



# ARCC UPDATE

September 2016

## *President's Letter*

by Alex Csank, Vankleek Hill

Greetings!

Summer has come and gone. We are now moving into autumn, with all of its charms and colours and cooler temperatures. But somehow, the fall presents us with some of the best driving weather and terrific opportunities to take our cars out for group drives and other events.

In the last few days of August Diane and I hopped into her Abarth and headed off for a wee vacation and road trip to the Maritimes. My youngest son lives in Halifax now and Diane had never done the Cabot Trail, so there were plenty of excuses to take this drive. I had contemplated taking the GTV6. After all, the Recaro seats in the GTV6 are more comfortable, the suspension is more compliant and there's lots of room for two people and our luggage. Mechanically, I wouldn't hesitate to take the Alfa as it really runs like a top these days. But, when deciding whether to take the bigger and more comfortable Jeep Grand Cherokee, the Alfa or the Abarth, our final decision was made based upon practicality, frugality and curiosity. The Jeep would have cost us much more in terms of fuel consumption, and with 214,000 km under its belt, its reliability in the "expensive parts" arena added unnecessary risk. The Alfa is comfortable, but also burns more fuel, has no cruise control (a feature I really like on long and boring highways), and doesn't have a functional air conditioning system. In addition, we hadn't taken the little Abarth on any really long trips yet, so we were curious to find out how it did on a 3,600 km voyage. It did very well, using a miserly 7.1L/100km over the whole trip. We motored there and back in air conditioned comfort with great tunes blasting out of the terrific Bose sound system, and with my right foot (and my 'Speedy Gonzalez' tendencies) relaxed with the Cruise-Control set at about 11km over the limit while on the highway.

We had a great time! Without going into too much detail, we stopped in Fredericton on our first day, and made it to Inverness NS to meet my son, his girlfriend and her dad on the second day. Leaving the Abarth parked in Inverness for a couple of days, we hopped into my son's 4WD Ford pickup with his girlfriend joining us in the back seat. He rode his '76 Honda CB400F while her dad rode his '94 Triumph Trident (motorcycles), stopping in Baddeck, and ending the day at Ingonish Beach on our third day. We made it around the rest of the Cabot Trail with a wonderful side trip to rugged Meat Cove on our fourth day. On day five, we headed to Halifax and toured around the city. Day six was our 'required' day at Peggy's Cove and Chester, with a lunch stop at The Chickenburger in Bedford where we met up with some old friends. Later, we visited the Maritime Museum and HMCS Sackville and then dined on the fine fair at Tony's Donairs. On the seventh day, we toured Mahone Bay and Lunenburg, then drove north to Annapolis Royal and into Digby, where we caught the late afternoon ferry across the Bay of Fundy to Saint John NB. In the morning we set off to Rivière-du-Loup, and made it home to Ontario the next day. It was quick, but we had a great time! Given next year's Alfa convention, we probably won't get a chance for another week long trip until sometime in 2018, so this was a much needed break.

With just 10 months to go until our Montreal convention, we're busy working out the plans and details. There is still plenty of work left to be done. If you have any spare energy or time, we sure could use your help! Thanks.

As always, please keep sending me your feedback, and also your photos, articles and ideas for the newsletter. George Beston is always looking for your input for upcoming editions.

Until next month,  
Rev high!

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## ***Italian Car Day***

by **George Beston, Cobourg**

I was unable to attend this year's Italian Car Day event at Boyd Park in Woodbridge. I understand that it was the usual fine event, with spectacular warm and sunny weather. The big news from the day was that Toronto member Bill Mandel won best in show with his beautiful 2600 Spider. In the picture are Bill's wife Marilyn, Bill and their grandson Ariel.



*Photo by Richard Ives.*

Another prize winner from our club was Bill Moffet who won "Most original car" for his 101 Giulietta Sprint. I wonder if this has anything to do with him being the original owner, too!



*Photo from Italian Car Day website.*

## ***Giulia Debuts in Canada***

by **George Beston, Cobourg**

Along with many others, I received the following invitation via e-mail in early August:

*"The wait is over. Introducing the all new Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio. This August 16, you and a guest are invited to be among the first to encounter the most powerful Alfa Romeo ever created for street*

*use. Alongside this stunning display of precision engineering and inspiring performance, you'll enjoy an evening with fellow enthusiasts and light refreshments as we toast this new breed of Sports Sedan."*



*Image by James Lipman.*

As with the event to launch the 4C almost two years ago, I turned up to join the throng of attendees.

We were greeted with the Giulia QV under a cover and very pleasant array of appropriate hors d'oeuvres and beverages. There was no need to eat my evening meal before I went.



*Photo by George Beston.*

Remo Ferri gave an impassioned introduction, touching on the history of Alfa Romeo, his experiences with Alfa Romeo in Canada and his hopes for the future of the brand. He announced that the Giulia would become available at the end of September or in early October.

In due course, the cover was removed so that everyone could enjoy the Giulia. Remo finished up by thanking us for participating and letting us know that the dealership's sales staff was prepared to talk business with anyone interested in putting in an order.

In the flesh, the Giulia QV was impressive. It is modest in size, perhaps about the same overall size as an early 5 series BMW, and the interior looked roomy. All of the styling details seemed well worked out and integrated. The view under the hood was intriguing with all of the plumbing for the twin turbo setup and various covers as in most other cars these days. Despite that, I could still get the odd glimpse of cam covers as I peered under the hood.

For me, the most impressive part of the Giulia QV's appearance was the absolutely huge front brake rotors. Part of a Brembo system, they are cross drilled and almost completely fill the inside of the 19" (my guess) diameter rims.

I'm looking forward to seeing a Giulia or two on the street in the near future.

## ***Alfas in a Field***

**by George Beston, Cobourg**

We all have dreams of a barn find that might make some really fine cars available to the market place, with enthusiasts able to buy them, clean them up again and hit the open road. This is not a fulfilment of that dream!

At the Vintage Festival in June, Christopher Creighton was approached in the paddock area as he toiled over his faithful vintage race, Phil, by a gentleman who claimed to know of a "bunch of Alfas sitting out in a field" near Grafton. He also left Christopher with a name and telephone number. Since Grafton is only a few kilometers east of my home town of Cobourg and I had some outdated knowledge of the people involved, I was eager to observe the situation for myself.

Christopher followed up in August and was able to visit the site and survey the cars there. If my memory serves me, among dozens of cars, trucks and a tractor or two, there were three 2 litre GTVs, a 1750 GTV, a 1750 Berlina and an Alfetta GT in various stages of decay. There were also numerous parts around the property which may or may not have been taken from the cars mentioned above.

As far as the Alfas there are concerned, it's a pretty sad story. The landowner's son is an antique dealer with an interest in Alfas. He acquired them over a period of years and stored

them in a building on the property. Due to some unfortunate circumstances, the building became unavailable and the Alfas were then left outside. Now, the father is elderly and in a situation that makes the sale of the land imminent.

A few years of outside storage and vegetation growth have taken such a toll that only one of the six cars there might be restorable. It would certainly be too large a project for me to consider.

In early September Christopher and a number of fellow Alfisti gathered at the site with two trailers to see if a deal could be made. After a lot of searching for parts and discussing what exactly was included with any potential sale, followed by some intense negotiations over price, Joe Canella was able to come to a workable purchase agreement with the seller.

This GTV is more or less representative of the Alfas involved. It has no engine, an interior weathered beyond recovery, some broken glass, and extensive rust in the body and chassis. The hood has even rusted through from above.



*Major project GTV. Photo by George Beston.*



*Is an Alfetta GT in this condition worth saving?  
Photo by George Beston.*

Don't let this happen to your Alfa!

## Upcoming ARCC Events

Regional representatives are requested to send your 2016 events calendars to the secretary or the editor for inclusion in the next issue.

### Club Alfa Romeo de Montréal

Date	Time	Event
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	Monthly	Alfas & Espresso, LaSalle Alfa
May 15		Gimmick Rally
May 22		St Lambert Antique Auto Show
May 29		Road Adventure
June 11		Grand Prix Barbeque
June 19		Fathers' Day Veterans Tribute Car Show
July 24		Meet with Scuderia Alfa Romeo
August 21		Wine Tour
Sept 10-11		Lake Placid Road Trip
October 3		Vineyard Tour
October 16		Fall Colours Drive
November 26		Holiday Party

### Regional Events – Eastern Region

Date	Time	Event
June 17-19		Italian Car Day, Ottawa
June 12-19		AROC Convention, Nashville
July 3		FIAT Breakout, Montréal
July 15-17		Raduno Estivo, Kingston
July 27-31		Fiat Freakout, Auburn Hills
August 6		Italian Car Day, Woodbridge
September 25		Raduno Montebello

## Alfa Romeo Club of Canada

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## Alfa Romeo Club of Edmonton

Date	Time	Event

## Calgary Alfa Marque Society

Date	Time	Event

## Toronto Chapter

Date	Time	Event
May 23	9 am	Victoria Day Pancake Drive
June 5	10 am	Canadian Warplane Drive
June 7	7 pm	Cruise Night
June 17-19	TBD	Vintage Festival & Drive
June 26	10 am	Rattlesnake Run
July 5	7 pm	Cruise Night
July 10	10 am	Sun Collision Event
August 2	7 pm	Cruise Night
August 21	10 am	Italian Gathering
September 6	7 pm	Cruise Night
September 11	10 am	Wine Tour & Drive
October 4	7 pm	Cruise Night
October 16	9 am	Fall Colours Drive
November 26	6 pm	Holiday Dinner Party

## Alfa Romeo Club - Ottawa

Date	Time	Event
April 19	6 pm	ARCO AGM
May 28	2 pm	Car Christening and BBQ
October 16	10 am	End of Season Drive and BBQ
February	7 pm	Annual Pot Luck Dinner

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