



ARCC UPDATE

July 2012

Alfa Canadese

by George Beston, Cobourg

Our biggest project ever as a Club came off without a hitch, or at least one worth noticing. We have many volunteers to thank for this. Everyone who participated as a volunteer or an event chairman should have a well deserved feeling of satisfaction at this point. As Treasurer, I had a unique perspective from which I could observe all the work going on, and it was a huge effort. Our co-chairs Oliver Collins and John Pickering had the courage to initiate this convention, and then followed up with all the necessary effort to personally lead some areas and coordinate all the rest. As Treasurer, I'm not ready to declare exactly what the bottom line is because the books are still open to pay all invoices and prepare to report to the Canada Revenue Agency re Harmonized Sales Tax. I can say that our efforts have resulted in a balance that will be well into the black thanks to good attendance and strong merchandise sales.

The best measure of the convention will be the response from those who attended, and so far, that has been very positive.

There will be a series of articles in this newsletter about the convention, so please stay tuned!

Coming Event:

RM Restorations, August 5

Unfortunately, the Toronto/Detroit Rendezvous event has been cancelled due to a lack of response from both Toronto and Detroit members. The scheduled tour of RM Restorations is still on.

Check out the e-mails for the full agenda or contact Elio at ecomello@xcelco.on.ca

Maple Leaf Mille

by George Beston, Cobourg

The convention pre-tour has sparked a lot of interest ever since its inception at the Motor City convention in 2007 which was called the *Lago Huron Tour*. For logistical reasons, the pre-tour participation has always been limited to about 25 cars, so there's always a bit of a scramble when convention registration opens to get on board.

This year, the pre-convention tour was dubbed the *Maple Leaf Mille*. Event Chairman, er, Wagon Master, Gord Zimmerman laid out a three day course which started at the Thousand Islands with overnight stops in Ottawa, Bancroft and Huntsville. This took a lot of scouting and planning because we were travelling just before the vacation season. With a large group you can't necessarily depend on the service sector in these areas to be prepared to deal with the needs of a group of about 50 people without some warning or coordination.

Since our first rendezvous was at the Hill Island Lodge on the Canadian side of the Lansdowne/Alexandria Bay border crossing, I volunteered to lead anyone willing on a tour from my home town to that point. I had only a few takers, Faisal Huda from the Toronto club, John and Jolene Justus from Missouri and Mark and Marla Highbaugh from Kentucky. Our visitors had trailered their Alfas to the convention hotel, and started out from there. They both left the Delta Meadowvale around 8:30 and by "keeping up with traffic" found themselves in Cobourg by about 9:40. Now that's fast. Another group originating from Detroit came through about midday, were held up by traffic and took at least another hour and a half to make the same distance!

As we gathered in Cobourg, Gord and Sue dropped by for a quick visit before their direct trip to get things ready at Hill Island.

For a change of pace, the rest of us headed off across hill and dale and were rewarded very soon with a nice look at a doe and fawn crossing the road ahead. We made steady progress along the lake

shore to Brighton where we left Highway 2 to follow County Road 64 across the swing bridge over the Murray Canal and then on to Carrying Place. From there we followed the “Loyalist Parkway” through Wellington, Bloomfield (a traditional stop for ice cream there) and Picton to the Lake on the Mountain Resort for lunch.



Faisal Huda, Marla and Mark Highbaugh, George and Adam Beston, Jolene and John Justus. Photographer unknown!

After lunch we took a few photos and crossed the Bay of Quinte on the Glenora Ferry and drove along the water’s edge to Kingston.

We got to see the draw bridge over the mouth of the Catarqui River in action as we left downtown Kingston. We followed Hwy 2 to Gananoque for a refuelling stop and then took the Thousand Islands Parkway to the toll bridge over to Hill Island. When we got there Gord and Sue were already set up with the goody bags and all the paper work we needed to process to start the tour.

Eventually, the rest of the MLM participants made it across the border and joined us at the Hill Island Lodge.

We enjoyed the hors d’oeuvres from Gord and Sue’s bag of tricks, and some duty free rum was available to help ease the stress of the day. Dinner was provided at the Lodge at reasonable rates.

Sunday brought the first full day of the Tour. After breakfast we assembled in two groups. Gord led the first group, and I led the second one. The idea was to travel together and to stay in touch with those at the very back. That’s nearly impossible with one group of 25 cars, but turned out to be doable with only about a dozen cars behind.

We had ideal weather conditions as we toured from Lansdowne to Merrickville through one beautiful small town after another. We stopped in Lyndhurst for a stretch and to admire a stone bridge there. At

one point a kind woman stepped out into her yard and invited anyone so inclined to use her bathroom!

After a pleasant lunch break in Merrickville, we carried on towards the Monterey Inn in Ottawa. As we passed through Manotick we were greeted by a gentleman on the side of the road proudly proclaiming that he was Gord’s brother. Enthusiasm sure runs in the Zimmerman family!

After checking in to the Monterey Inn and preparing ourselves for the evening, we were met by a number of members from the Alfa Romeo Club of Ottawa. They guided us to an organized photo opportunity and to our dinner location, the Canoe Club on the shore of the Ottawa River near Sussex Drive.

The photo op was truly unique. Jeff Woods arranged for permission to pose all of the spiders on the tour around a new sculpture that dominates the open space next to Canada’s National Art Gallery. The sculpture itself is called Maman, and is a towering spider itself. It might sound a little strange, but the sculpture really works in that location, and it was indeed an imposing backdrop for a group picture. We may see more of this in other publications!



Photo by George Beston.

The dinner at the Canoe Club was excellent and many Ottawa members joined us for a celebratory meal. After dinner Gord lead us through an entertaining exercise, asking each one of us to stand and make an impromptu speech to explain “Why I’m an Alfaholic”. The responses ranged from hilarious to touching and it kept the entire group riveted until the final speech.

After saying our thanks to the organizers of this superb event, particularly Rob Toller, and visiting with the Ottawa group for a while, we drove back to the hotel to catch some sleep.

On Monday morning we formed up again and set out to drive up Bank St. and along Rideau St. in front of the Parliament buildings. This is the one time in the whole MLM that we got separated from our groups due to heavy traffic and construction. Most of us were able to re-group along the Parkway,

and we picked up the rest as we crossed back over highway 17 a bit west of town. Thank goodness for cell phones and walkie-talkies.



Photo by George Beston.

Ultimately, we made it to our lunch stop in Calabogie at Shooter's Bar and Grille just about on time.

After lunch we encountered a bit of rain as we traversed over to highway 41 and then 28 on the way to Bancroft. Gord had identified a stretch of construction along highway 28 which was about five km long the week before the tour, but paving had progressed to the point that we only had about 1.5 km of hard packed sand and gravel to ease along at low speed.

The staff at the Sword Hotel in Bancroft was ready for us so we got checked in quickly. It was at this point that the jacks and tools came out to deal with some maladies like a stiff clutch on the Davias' Callaway GTV6, and brake issues with the Hammond's Duetto. Ultimately the GTV6 proved to have two slave cylinder problems, a dislodged adjusting rod and a leaking seal. The rod was re-installed and the leaking seal was cured thanks to the proximity of a CarQuest parts store that provided an O-ring that would do the job, at least temporarily. A wise decision was made to put the Duetto on a trailer until repairs could be made.

The hotel laid on a buffet dinner to accommodate us, and we enjoyed a fairly low-key evening enjoying each other's company.

On Tuesday we made our way north from Bancroft to Maynooth where we had a quick pit stop and then headed over to the southern arm of Algonquin Park and drove along the eastern shore of Elephant Lake. After another photo op, we drove all the way to our lunch stop at Dorset on Lake of Bays through beautiful countryside and interesting places such as Wilberforce, Haliburton, Carnarvon and Ox Narrows.

For the only time on this tour, the spot Gord had picked for us to eat lunch had somehow forgotten about the arrangement, so we crossed the one lane bridge on foot and landed in at the Fiery Grill unannounced.

While the proprietor called in another server or two, Marla Highbaugh, obviously having some life experience at this sort of thing, took it upon herself to distribute menus and take orders to speed up the process. To her everlasting credit, Marla was able to do it, keeping all the orders straight without ruffling the feathers of the staff. It takes a special personality to pull that off!

After lunch the drive to Huntsville was uneventful with the exception that we stopped in Baysville to part with some of our group who were headed to the convention hotel in Mississauga in order to attend the AROC Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday. We made it to Huntsville and checked into our hotel about 20 minutes before a thunderstorm hit.

After the storm swept through we had dinner at the Cottage Waterfront Grille. After dinner we took the opportunity to express our thanks to Gord and Sue for all their hard work on organizing the Maple Leaf Mille.

Our last day allowed us to see more scenic cottage country. Our morning break was in Rosseau where we had a pit stop and perused the offerings at the General Store, Hilltop Interiors and Crossroads Bar & Grill – which is also a convenience store!

The lunch stop for the day was in Big Chute, the site of the Marine Railway which is a vital part of the Trent-Severn waterway. We all enjoyed watching the Marine Railway in action, with its clever arrangement of two sets of tracks, one inside the other. The setup allows the transport of all manner of boats down a steep grade, while keeping them level. The lift (or drop, as the case might be) is actually 60 feet.



View from the top of the Marine Railway. Photo by George Beston.

After lunch at the Big Chute Marina, our final afternoon involved a bit of Highway 400 driving,

but only as far as Highway 9. Our intrepid Wagon Master found yet more scenic roads which got us to the convention hotel and avoided city traffic about 98% of the way.

We arrived at the hotel feeling a real sense of accomplishment. What a great preamble to the convention!

Upcoming ARCC Events

Alfa Club of Edmonton

Date	Time	Event
April 28	11:00 am	Ron's Grease Pit Blowout
May 7	7:30 pm	Speedsters Racing
June 16	TBD	Reynolds Museum
June 23	TBD	Easy Solstice Rally
July 10	TBD	St. Albert Casino
June 17-24		Alfa Canadese
August 7-11	TBD	Rockin' Horse, St Albert
Sept. TBA	TBD	Concourse
Sept. 30	TBD	Pie Run, Stony Plain
Nov. TBA	TBD	Great Italian Eating
Dec. TBA	TBD	Christmas Tree Hunt
January	TBD	Christmas After Party

Toronto Chapter

Date	Time	Event
March 22	7:00 pm	AGM, Scarlett Road
April 21	10:00 am	1st Choice Garage Tour
May 3	7:00 pm	Cruise Night
May 6	TBD	Sunday Drive
June 7	7:00 pm	Cruise Night
June 15-17	TBD	Vintage Festival/Drive
June 17-24		Alfa Canadese
July 5	7:00 pm	Cruise Night
July 8	TBD	Sunday Drive
August 2	7:00 pm	Cruise Night
August 5	1:00pm	RM Tour
Sept. 6	7:00 pm	Cruise Night
Sept. 9	TBD	Europa Rally
Sept. 15	TBD	Alfas and Sevens
Oct. 4	7:00 pm	Cruise Night
Oct. 14	TBD	Fall Wine Tour
Nov. 7	7:00 pm	Pub Night
Nov. 24	6:00 pm	Holiday Dinner

Other Events of Interest

- Members' **Tech Sessions**, whenever possible
- **Italian Day Parade**, June 16, Ottawa
- **Italian Car Day**, July 21, Boyd Park
- **Concorso Canadese**, August 25, Mississauga
- **Grand Prix of Mosport**, ALMS series, July 19-22
- Non-official **Cruise Nights** happen every Thursday evening May to October at the La Paloma location.

Alfa Romeo Club of Canada

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ARCC Update

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