daily driver. There are a number of articles to be written about how that worked out but for today I will concentrate on the positive things that happened.

But I digress. Last September I ended up pushing the Spider to the back of the garage after a failed attempt at fixing the power windows. The result of that effort was a tangled up cable around the drive pulley of the motor. This was the last straw and I was not going to waste anymore time sorting that out. Now half a year later I pulled back the car cover and pushed the car out into the driveway where the light was good and a gentle breeze was blowing.

The door panel was still hanging from the speaker wires where I had left it. I struggled for three hours trying to get that cable back on track. I thought I had it licked a couple of times but it just wasn't working out for me. I ended up pulling open the driver's side door to check things out and that's when the light came on. I was missing a number of wraps around the drum because the cable had come off and was twisted around the spindle. Now I had devised a new strategy within an hour had the window moving up and down on its own power.

Great. I had time for lunch and then on to the rest of the day's plans.

Just about then George Beston and his wife Alma dropped in. George saw the Alfa torn to bits in the driveway and saw that as a calling letter.

He asked if I was taking the Alfa to the event and I thought why not.

I still had a lot of work to do. Apart from putting the Alfa back together I still had to get ready for a three day sailing trip up in Algonquin. I had to run around getting supplies, a fishing licence, beer etc. What better way than to use a top-down Spider.

Here's where my luck turned. The car went together with hardly a hitch. The Alfa, which hadn't run since September, started on the first turn. Amazing.

I ran around and picked up everything I needed. I fuelled up and meet up with George right on time. (Alfa time that is – i.e. 10 minutes late :)

We hit the road and had to take a minor detour because of a bank robbery but we got to the track in good time.

Once at the track, Ron Thiel took me out for a spin in his GTV and then asked if I wanted to have a hand. That made my day. Driving an Alfa at speed on an open track. Life doesn't get any better.



Spiders of Deni and George. Photo by J.T. Pickering.

Once back in the pits, the organizers announced that they wanted all the Alfas present on the track for a photo op. I scrambled around looking for a helmet and in my excitement left my glasses on the trunk of my car.

Now imagine. There were a dozen Alfas circulating the track at speed for half a dozen laps. After that I pulled into the pits, removed the helmet and realized that my glasses were gone.

I searched frantically around the pits but they were nowhere to be found. In desperation, I asked if I could cruise around the track thinking they might have come off in a corner. Then somebody said they thought they saw pair of glasses on the main straight. I hopped in my car and down the middle of the track I spotted them.

They were intact with only a couple of scratches on the frame. The lenses were fine and the arms were straight. I counted my blessings. This was truly a day to remember.



Photo by Mitch Gregory.

ARCC Classified

For Sale

1976 Spider Veloce. Parting out entire car. Low mile car stored over 20 years. All parts available including: engine, transmission, differential, exhaust, radiator, calipers, suspension, electrical, body panels, top frame, seats, wheels, tail lights, side markers, chrome bits, glass, etc. Call me with your parts request at 647-295-2532. Can deliver or ship parts if requested. Anthony Tersigni.

Upcoming ARCC Events

Toronto Chapter

Date	Time	Event
Feb. 5	9:30 am	Directors' Meeting
March 31	7:00 pm	AGM
May 5	7:00 pm	Cruise Night
May 15	TBD	Sunday Drive
June 2	7:00 pm	Cruise Night
June 5	TBD	Sunday Drive
June 17-19	TBD	Vintage Festival/Drive
July 7	7:00 pm	Cruise Night
July 12-17		AROC Convention
August 4	7:00 pm	Cruise Night
August 6-7		Toronto/Detroit Party
August 21	TBD	Winery Tour
Sept. 1	7:00 pm	Cruise Night
Sept. 25	TBD	Europa Rally
Oct. 6	7:00 pm	Cruise Night
Oct. 16	TBD	Fall Tour
Nov. 8	7:00 pm	Pub Night/Directors' Mtg
Nov. 26	6:00 pm	Holiday Dinner

Ottawa Chapter

Date	Time	Event
May 7	3:30 pm	Where are all the Italian cars?
June 18	10:00 am 1:00 pm 1:30 pm 2:30 pm	Italian Day - register Parade Lunch Fiat New & Retro show
June 21	7:00 pm	Annual General Meeting
August 21	TBD	Magical Mystery Tour
Sept. 13	TBD	Pub Night
Oct. 13	3:00 pm	Italian Car Christening Party

Alfa Club of Edmonton

Date	Time	Event
April	TBD	Tech Session – Ron G.
May	TBD	Apple Blossom Winery
June	TBD	Historic Road Solstice
July	TBD	Race event
August 3-7	TBD	Rock-N-August Concours / Viva Italia
September	TBD	Mid-southern tour
October	TBD	Amber Brewing Oktoberfest
November	TBD	Italian dinner
December	TBD	Christmas tree hunt
January	TBD	After Christmas party

Other Events of Interest

Ferrari Shell / Historic Trans Am Challenge,
Mont Tremblant, July 9-11

Italian Car Day, Boyd Park, August 27



Alfa Canadese, June 17-24, 2012

The 2012 National Convention for the Alfa Romeo clubs of Canada and the USA.

Early details: <http://alfacanadese.ca>

Volunteers wanted: info@alfacanadese.ca

Alfa Romeo Club of Canada

National Executive

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ARCC Update

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