



# ARCC UPDATE

October 2014

## *President's Letter*

by Alex Csank, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue

This month I am reporting on just one of the myriad of great Alfa club events which took place during the month of September. By the time you read this article, most of you will have completed your drives to view the autumn colours and may already be getting your cars ready for winter storage. It's a sad time of year when we must put away our classics for their 'hibernation', but remember that we can all still get together with our Alfa friends during the colder months. Winter is a great time to host a 'tech session', a holiday party or a social dinner.

Raduno Montebello - 2nd annual Italian car gathering was a resounding success!

Sometimes, the stars all line up and the weather and other factors all work out perfectly... and that is exactly what happened on Sunday, the 28th of September for the second annual Raduno Montebello, a gathering of Italian (and Italian-related) cars at Le Chateau Montebello. Raduno Montebello is a car show without trophies or prizes, and is put on annually as part of the "AMICI" group of Italian and related auto clubs. This group of clubs has helped coordinate club event schedules and organize some terrific multi-club events.

Approximately 200 beautiful cars, some new and some as old as 1954 (our own Oliver Collins' 'Alfa Romeo 1900 Touring Coupe') gathered from Montreal, Ottawa and as far away as the GTA on the well-manicured lawns of Chateau Montebello on a gorgeous and warm early autumn day. Some participants enjoyed the lovely brunch offered at the hotel, while others either brought their own picnic or ate at nearby restaurants before or after joining the event.

Montreal area cars came out in full force, with many members of Club Fiat Montreal, the Ferrari Club of America (Quebec Chapter), Club Alfa Romeo de Montreal and several other clubs meeting in a parking lot in Montreal North and then setting out in small groups to steer towards Montebello.

Joining their Ontario counterparts at the Chateau's beautiful water-surrounded peninsula, cars were parked in a surprisingly orderly manner, befitting their elegance and for all to see. The Italian Car Club of Ottawa and the Ottawa Alfa Romeo Club and others assured that the National Capital area was well-represented as well. I am not sure how many attendees came from other areas including the GTA and Quebec City, but I know at least three Alfa owners drove the long distance to bring their Italian steeds. For me, among all the exotic and rare machinery, which included such diverse models as both a De Tomaso Mangusta and a Longchamps, a Maserati-powered Citroen SM, a Renault R8 'Gordini' (both French cars prepared with Italian assistance), a Maserati Khamsin and an Alfa Romeo 8C Competizione Spider, as well as just about every model of Ferrari newer than 1968, I would still choose Oliver Collins' Alfa 1900 as my favourite car in the show!



*Oliver's 1900 Touring. Photo by Alex Csank.*

No photos can accurately illustrate the effect of being confronted with the "Sea of Red" which greeted visitors and participants viewing so many Ferraris, Alfas, Fiats, Lancias and other Italian cars so predominantly covered in the Italian national racing colour. Certainly there were many cars painted in various lovely shades of blue, yellow, white, green and other colours, but they were very

much in the minority in this group. But regardless of colour, age, manufacturer or overall condition, the cars were all stars and they shone like jewels in the late September sun.

Have a look at the photos here, and for more photos, please visit [www.flickr.com/photos/62784910@N08](http://www.flickr.com/photos/62784910@N08). Oh, please do try and join us next year!



*Alfas beside the water. Photo by Alex Csank.*

As always, please send me your feedback and suggestions about this and any other club related issues anytime.

Rev high!

Alex

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## ***Toronto Chapter Fall Tour***

**by George Beston, Cobourg**

This year, we joined forces with the Ontario Fiat Club for our fall tour. We were blessed with the same fine weather others were enjoying to the east at Montebello. We met at the Great Lakes Plaza in Georgetown, and after some coffee and cannoli, the group of about 30 cars headed out for a tour of the Halton Hills.



*Photo by Anthony Tersigni.*

For lunch we stopped at the Lowville Bistro, a great location for an al fresco buffet lunch, and enjoyable for the fact that we could access the enormous parking lot of Lowville Park for the occasion.



*Photo by Anthony Tersigni.*

After lunch, the fun continued with a route that took us down Rattlesnake Point hill (a.k.a. Appleby Line north of Derry), and then, after a suitable circuitous route along the township roads north of Burlington, back up again!

It was wonderful to see Fabio Venier's freshly restored Giulia Super out for the event, and I also enjoyed the Fiat 500 Abarths that participated because they sound just like the Alfa 4C!

## ***C.A.R.M. News***

**by Alex Csank, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue**

The autumn season is always a busy time, loaded with club activities. During the month of September, CARM members participated in a Vineyard Tour on the 13th, enjoying a nice drive through the rolling hills of the Eastern Townships, with a break in Knowlton, followed by a short drive towards Dunham which culminated in a rest and lunch stop at Vignoble Gagliano. This is the only Italian Winery in the region and it is next door neighbours with many other local vineyards. Thanks to Jay Bassila for organizing and leading this event. Lucky members also attended our 3rd Annual Southern Quebec to Lake Placid Road Trip, with the added feature of attendance at the 8th Annual Hemmings Motor News Concours d'Elegance in Saratoga Springs NY, held on the last weekend of September. We'll write more about this event next month, but suffice it to say that folks had a great time!

October's schedule will see our last driving event, a fun rally in the Laurentian Mountains on the 18th. After that, our annual holiday party will be held on the 29th of November at Alex and Diane's place, known as 'The Saintannetarium'.

## ***Restoration Garage***

by George Beston, Cobourg

Over the years, I've sporadically followed the now prolific genre of television shows covering the subject of automobile restoration or modification. It's not news that these programs are plagued with indifferent to poor acting, contrived situations and interpersonal conflicts, and impossible deadlines. One of the best uses I've found for my PVR is to record these programs and flip through them later seeking out the interesting parts and skipping through the rest.

Restoration Garage is about the activities of the Guild of Automotive Restorers in Bradford, so it's Canadian (yay!) and has a location any of us in the Toronto area can drive by and drop in on if we're so inclined. Despite the fact that this program is no better than any of the others for the sins mentioned above, there has been some content of interest to Alfa enthusiasts.

Last season, a couple of episodes featured the GT Junior owned by Faisal Huda as it went through a down-to-the-body shell repair and re-painting process. Although they treated the car and its owner with respect, the writers and producers never twigged to how special this Alfaholics enhanced GT Jr. is. Those episodes left me feeling a little empty.

This season, the restoration of a Pininfarina 6C 2500 has been the subject of a couple of episodes, and I'm guessing that at least one more is coming.

The second episode deals with a trip to Italy taken by the Guild's proprietor, ostensibly for the sole purpose of sourcing a pair of original Carello trafficator signal lights.

Despite some staged stress over a local driver who improbably shows up as a whimsical fellow in a '71 Fiat 500L, the episode comes through with a few scenes that are gems to an enthusiast.

The first is a visit to AFRA in search of the trafficator lights. I have purchased a limited number of parts from AFRA and it was good to see the location, their office and a bit of their shop. No luck on the trafficators, though. The ones AFRA had were in need of restoration and the time required just wasn't going to work. Fortunately the driver had a cousin Pino who had a friend who knows Salvatore Diamante who just happened to have a pair of the desired trafficators on hand and for sale.

The second gem is a visit to the headquarters and an interview with Paulo Pininfarina, the company's current chairman. The cars on display in the

reception area include a Giulietta and the 2uettotanta prototype, among Lancias, Ferraris and a Cisitalia.

The story of the subject 6C 2500 was reviewed. It seems Italian cars being banned from post-war auto shows wasn't much of an impediment to Battista Pininfarina. He simply parked the car outside the exhibition hall and basked in the attention that this radically styled Alfa generated. Below is an image of the finished 6C 2500 as presented at Pebble Beach this past summer.



*Photo by Hugues Vanhoolandt.*

The third gem was a scene involving flogging the 500 around the test track on top of the Fiat factory in Turin. I wonder what strings the producer had to pull to arrange that!

Other snippets of interest in this episode were scenes of the fabrication of replacement cloisonné badges and making up a replacement wheel cover by hand. If anyone wants to check this episode out for themselves, it's on the History Channel's web site, season 2 episode 2.

## ***The New Giulia?***



*Rendering by Thorsten-Krisch.*

## Upcoming ARCC Events

Regional representatives are requested to send your 2014 events calendars to the secretary or the editor for inclusion in the next issue.

### Club Alfa Romeo de Montréal

Date	Time	Event
May 10	TBD	VEA Rally
June 8	TBD	Grand Prix Barbeque
June 14	TBD	Ottawa Italian Car Day
June 15	TBD	Fathers' Day Veterans Tribute Car Show
June 28-29		Raduno Estivo
July 6	TBD	Fiat Breakout - Montréal
July 12	TBD	Sommet des Légendes
July 18-21		Grand Prix of Mosport
July 23-27		AROC Convention
August 3		Baie d'Urfé vintage car show (VAQ)
August 30	TBD	Ride to Rigaud
Sept 13	TBD	Wine Tour
Sept 26-28		Hemmings Concours
Sept 28	TBD	Raduno Montebello
Oct 18	TBD	Fun Rally
Nov 29	TBD	Holiday Party

### Calgary Alfa Marque Society

Date	Time	Event
May 29	TBD	Garage Tour
June 14	TBD	Reynolds Museum Show
July 19	TBD	Stanley Park European car show

## Alfa Romeo Club of Canada

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## Toronto Chapter

Date	Time	Event
May 6	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
May 19	9:30 am	Pancake Drive
June 3	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
June 13-15	TBD	Vintage Festival / Drive
June 15	TBD	Yorkville Exotic Car Show
June 22	TBD	Europa Rally
June 28-29	TBD	Raduno Estivo
July 8	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
July 18-21	TBD	Grand Prix of Mosport
July 19	9:00 am	Italian Car Day
July 23-27	TBD	AROC Convention
August 5	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
August 24	TBD	Marque d'Elegance
Sept 2	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
Sept 28	10:30 am	Rattlesnake Run
Oct 7	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
Nov 29	6:00 pm	Holiday dinner

## Alfa Romeo Club of Edmonton

Date	Time	Event
May 18		Spring Road Trip
June 14		History of Road at Reynolds
June 21		Around Town Rally
July 8		Apex Casino Meeting
July 20		European Car Show Calgary
August 24	10:00 am	Viva Italia
Sept 7		Concours d'Eleganza
Sept 21	12:30 pm	Apple Harvest Leduc
Dec 14		Christmas Tree Slaughter
Jan 2015		Alfa Christmas Party

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