



ARCC UPDATE

October 2011

Italian Car Day, Boyd Park

by Dave Semel, Ottawa

At 4:00 AM when I got up it seemed like a foolish idea to drive all the way to Woodbridge and back for the inaugural Italian Car Day. This had been planned as a group drive but the group became me and one other person Alex Jordan in his 1967 Fiat Dino coupe. Marc Grenier had left the day before. Never an early riser is Marc. We left from Alex's at 5 a.m. in the dark and didn't really get full light until we got to the 401. We got to the Boyd Conservation Area in Woodbridge shortly after 9:00, the event start time.

There were already quite a few cars there and they just kept rolling in most of the morning. The organizers had about 130 cars registered for the event which would have been a nice turnout. As the areas set aside for each make filled up, it became clear that many people waited until the day of the show to register. Final count was 235 cars and about 1200 spectators. The parking lot outside the event showed the interest of non-Italian car owners. At one point the Citroen Club had an Alpine 110, a Traction Avant and several SMs in attendance. I also spotted several Corvettes, Porsches and Triumphs.

Alfas on the grass at the first annual Toronto Italian Car Day. In the centre is Oliver Collins' 1948 6C2500SS. Oliver's car was awarded second place in the Alfa class. Photo by J.T. Pickering.



What a feast of beautiful Italian cars. When was the last time you saw a Montreal, a 6C 2500 SS and a 1990 SZ in the same place and that was only the Alfas? Lamborghinis included a Miura SV, an Islero (about 125 built), an Espada, a Urraco and a Jalpa. A good turnout of De Tomasos included a beautiful Mangusta among a bevy of Panteras. It's not often that you see one Fiat Dino but here were three (a 2400 spider and two coupés). I think there were more Ferraris than Alfas present including my personal favourite the Dino (Yes, I know it was never officially a Ferrari) of which there were three. Other beautiful entries included an Ape, a Multipla utility truck and a Vespa. How many Vespa cars have you seen? The icing on the cake was certainly the Maserati 300S, one of only 28 examples. Che bella macchina!

We had thought of leaving a little early for the return trip but ended up staying until the 4:00 PM end time. Marc decided to accompany us back to Ottawa so off we set. It seems we made a bit of a show on the drive home and we got several appreciative waves. It's not often that most people see a GTV, a Fiat Dino and a Boat-tail driving together I guess. We even picked up a Mini Cooper S as a driving companion from Cobourg to Brockville. We made good time (I really need to figure out how to translate mph to kph - at least that's my story) on the trip back and arrived in Ottawa about 8:00 PM.

A big thanks to the organizers of the event who did a wonderful job. Oh, and also a thanks to the OPP for not being around on the way home.



Faisal Huda's beautiful "new" 1968 GT Junior was awarded "best in show". Photo by J.T. Pickering.



First place in the Alfa class was awarded to Mickey Ianuzziello for his beautiful Giulietta Sprint. Photo by J.T. Pickering

Visitors from Finland

by George Beston, Cobourg

In the early days of August, a number of ARCC members whose e-mail addresses appear on the website were contacted by Jyrki Henriksson, the Secretary of Club Alfa Romeo Finland. Jyrki and his wife Erja were planning a one-week visit to Canada and wanted to meet some Alfa enthusiasts while they were here. Their itinerary included arriving in Toronto, visiting for a couple of days, then renting a car and driving to Montreal, then Quebec City, and returning to Toronto via Ottawa.

Sure enough, Jyrki was able to line up a number of enthusiasts along his route.

The first visit was a 10:00 AM call at my place in Cobourg as they were en route to Montreal. Over coffee and some regrettable store-bought coffee cake that I provided, we had a very pleasant conversation for almost two hours. Jyrki was quite surprised that they hadn't seen any Alfas at all in their first couple of days here, either in the city or on the highway. As I was showing him my humble "collection", Jyrki declared that I must be the only person in Canada driving Alfas! I assured him that this was not the case, and that Alfas tend to be regarded as special purpose vehicles not used so much as daily drivers.

It turns out that Jyrki has a very nice S3 spider that he bought from someone in Glasgow, and brought it over to Finland a number of years ago. It seems that the existence of the ECU facilitates this sort of thing. When I queried him on how he would get a car home to Finland from Scotland, it was largely a matter of a few convenient ferries, including a 20 plus hour sea leg from Germany to Finland.

Later the same day, Jyrki and Erja met and had dinner with Yves Boulanger and Yvette in Montreal. Apparently Jyrki kept insisting that I must be the only Canadian driving Alfas until a spider was spotted near their restaurant to prove it's not just me!

A few days later, the Henrikssons had dinner with Dave Semel, Jeff Woods and Jack Livingstone in Ottawa. They also got their first Canadian ride in an Alfa from Jack, who took them to the restaurant in his Alfetta GT.

At their final stop in Toronto, Anthony Tersigni met them downtown at their hotel and took them for a drive in his 1750 Berlina.



Anthony, left, and Jyrki. Photo by Erja Henriksson.

Overall, I think our visitors were content with the hospitality they received. They came equipped with golf shirts and window stickers from their club to hand out to their hosts, and they received a few stickers and at least one small bottle of local maple syrup from me. I found that the hobby has many similarities and parallels in our two countries. It would have been good to get them out to an event that involved a gathering of Alfas, but our schedules didn't work out that way.

Sunday Drive – Creemore

by George Beston, Cobourg



Photo by George Beston.

For a number of years now, Creemore has been one of the destinations for the Sunday Drives organized

by Dave Munro. For one reason or another, I have never managed to make it to one of these drives until this year. Dave had warned us that we would be in the company of some Lotus 7 inspired roadsters belonging to his brother James and one of his similarly crazed friends. Both of these vehicles were made in Ontario by Diman in kit form, and are very true in spirit to Colin Chapman's general concept of a lightweight minimalistic sports car. Amongst the five Alfas that participated, it is noteworthy that four of them were Juniors, two spiders (mine and Dave's) and two GT's, Ian White's and Faisal's Alfaholics gem. Of course, as it turns out, all of the Juniors have had engine enhancements along the way, two of them having 1750 Nord engines and the other two, fire-breathing two litre twin-spark engines.

The drive was fairly chilly to start with, but the day did warm up nicely when the sun came out in the late morning. The drive did live up to its reputation as far as interesting roads are concerned.

During the first half of the run, Faisal was following me and it was clear he would have more fun if the car ahead was a bit more powerful. O.K., a lot more powerful. So, at the break, I asked him to go ahead following Dave and the two Diman roadsters. It was very interesting to follow Faisal and watch the rear end of his car squirm a bit under hard acceleration as it felt the urge of the 216 horsepower under the hood. I'm not sure why, but I could detect a whiff of castor oil aroma when Faisal accelerated. I'm guessing it might be present in a fuel additive but I didn't get to the heart of the matter. When I mentioned this to others, I was surprised to be asked what castor oil smells like. I suppose it's been quite a while since racers quit using Castrol R.



Photo by George Beston.

We arrived in Creemore about lunchtime and parked together on the main street across from the brewery. After a pub lunch, we all headed home via our own route.

Upcoming ARCC Events

Toronto Chapter

| Date | Time | Event |
|------------|---------|--------------------------|
| 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. 17 | 8:30 am | Creemore Drive |
| Sept. 25 | 8:30 am | 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 |
| Nov. 12 | 7:00 pm | 30 th Annual Potluck |

Alfa Club of Edmonton

| Date | Time | Event |
|------------|----------|---------------------------|
| May 7 | 11:00 am | Tech Session – Ron G. |
| May 29 | 1:30 pm | Apple Blossom Winery |
| June | TBD | Historic Road Solstice |
| July | TBD | Race event |
| August 3-7 | TBD | Rock-N-August |
| August 28 | | Viva Italia |
| Sept. 11 | 1:30 pm | Concours |
| October 16 | 10:30 am | Amber Brewing Oktoberfest |
| November | TBD | Italian dinner |
| December | TBD | Christmas tree hunt |
| January | TBD | After Christmas party |

Other Events of Interest

Italian Car Day, Boyd Park, August 27



Alfa Canadese

Toronto, 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

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Read Collacott | President | (613) 489-3192 |
| Harry Hamilton | Western VP | (403) 463-2235 |
| Tony Adams | Eastern VP | (416) 222-2406 |
| Jack Thompson | Past President | (780) 481-1708 |
| George Beston | Treasurer | (905) 372-3552 |
| Christine Pickering | Secretary | (416) 498-6553 |
| | Messages | (416) 499-7129 |
| | Fax | (416) 499-4517 |

Regional Contacts

| | | |
|------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Don Best | Vancouver | (604) 939-5056 |
| Mark Willis | Calgary | (403) 668-0379 |
| Chesley Wells | Edmonton | (403) 963-9199 |
| Anthony Tersigni | Toronto | (905) 918-0457 |
| Jack Livingstone | Ottawa | (613) 232-6335 |
| Yves Boulanger | Montréal | (450) 692-7478 |

ARCC Update

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| Editor: | George Beston |
| Telephone: | (905) 372-3552 |
| E-Mail: | gbeston@eagle.ca |

ARCC On Line

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| Our Website: | http://www.alfaclub.ca |
| Webmaster: | Adam Di Carlo |
| E-Mail: | dicarlo_adam@hotmail.com |