



ARCC UPDATE

January 2017

President's Letter

by Alex Csank, Vankleek Hill

As promised in the December Update, here is some more detail on our upcoming convention. This month, I am focusing on our social and recreational plans.

Our Convention Hotel



The Holiday Inn Pointe-Claire.

In the heart of the bustling 'West Island' of Montréal and just seven miles from the airport, the Holiday Inn Pointe-Claire is ideally located for traveling convenience. This full service hotel offers a smoke free environment, and houses a nice restaurant and comfortable bar and lounge furnished in a relaxing contemporary design. Unwind in the pool and hot tub, revive in the fully equipped fitness centre, or take advantage of an in house store and business centre. Featuring complimentary wi-fi and a special Alfas only parking area, the hotel will also play host to our Registration and Convention Help Desk, the Art and Model display, the Vendor Room, our meetings and technical seminars, the Friday night Méchoui Cookout, the AROC Town Hall meeting and Saturday's banquet. It's also the place where our tours start and end. Thanks to the free hotel shuttle service, getting to and from Montréal Trudeau International Airport (YUL) is

a cinch. Just call 1-800-375-2680 if you want to be picked up by the shuttle at the airport or Dorval train station anytime between 5:00am and 12:30am. The hotel's management team and dedicated staff are looking forward to welcoming you to their renewed and rejuvenated hotel.

Shopping

The location also offers numerous opportunities for shopping, dining and entertainment. Our hotel is just a five-minute drive (just across the highway) from the large and modern Fairview Pointe Claire Fashion Centre and Mall. You'll be able to take care of all your shopping urges there.



Fairview Pointe Claire Fashion Centre and Mall.

Dining

There are many restaurants, fast-food franchises and coffee shops, including a couple of Starbucks and Tim Hortons, within a five to ten minute walk or drive from the hotel. If you need help finding anything, just check with the hotel concierge or come and ask us at the Convention Help Desk anytime! Here are just a few recommendations for places to eat nearby:

- Sahib – Contemporary Indian
- La Perle – Szechuan and Thai
- Table 09 – Upscale French
- Cora – Casual breakfast
- Restaurant L'Academie – Italian, French

- Mozza – Italian wood fired pizza and wines by the glass
- Bistro Nolah – Cajun comfort food
- The Keg – steak and seafood
- Bâton Rouge – ribs, chicken, steak
- Les Pâtes Riccardos – classic Italian
- Scores – casual dining, ribs and chicken with large salad bar
- Sushi St-Jean – sushi
- Brasserie Le Manoir – pub style food and drinks
- Restaurant Casa Grècque – greek
- Au Vieux Duluth – Greek
- Moes Bar & Grill – bar, beer, deli eats
- La Cage aux Sports – sports bar
- Rotisserie Panama – Greek
- Déjeuner Inc. – breakfast and brunch

Social Activities

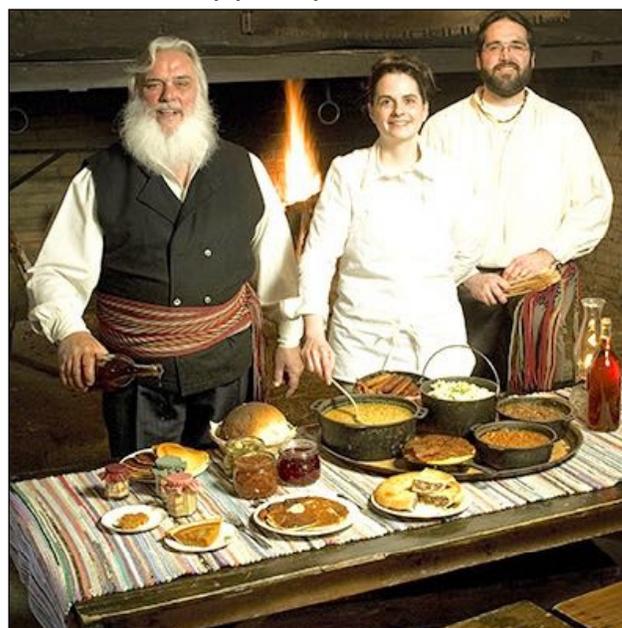
For many of us, the best part of any Alfa club convention is getting together with old and new *Alfisti* friends for a meal or a few drinks. With this in mind, we have put together several relaxed and entertaining social events with the aim of bringing us together to enjoy each other's company and to experience the flavours and settings unique to the Montréal area. Of course, there will also be plenty of opportunities for you to get together with friends for a meal or a beverage of your choice, and to explore the special tastes of our city and surrounding countryside on your own time.

Thursday, July 13

We begin the convention's first group meal with our Bienvenue Maple Sugar Shack Supper at the *Sucrerie de la Montagne*, located in the forested countryside about thirty-five minutes to the west of our convention hotel on the upper slope of Rigaud Mountain.

Sucrerie de la Montagne is an authentic Quebec "sugar shack" but unlike most others that are only open in the maple syrup season in March and April, it's open year round. Designated an official Québec Heritage site and located in a 120 acre grove of century-old maples, this historic locale transports its visitors back in time, providing a momentary glimpse of life as it was for early French Canadian settlers. The original sugar shack cabin – a single clapboard building – is still in use, but is now part of what has become almost a village, featuring a group of buildings that seem to leap off the pages of a Canadian history book. An old wooden door squeaks open and you have travelled back in time. Welcome to a world of Québec tradition lived through the timeless experience of a "sugaring off".

Besides the authentic live music and surroundings, the menu is designed to provide guests with a taste of the past. Served in the style of the era, plates and bowls are brought to your table and the food is then passed around so you can serve yourself as much or as little as you wish. The menu includes: Soupe au pois du Montagnard (mountain dweller's pea soup), farm style crusty bread, sugar cured country ham, Tourtière de la Beauceronne (meat pie from Québec's Beauce region), Ragoût de boulettes (traditional meatball stew), country style pork breakfast sausages, Oreilles de crisse (crispy-fried pork rinds), wood fired baked beans, old style mashed potatoes, farm style omelette soufflé, homemade fruit ketchup and pickles, pancakes with maple syrup and sugar pie, tea and coffee. Obviously, this is NOT the low-carb, vegetable-rich contemporary menu of the 21st century ... but it is definitely yummy!



Sucrerie de la Montagne.

Friday, July 14

Friday's social events begin with a special Alfa Romeo Montreal Brunch for convention attendees who are owners of the celebrated Alfa Romeo Montreal. This is a chance for Montreal owners to meet and enjoy a small, private get together and brunch to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the unveiling of the Montreal prototype at the EXPO 67 world's fair held in 1967.

As our afternoon Montréal Gimmick Rally needs to have an identifiable place to use as its starting point, our Orange Julep Lunch will be held at this legendary Montréal drive-in restaurant. This has been a gathering place for sports cars,

motorcycles, hot rods and other enthusiast vehicles and their owners since 1932.



The Orange Julep

The Orange Julep has been featured in many automotive magazines, TV shows and movies over the years. It's an unmistakable landmark, easily identified as a huge orange fibreglass dome, designed to resemble a three story tall orange! The menu features typical Montréal area fast food, with steamed hot dogs, fries and poutine, corn dogs (called Pogos), burgers and the like, normally served with their specialty orange drink, similar to an Orange Julius. This casual get together lunch is a 'pay-as-you-go' event. If fast food isn't to your liking, there are also many other nearby restaurants available.

On Friday evening we will meet for a Québec-style Méchoui Cookout just outside our convention hotel. The tasty foods will include an assortment of charcoal grilled meats, with assorted vegetables and dessert. We will be entertained with live music provided by a talented local band.

Saturday, July 15

On Saturday evening, the ALFA expo17 Convention Banquet will be held in the hotel ballroom. We'll begin with a pre-banquet cocktail (cash bar) just outside the banquet hall, and then we'll make our way into the room to be seated for our meal. Because this banquet will be the first ever AROC and ARCC bilingual banquet, we will have little time for speeches. Instead, we will have live jazz dinner music in the background provided by the Kimberley Beyea Trio. Of course, we'll also have the usual greetings, thanks and the awards for the Time Trial, Autocross, Gimmick Rally, Art and Model Concorso, 25 and 50 year AROC pins, plus a few other AROC and ARCC awards, and just a few nice door prizes.

Sunday, July 16

Upon completion of our Alfa Romeo Concorso in Montréal's Little Italy, we'll have our final convention event – the Concorso Awards Reception and Closing Remarks. This reception will be held at the same location as the Concorso in Little Italy.

For the few of you who decide to stick around after the convention is officially over, there will be an informal Post Convention Supper to be held at a restaurant near the convention hotel. This will be a 'pay-as-you-go' event. If you are interested in attending, please sign up at the convention's Registration Desk when you check in. We're looking forward to seeing you soon!

Martellina - an Italian's Tribute to His Mistress

by Elio Comello, Camlachie

As a teenager I had a girlfriend. She was a Fiat 1100D, you know, the one with "suicide doors".

In 1981 I began a passionate affair with a "needing body work" 1971 Alfa Romeo 1750 Spider. This lady got years of love and costly attention, aided and abetted by my wife, who brought rare trim parts back from trips to Italy in her personal luggage. She was stopped at security only once, when x-ray scans detected a water pump that looked suspicious. This long duration project (ten years) lost my wife's support as a fan.

Returning to Canada after stints in Houston and then the Middle East, symptoms of "midlife crisis" strained our relationship. I wanted to resume a love affair and my wife objected, remembering the "messy" projects of the past. Still, I vowed that for my 60th birthday I would have a lady resident under the conjugal roof. I was determined to get a "ready to go" Alfa Spider.

On an online dating site – eBay – there she was in twenty-five revealing photos, the 17-year-old living in North Carolina, having recently moved there from Arizona. I was smitten; I had to have her! Fayetteville NC is not an easy place to fly to from Camlachie ON. Getting her past the DOT rules and import intricacies was helped by the fact she was over 15 (the age of consent?).

Alfisti are honourable, accommodating and understand love and passion. The seller, Jim Pilgrim, though not Italian, understood this well. I would Greyhound one way to Fayetteville (thirty-six hours) to meet the two of them at the bus depot. We would consummate our contract and transfer the notarized title even on a

Saturday. *Ciao bella*, you are mine! Approval to retain the NC plates and insurance for 7 days allowed me to drive her to Canada. We spent our first 2 days doing the scenic route through NC, WV, KY, OH and MI. In the back roads of Appalachia around Booneville with my new-found love, I found pure passion!

Faxing information to US border authorities in advance avoided border issues and when we crossed the Blue Water Bridge she was admitted into Canada as a permanent resident. I mailed the plates to Jim in Fayetteville as promised.



Martellina at home in Camlachie.

As a Quadrifoglio Spider she was a natural beauty. I said to my wife “see, she is perfect, original and needs nothing, just a loving driver.” A mysterious noise – at times a knock, at times a rattle – from the front end when going over an abrupt bump was puzzling and troubling. Not even a trip to Trail Auto for a consultation with Dean Russell could find the source. By chance, the mystery was solved. One day while inspecting the cavity in front of the hood I found a factory hammer laying on its side crosswise. It was left there, likely forgotten, at Pininfarina’s body shop. Depending on the size of the bump, it either totally lifted or pivoted on its head; hence the two sounds. Mystery solved! In Italian a little hammer is *Martellino* and the feminine version of this noun would be *Martellina*; now you know where her name came from.

I enjoyed *Martellina*. She was always on the road in driving weather: at Watkins Glen she pleased me on the old and new track. She proudly showed off to her friends at conventions in Detroit, Lexington, Toronto, Detroit again, and Nashville. My son and 17-year-old granddaughter drove her. True to my Italian values, she was always kept young, fit and outfitted with every practical upgrade: chassis stiffener, S4 exhaust and manifolds, low restriction CAT, Hella EU Halogens, Iridium plugs, gas shocks, etc. In exchange my mistress returned the passion with spirited performance and never let me down. I am

eternally thankful for twelve blissful years with *Martellina*.

She and I were returning from the Alfa Romeo Detroit Club’s annual Benson Barn BBQ, on Sunday July 10, 2016, a fine summer’s day. I was headed home following 20mph northbound traffic in Novi Michigan, on my way to the freeway. An older Chevy Express van (the one with a big high bumper and double rear doors) was ahead of me in traffic. The van slowed, and as the distance between it and *Martellina* shortened, the van stopped and then reversed! My poor *Martellina* and I didn’t have a chance. The van’s high bumper overrode her bumper and front spoiler mangling them down 90 degrees and crushing everything up to the radiator. Puzzled, I got out and found that the Chevy’s distracted driver had rear ended a jeep SUV in front and in order to view the minor bumper to bumper damage, decided to reverse some 30 feet. Apparently he was texting and my poor *Martellina* behind was not visible to him. Fortunately, no vehicles were moved when Novi Traffic arrived. The Chevy’s driver told the police I had struck him and pushed his van into the Jeep. Fortunately, the witness statement of the driver of the vehicle he rear-ended and the 30 feet between them did not support his story. He was charged with the forward collision and with “Improper Backing”. Thankfully, the NOVI police were kind enough to drive me back to Benson’s. David and Susie Small were gracious enough to drive me home in exchange for a wine and pizza dinner. The van driver decided to contest the traffic charges so the witness and I had to testify. He was convicted on both counts.



Martellina, before and after the altercation.

Martellina was towed to a body shop compound in Novi and I began a forty-five day insurance claim process. I learned a lot, but will not go into details here but will in a future article. On the bright side, I was not hurt and *Martellina* will be repaired or become a great donor. I reached a write off settlement with the insurance company at a fair price. She went to auction as there was no mechanism in my policy for me or others interested to buy her privately. The extensive stock to support her I had in spare parts and literature are going to help many in the Alfa

community. As for me, after a five month grieving period I've settled with a practical but not so exciting alternative: a 2010 Ford Ranger Sport truck. My wife Luciana is happy to have all of me back and not have me borrowing trucks and trailers from the neighbors to deliver firewood from our woodlot. *Martellina* was meant to be my son's inheritance. Perhaps the Ranger will go to one of my grandchildren, more appropriate, as they can't drive stick.

Cara Martellina, Amore Mio, Addio!

Alfa Romeo in The News

by George Beston, Cobourg

Pinch me – I must be dreaming!

I'm sure most of us enthusiasts have noticed the extent to which our beloved marque is being mentioned these days. Many articles are being written about the products, specifically the 4C Coupe and Spider and the Giulia Quadrifoglio. Both are striking a chord with the writers and getting their share of favourable coverage. What I like is that neither of these cars is for everybody. Both are uncompromising in pursuit of a certain level of performance from the car and a high level of engagement on the part of the driver. Neither of these cars can be considered inexpensive, but the level of performance offered provides good value for the money.

The Canadian Alfa Romeo website speaks of three main offerings; the 4C, the Giulia and the Stelvio. The 4C, of course, comes in both Coupe and Spider versions and the others both have three levels, base, Ti, and Quadrifoglio. The Stelvio was introduced to North America at the Los Angeles Auto Show in November.



Stelvio image from Car & Driver.

Right now, the only cars carrying prices are the two 4C variants. Some pricing has been reported in the newspapers for the Giulia, but they have been the same as those announced in the U.S. Given the disparity between currencies, that would be unlikely.

So, these are interesting times. Alfa Romeo is on the cusp of presenting a strong line of vehicles to the Canadian marketplace. As enthusiasts, let's embrace these new offerings as they become available, and hope that they create a viable ongoing business for FCA.

As an *Alfista* and a "gear head" I'm eager to learn more about the mechanical details of the new cars, particularly the new 2L four with 280 (!) hp.

For me, nothing could be better than some of the new owners of these vehicles joining us and adding new meaning to our Club.

Show up at the Alfa Romeo stand at the Toronto or Montréal auto show, check out the alfaromeo.ca website and do what you can to support the marque.

'On Your Mark' music video from Autoweek

Japanese animated film maker Hayao Miyazaki has included an Alfa Romeo Giulietta in a seven minute music video which was done in 1995 and has been shown again recently. The video itself is a little strange, being set in an unidentified future time and place. With no apparent reason the central characters make their escape from a threatening situation in a beautifully drawn Giulietta. The joy of escaping into the countryside in an old Italian convertible as rendered by Miyazaki is abundantly clear.



Membership Renewal

by Christine Pickering, Toronto

We moved to an online membership system a year ago. Our untested theory is that as February 1st rolls around many of you should receive a renewal notice by email. It should contain a link which you can use to renew your membership. Those who joined or renewed later in the year should receive a similar notice on the anniversary of your joining or renewing. Please wait for the notice to renew. Attempting to renew early only confuses the system.

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
January 21		Pizza Lunch and Convention Meeting
February 11		Valentine's Day Dinner
March 12		Tech Session
April 23		Springtime First Drive
May 7		Montréal City Gimmick Rally
May 21		Gatineau Hills Road Adventure with ARCO
June 10		Grand Prix BBQ
June 17		Italian Car Parade in Ottawa
July 13-16		ALFA expo17 Convention
July 16		Fiat Breakout
August 27		Drive with Scuderia Alfa Romeo
September 9-10		Overnight Road Trip
September 24		Radunno Montebello
October 14		Autumn Leaves Tour
November 25		Holiday Party

Alfa Romeo Club of Edmonton

Date	Time	Event

Calgary Alfa Marque Society

Date	Time	Event

Toronto Chapter

Date	Time	Event
January		Executive meeting
July 13-16		ALFA expo17 Convention
September 24		Radunno Montebello

Alfa Romeo Club - Ottawa

Date	Time	Event
May 21		Gatineau Hills Road Adventure with CARM
June 17		Italian Car Parade in Ottawa
July 13-16		ALFA expo17 Convention
September 24		Radunno Montebello

Alfa Romeo Club of Canada

National Executive

Alex Csank	President	(514) 771-9513	alfaromeodriveralex@gmail.com
Mark Willis	Western VP	(403) 668-0379	alfa.calgary@gmail.com
Tony Adams	Eastern VP	(905) 642-3749	tony.adamsins@sympatico.ca
George Beston	Treasurer	(905) 375-8736	gbeston@eagle.ca
Christine Pickering	Secretary	(416) 498-6553	christine.pickering@gmail.com
	Messages	(416) 499-7129	
	Fax	(416) 499-4517	

Regional Contacts

Don Best	BC	(604) 939-5056	dlbest@telus.net
Bob Merchant	AB,SK,MB	(403) 244-9150	rmerchant@shaw.ca
Jack Livingstone	ON	(613) 232-6335	alfa190@excite.com
Yves Boulanger	QC	(450) 692-7478	ro.yvesliet@oricom.ca
Daniel Nicholes	NB,NS,PE,NL	(506) 459-0282	drnicholes@yahoo.com

Local Club Contact

Don Best	Vancouver	(604) 939-5056	dlbest@telus.net
Mark Willis	Calgary	(403) 668-0379	alfa.calgary@gmail.com
Chesley Wells	Edmonton	(403) 963-9199	clwells@cruzinternet.com
Anthony Tersigni	Toronto	(905) 918-0457	gtv_veloce@hotmail.com
Marc Faubert	Ottawa	(819) 775-0632	shiraz1965@gmail.com
Jean-Michel Reyssset	Montréal	(514) 219-5358	jmreysset@hotmail.com

Club mail

Alfa Romeo Club of Canada
P.O. Box 62, Station Q
Toronto
Ontario M4T 2L7
Canada

ARCC Update

Editor George Beston
(905) 375-8736
gbeston@eagle.ca

ARCC On Line

Website <http://www.alfaclub.ca>
Webmaster John Pickering
webmaster@alfaclub.ca
Facebook
[Alfa-Romeo-Club-of-Canada-ARCC](https://www.facebook.com/Alfa-Romeo-Club-of-Canada-ARCC)