



ARCC UPDATE

December 2016

President's Letter

by Alex Csank, Vankleek Hill

This is our final ARCC Update of the year. Although this month will be filled with a little more darkness than sunlight and the dropping temperatures will be quickly ushering in the full effects of our Canadian winter, it also means that the season of some of our favourite winter activities is upon us. So grab your skis, snow-machines, skates, toboggans, or snowshoes and have a bit of fun ... or, if you're a 'Snowbird', enjoy the warmth of your chosen southern locale instead. Either way, hopefully your favourite Alfa will be tucked away in hibernation, just waiting for the weeks to roll by until next season's rides and events.

Season's Greetings and best wishes for a wonderful New Year to you and yours!

Ciao,
Your ARCC Team



ALFA expo17

by Alex Csank, Vankleek Hill

This month and in upcoming issues I will be writing more about the convention and its details. Hopefully, you will be joining us next July in Montréal for our big event.

Why attend an Alfa Romeo Owners Club (AROC) and Alfa Romeo Club of Canada (ARCC) combined international convention in Montréal?

Well, there are plenty of reasons. Some of you, especially those who live within a day's driving distance are likely already very familiar with Montréal, but for those who are not, here's a short introduction, and hopefully some motivation.

Next year is a VERY BIG YEAR for us here in Montréal. In 2017, we will be celebrating the 375th anniversary of the founding of our city, the 50th anniversary of our World's Fair (expo67) and it also happens to be the 50th anniversary of the unveiling of the only car ever named after a Canadian city - The Alfa Romeo Montreal.

Montréal

Montrealers really enjoy living well and we love to share our passions with our guests. This is a city chock full of international festivals, world-class arts, and the best in entertainment of all kinds. Renowned worldwide for its multi-cultural restaurants, unique architecture, and a blend of both new and old world flavour, Montréal lives up to its reputation as one of the best cities to visit.

Built on an island in the St Lawrence River, the port of Old Montréal is the city's birthplace. Composed of picturesque cobblestone squares and old world French architecture, the narrow streets teem with specialty shops, eateries and art galleries, while the broad concourse of the Old Port is lined with green parkland and cafés along the Rue de la Commune.

With almost 400 years of uniquely Montréal flavoured architecture, from the first humble French homes, churches, businesses and fortresses built of field stone, to the numerous 18th and 19th century brick structures and cut stone Roman Catholic churches, like the breathtaking Notre-Dame Basilica, to the 20th century steel and concrete icons like the mid-seventies Olympic Stadium and the still futuristic luxury apartments of Habitat 67. Those with an appreciation for architectural design will not be disappointed.

Blessed with one of the most exciting food scenes in North America, the Montréal area brims with

temples dedicated to all of the best cuisine. Whether your taste buds crave arctic char or Black Angus steak, lox and cream cheese on a fresh poppy seed bagel or an all-dressed hot dog served with poutine (fries smothered in cheese curds and gravy), the choices are endless. Regardless of whether you travel into the city, or choose to stay near our convention hotel, you'll find irresistible bakeries filled with fresh pastries, traditional English pubs, Jewish delicatessens filled with famous Montréal Smoked Meat and any number of international restaurants ready to cater to your dining desires.

With all of the fun things to see and do in and around Montréal, you may want to consider extending your stay a few extra days.

Convention

Our schedule of events for the convention has been designed to make sure that those of you who have attended other recent Alfa Romeo conventions will be able to enjoy all the activities you have come to expect. But, because this convention is happening in the biggest primarily French language city in North America, there will be some interesting deviations which will bring a uniquely *Québécois* flavour to the mix.

This will be the first bilingual French and English AROC convention ever! To make sure that we serve all convention attendees including our local Alfisti, all of our convention publications, posters and other printed material, as well as online resources will be available in both languages. Additionally, you will get to hear both of Canada's official languages used whenever we address groups during convention activities. Throughout the convention, we will be featuring Canadian history and culture, with an accent placed upon French Canadian culture, with all of its unique flavours, music, language and history.

Monday, July 10 through Wednesday, July 12

Our pre-convention *Voyageur Tours* will take participants from Canada's original capital city situated at the northeastern tip of Lake Ontario in Kingston. The tours will leave early on Monday morning, July 10th, and travel along scenic and historic country roads towards Ottawa, our national capital. There will be much to see and do in Ottawa and elsewhere, as guests visit museums, historic sites, quaint towns and other locales and stop to experience local cuisine and lodgings for two nights along the way. Tour members will also enjoy the friendship and camaraderie that are hallmarks of Alfa Romeo owners everywhere as the tours continue their meandering course towards the convention hotel,

just west of Montréal for arrival on Wednesday afternoon, July 12th.

The tour is open to all vehicles, but Alfas will be placed in the lead, as they are the stars of the show. Sometimes, our vintage Alfas (like all older cars) experience mechanical failures. To help with these possibilities, the tour will have basic tools, a few spare parts and the ability to call upon expert mechanical assistance and towing if required. The tours will leave at 9:00am Monday, July 10th from Kingston, Ontario. Plan to arrive in Kingston on July 9th if you plan to participate.

Anytime throughout the Convention

With all that's going on during a convention, it can be difficult to get the free time to explore the host city, or get to see any of the great stuff nearby. To make sure that you get a chance to experience our wonderful city and surrounding areas, we decided to give you the freedom to pick your own time when you can take advantage of any of our free Self-Directed Driving Tours, either into the heart of the city or the scenic countryside. You can choose between several specific tours, where you can enjoy a taste of the history, architecture, shopping, and entertainment of our European flavoured city, or have some driving fun, complete with covered bridges, twisty mountain roads, ferry crossings, huge flea markets, antique stores, vineyards, craft breweries and hard apple cider bottlers ... and so much more! Get together with your friends and make it a group event, or enjoy it on your own; the choice is yours. We provide you with the detailed driving directions, a map and pertinent brochures that will help make sure that you can enjoy your tour. The rest is up to you. Start by picking up your free tour package at the ALFA expo17 Registration Desk in the hotel.

As with most conventions, we will be holding an Art and a Model Car contest (Concorso) inside the hotel. Entries will be on display from Thursday through Saturday, and will be judged on Saturday. Please sign up to have your original artwork or model car entered in the contest.

Thursday, July 13

Thursday morning, the convention begins with the AROC Board of Directors meeting to be held at the hotel. This meeting is open to all AROC USA and ARCC members.

Our Time Trials will take place beginning at 9:00am at a track located about an hour's drive from the hotel. All participating Time Trials drivers will need to get their cars inspected on Wednesday afternoon or evening at the hotel

parking lot to qualify for use on the track. There will also be an opportunity to enjoy using your car for a few Parade Laps at the track over the lunch hour.

Those not headed to the track may wish to take advantage of the Historic City Bus Tour #1, which will leave the hotel at 9:00am for a guided tour of the city, with several stops along the way at some of Montréal's best historic sites. The bus will return its passengers to the hotel by about 4:00pm. Remember to wear some comfortable walking shoes!

In the evening, you are invited to join us for a unique and entertaining meal featuring real French-Canadian culture, food and music in a rustic mountainside Maple Sugar Cabin located about 45 minutes west of the convention hotel. This Bienvenue Supper will be our welcome to the convention and will be held at the Sucrierie de la Montagne, located in Rigaud. The meal includes a variety of rustic country style foods, so bring your sweet tooth as the theme is Maple Syrup! We will have directions for those who will be driving, and suggest that attendees carpool if possible. We will have some limited transportation available if required.

Friday, July 14

On Friday morning, owners of an Alfa Romeo Montreal will want to get together with other owners for our 50th Anniversary Montreal Brunch Celebration. This brunch will be exclusively for Montreal owners, and will be held in the city beginning at 10:00am.



Alfas at the Orange Julep.

Beginning at about 11:00am, we will meet for a very relaxed fast food lunch at the iconic Orange Julep Drive-In Restaurant, which has been a landmark for car and motorcycle enthusiasts since 1932. Featured in many automobile and motorcycle magazines and online sites, the Julep

is home to both planned and impromptu car shows and meets each night during the driving season. The restaurant serves its famous Julep drink, which is similar (but not identical) to the Orange Julius. Food can be eaten at one of a number of provided picnic tables on site or dine in your car if you prefer. If fast food isn't your thing, there are many other nearby restaurants as well.

Our See the City Gimmick Rally will depart from the Orange Julep parking lot, with the first car starting sometime after noon. The rally will take participants on a tour through Montréal, including a drive to the top of Mount Royal, through the old and narrow streets of scenic Old Montréal, across a bridge to the site of the 1967 World Fair (expo67), a slow lap around the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve (the track used for the Canadian Grand Prix) and then out into the countryside of the historic South Shore, before winding its way back towards the hotel. With no time limit for the rally, we encourage you to enjoy the scenery and a relaxed and fun drive while trying to answer the questions provided in your rally instructions.

Once back at the hotel, our Méchoui Cook Out will be a fun and relaxed outdoor dining event (weather permitting), serving traditional French Canadian style foods, with some terrific live Canadian music. There will also be an opportunity for the usual meetings of newsletter editors, future convention planners and AlfaBB, online forum and digest members after supper in the hotel.

Saturday, July 15

On Saturday morning, Autocross participants and spectators will head out of the city to have some fun dodging cones. A boxed lunch will be included for all registered drivers, and additional boxed lunches can be pre-purchased for spectators. To qualify for participation in this event, all cars must be inspected on Friday afternoon or evening at the hotel.

If you weren't able to take advantage of the Historic City Bus Tour on Thursday, we have a second tour on Saturday, leaving the hotel at 9:00am for a guided tour, stopping along the way at Montréal's best historic sites. The bus will return its passengers to the hotel by about 4:00pm.

On Saturday afternoon, we will be featuring some interesting and unusual technical seminars at the hotel. For example, you can choose to attend the Alfa Romeo in Film presentation, or view a demonstration of the methods used to extract injured drivers from Formula One racing cars.

There will also be a French language seminar about suspension and steering bushings for vintage Alfas and another bilingual seminar presenting the technical aspects of the new Alfa Romeo product line. Each of these seminars will take about an hour. You can sign up for the seminar(s) of your choice at the convention registration desk. Afterwards, the AROC Board of Directors will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting at the hotel from 4:00-6:00pm.

To cap off our Saturday events, the annual convention banquet for ALFA expo17 will be held in the hotel ballroom from 7:00-10:00pm. This banquet will be bilingual, so we will be focusing on enjoying our meal and listening to some quiet live jazz music, instead of speeches. We will be presenting the trophies and awards for the Time Trials, Autocross, Gimmick Rally and other important items, and we will have some door prizes as well. There will also be the prerequisite presentations, including an introduction to the 2018 AROC USA convention, of course.

Sunday, July 16

The final day of our convention will begin bright and early with an Early Bird Driving and Photo Tour into the city departing at 7:00am from the hotel for the early risers. Our Convention Concorso will be held from 8:00am to noon, with both judged and non-judged cars on display. There will also be a special setting to feature the Alfa Romeo Montreal. Food, beverages and bathrooms will be available.

Following the Concorso, we will have our final convention event, the Concorso Awards Reception, which will be held from noon until about 2:00pm. This is the last official convention event, but for those who may wish to hang around a little longer, there will be a 'pay as you go' post-convention supper at a local restaurant.

That just gives you an idea of what you can look forward to next summer. Stay tuned to upcoming editions of this newsletter, where we will be writing in more depth about our social events, tours, competitive events and so much more! We look forward to hosting you soon.

Bienvenue!

Laudoracing-Models by George Beston, Cobourg

For a few years now, I've been on the mailing list for this organization. Among the many models they sell, there are always enough Alfas to keep me looking, and to prevent me from clicking on an "Unsubscribe" button.

As the owner of a now scarce Alfetta Berlina, I have enjoyed the fact that Laudoracing-Models has produced a number of Alfetta models in various liveries including Carabinieri and Polizia versions. A few months ago, they announced the production of a limited edition run of 200 Alfetta models done in Piper Yellow. That did it. If they're going to go that far towards creating a model of my own car, how could I not buy one? The price had always deterred me before, but somehow it didn't matter much this time.

So, using some persistence to find and stay on the English language ordering page of their web site, I sent off my order. Sure enough it showed up at the post office about a month later. It was well packed in a nicely printed box that is also a keeper. I am very impressed by the model itself. At a scale of 1:18, the model is large enough to have some presence on a display shelf. The body is resin, not metal, but it still has enough weight to feel substantial when handled.



Photo by George Beston.

The level of detail on the model is very good. Nothing opens and closes (doors, hood, trunk) but the interior and chassis are well detailed given the scale. The exterior of the model is excellent and well beyond my expectations with regard to trim detail and finish. They even have the colour just right. In looking at the chassis, I see that mine is number 118 of the 200 made. I didn't miss the 116 series code by much!

Toronto Holiday Dinner by George Beston, Cobourg

It's never a bad time to get together with our fellow Alfisti and enjoy a great meal to go along with the most agreeable company. The Toronto Chapter held its annual Holiday Dinner on November 29th at "That's Italian" in Woodbridge. The evening was fully up to its previous standards, but attendance could have been better!

The busy time of year and family commitments are legitimate distractions. If anyone knows a better time or place to hold this dinner, we're up for making a change as long as it holds the promise of stronger attendance. Thanks go out to Anthony Tersigni for organizing this fine event.



Photo by George Beston.

Wintertime Alfas

by George Beston, Cobourg

Those of us with older Alfas avoid winter use like the plague. Years of accumulated experience tell us that driving them in winter conditions will very quickly turn the bodywork of our treasures into piles of iron oxide crumble.

Hopefully the new wave of Alfa Romeo models arriving on our shores will be more tolerant of adverse road conditions. At any rate, it's fun to consider what could be done to make Alfas more appropriate for winter. Here's a picture Ken Lee spotted on Facebook last year. I can't give a photo credit because I don't know whose car it is or who took the picture.

It looks like a GT Jr. maybe painted in French Blue for the occasion. All I can wish for is that somehow this car could switch back and forth from this winter configuration to a more or less stock configuration for the warm weather driving season. I suspect that's not the case.



President Alex has provided me with a number of winter themed Alfa pictures, so here's proof that some enthusiasts do use them in the wintertime.



Competition seems to be a theme here. It serves to remind me that the handling and balance of our older Alfas are attributes that do lend themselves to winter driving.

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 st 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

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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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