



ARCC UPDATE

May 2014

Fifteen Seconds of Fame

by Ian White, Toronto

I was reminiscing the other day, while watching my GT Junior in an XM satellite radio commercial. I watched my personal copy, of course, but it's available on line too at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLk4f1KHaLQ>

I thought I'd share the story about how my GT Junior came to be in this ad.

It began in August 2003. While at the monthly ARCC Toronto Cruise Night in Woodbridge, I was approached by an individual who said he was looking for a car to use in a TV commercial. I was a little apprehensive. Could I trust this person? This is my baby, my Junior, we're talking about here. I believe they approached a couple of other people that evening with the same request. In the end they wanted to use my car and I cautiously said yes.

I signed some papers and negotiated a price for the use of my car for a weekend shoot. At one time, they offered to outright buy my car. I gave them a price. No deal was struck. I later found out they bought a second car that was also used in the commercial but had a sad fate. More on that later.



Tunes in Traffic ...

A few days before the shoot I delivered the car to a warehouse on Cherry street down in the docks area

in Toronto. I handed over my keys to a complete stranger and nervously said goodbye to my Junior. The commercial was going to be filmed over the weekend of August 15-16 at two locations: Fort York, for the street scene, and for the office scenes, the Bay and Wellington towers, called BCE Place at the time.



Through the lobby ...

The day before the filming the infamous Blackout 2003 happened; it took out the supply of electricity of the north eastern US and Ontario, leaving Toronto without power for hours and even days. So, on the following Monday, I received a call from the production company. They had to reschedule the shoot because no filming was done due to the power outage. Now I would have to leave my car with these strangers for one additional week. They would pay for this time, but that gave me small comfort as I had visions of them killing time, waiting for the weekend shoot, by racing around in my Junior. I have to admit I had a few restless nights of sleep.

Finally, the weekend of the shoot arrived. I went down to the office building location to watch as my Junior was filmed. I found it quite interesting. In one scene of the ad, the car is moving through the lobby of the building under its own power. Not true. I watched two people push my Junior and then quickly get out of the scene to make it appear that

the car was being driven. I left while they were about to film the elevator scene. They had set up in the lobby, where a fake elevator cab had been built around my car. If you've watched the ad and wondered how that Alfa Junior could fit into an actual elevator, now you know.

Which brings me back to the fate of the second Alfa. This appears in the scenes where the car is driven around the office to an individual's workstation. To film this, the production company bought a running GT Junior, removed the engine, and chopped the car into three pieces. Then, these pieces were put into a freight elevator and re-assembled on the office floor. After hearing this, I was so glad I did not sell my Junior to these monsters!



Up the elevator ...

A few days after the filming I received the call to pick up my car. I excitedly headed down to the warehouse on Cherry Street again, looking forward to having my Junior back. Once there, I did a walk around my car, went for a drive, and was satisfied that everything was fine. I signed another form and drove away with a great sigh of relief.



On the way to the desk ...

I now joke that this is the one time my car made money for me instead of me putting money into it. If an opportunity presented itself, would I do it again? I would say yes. It's true that I was nervous about letting complete strangers have access to my Junior for two weeks, but there's not much chance of another Eastern seaboard black out, right?

Besides, I now have an interesting story to tell, an experience I will always remember, and an GT Junior which had its 15 seconds of fame.

Let us not forget that one GT Junior was seriously harmed in the making of this commercial.



Settled in for the morning!

President's Letter

by Alex Csank, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue

This has been an oddball spring so far, but finally all the buds are 'budding' and the leaves are beginning to colour all the tree canopies with a fresh coat of ever-thickening green ... Woo-hoo!

Looking at the club calendars, I am glad to see that there are lots of fun activities being planned by the groups in each locale. If you need more 'car-related' stuff to do, or if you live in an area without a dedicated club, I have noticed that many cities and larger towns seem to have their own versions of the early morning 'Cars and Coffee' events popularized by US-based automotive TV shows. Also, there are often fun meet-ups on weekday evenings, usually held at local drive-in restaurants. Do yourself a favour and go check some of these events out ... and DO take your Alfa; lots of folks LOVE our little Italian machines!

I spoke with Adam Di Carlo from the Toronto club this afternoon about the ARCC website, local websites and social media (Facebook). He, along with Dave Munro — our webmaster — will be working to update and improve the ARCC website very soon. Our objective will be to provide a good

starting point for those interested in finding out about our Canadian Alfa Romeo owners and their national and local clubs. The website should provide a list of current links to the local club websites (where available) and email addresses for local and regional contacts, along with some clear information about the important things that every Canadian Alfista should know. Also, if you are 'Facebook-friendly', please 'like' our Alfa Romeo Club of Canada (ARCC) Facebook page. We currently have 460 people following our page, and that is not too shabby. Most of our fans come from Canada, with Italy and the USA following closely behind. I do my best to update our page daily; sharing Alfa photos and articles as I find them. Please come and check it out.

Planning continues for the 2nd Annual ARCC Regional get-together (Raduno Estivo), scheduled for the 28th and 29th of June. The clubs from Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto will meet up in Kingston and have some fun together, and I really hope that many of you can attend this event. I am still looking for a few volunteers to help with the event planning, and would appreciate any help you can provide. Please don't forget to mail in your registration form for the Raduno as soon as you can. It is just so that we can get a better idea of the number of hotel rooms and dining reservations we will require, and you will not be liable for any charges through the information on the form. I will

publish the details in next month's ARCC Update, so stay tuned.

Finally, you will notice a few changes which have been made to the club calendars and ARCC contacts on the back page of this month's ARCC Update. Please don't forget to send your calendar updates, along with any event photos and/or articles and ideas to George for our newsletter.

Rev high,
Alex

Toronto Chapter Cruise Night

by George Beston, Cobourg

Finally, after what seems like an interminable winter, we were able to enjoy a bright, clear day to assemble and get reacquainted again. Some, like myself, needed to haul out their best excuse as to why they didn't show up driving an Alfa, One way or the other, our turnout was good as there must have been twenty Alfas there. One of the most notable was an outstanding Touring bodied 1900 coupe that is the latest addition to Oliver Collins' fleet.

Below is Oliver Collins' recently acquired Touring 1900 Coupe. Photo by George Beston.



One feature that our club has decided to implement in order to encourage Cruise Night participation is to have a draw amongst the attendees for a paraphernalia item. Frank Scalisi collected slips with individual names on them and then sought out an uninvolved person to make the draw. By that time, most of the innocent bystanders had gone home, so Maged Ghali volunteered. To everyone's relief, Maged didn't win. The prize of a black Alfa Romeo hoodie was won by Ian White. Congratulations, Ian!

Dave Creer brought his very nice Giulia Spider to the cruise night – with a “For Sale” sign on it. Dave is moving and needs to reduce his automobile inventory, so the Giulia had to go.

The good news is that Dave was able to conclude a sale within two days of the cruise night. I suppose it's a case of “you snooze, you lose” for the rest of us, but all we can do is be happy for Dave and to wish him well.



Maged Ghali draws the winning ticket from the hat of names held up by Frank Scalisi. The winner was Ian White, the owner of the briefly famous GT Junior featured in the page one article.

Below is the ex-Dave Creer Giulia.

Photos on this page by George Beston.



C.A.R.M. News

by Alex Csank, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue

Where is our spring sunshine? Tick-tock... isn't it time for some better weather? Hopefully, by the time the weekend of the 24th rolls around and we head out for our first 'driving tour', we will have sun and warmer temperatures!

On a very windy and wet Saturday back on April the 26th, a small group of us met up for a little bistro lunch at the Café Milano in Montreal's Saint-Léonard borough, from 1:00 pm through about 3:00 pm. We discussed one of our member's newly purchased GTV6 Balocco (see photos), which is being prepared by Glenn Gaudin at the Heavy Metal Alfa shop in Maine. It has been freshly repainted in its original red, and is now hosting a tuned 3.0L 12V 164S engine. I look forward to driving down to pick it up with Roger soon!



Photo by Glen Gaudin.

Our first real driving event of the season will be our Eastern Townships Tour, being held on Saturday May 24th, beginning at 9:30 am. We will meet-up at the Tim Horton's at 7305 Grand Allée in St- Hubert near Highway 30. The route is about 200km through the rolling hills using country roads. We will stop for lunch in Frelighsburg at the quaint General Store and take another break on Lakeside Avenue in Knowlton to stretch and so the ladies can have fun shopping at the Jones of New York Outlet, while others have a beverage at a local watering hole nearby. Eventually, after passing through some more historic villages and enjoying the terrific scenery, we will enjoy a small treat at the Chocolate Museum and a supper in the village of Bromont at another General Store.

Please join us if you can! RSVP to our tour leaders: Lucie & Jean- Michel at 514-219-5358.

Alfetta Engine Rebuild

by George Beston, Cobourg

I've spent a lot of time under the hood freshening up my Alfetta's engine compartment. After many years and more than a few modifications, the surfaces in there needed help. It took many hours to clean, sand, mask off, prepare, prime and paint the area. Thankfully, I was able to custom order acrylic enamel spray bomb paint from Car Quest in my car's Piper Yellow colour for use in the project. Now there are a few more hours to be spent removing the masking and reinstalling all those peripheral pieces.



Photo by George Beston.

In days gone by, I'd be fascinated by any article on an engine rebuild, and tempted to write my own article about it as I proceed in my current project. With the existence of the Alfa BB, that would be pointless! As a guide to my project, I have been following a thread on the BB posted by one of our members. If you have an interest and want to look it up, check out Vin's S4 Engine Rebuild. Not all of this thread is relevant to an older engine like mine, but internally the engines are very similar, so it provided me a lot of information and guidance.

What I value most is that a thread like this one contains a lot of discussion amongst the author and other BB members. From that, the reader can consider and evaluate all of the opinions expressed, and then make up his or her own mind as to how to proceed. So far, I've been able to complete the rebuild of the short block and I'm ready to put the cylinder head back on as soon as I get it back from the machine shop.

Upcoming ARCC Events

Regional representatives are requested to send your 2014 events calendars to the secretary or the editor for inclusion in the next issue.

Club Alfa Romeo de Montréal

Date	Time	Event
Feb 16	1:00 pm	Valentine's Day Lunch
March 22	1:00 pm	Tech Session
April 12	TBD	Spring Lunch
May 10	TBD	VEA Rally
June 8	TBD	Grand Prix Barbeque
June 14	TBD	Ottawa Italian Car Day
June 15	TBD	Fathers' Day Veterans Tribute Car Show
June 28-29		Raduno Estivo
July 6	TBD	Fiat Breakout - Montréal
July 12	TBD	Sommet des Légendes
July 18-21		Grand Prix of Mosport
July 23-27		AROC Convention
August 3		Baie d'Urfé vintage car show (VAQ)
August 30	TBD	Ride to Rigaud
Sept 13	TBD	Wine Tour
Sept 26-28		Hemmings Concours
Sept 28	TBD	Raduno Montebello
Oct 18	TBD	Fun Rally
Nov 29	TBD	Holiday Party

Toronto Chapter

Date	Time	Event
May 6	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
May 19	9:30 am	Pancake Drive
June 3	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
June 13-15	TBD	Vintage Festival / Drive
June 15	TBD	Yorkville Exotic Car Show
June 22	TBD	Europa Rally
June 28-29	TBD	Raduno Estivo
July 8	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
July 18-21	TBD	Grand Prix of Mosport
July 19	9:00 am	Italian Car Day
July 23-27	TBD	AROC Convention
August 5	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
August 24	TBD	Marque d'Elegance
Sept 2	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
Sept 14	TBD	Fall Tour
Oct 7	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
Nov 29	6:00 pm	Holiday dinner

Alfa Romeo Club of Edmonton

Date	Time	Event
May 18		Spring Road Trip
June 14		History of Road at Reynolds
June 21		Around Town Rally
July 8		Apex Casino Meeting
July 20		European Car Show Calgary
August ??		Viva Italia
Sept 7		Concours d'Eleganza
Sept 21		Apple Harvest Leduc
Dec 14		Christmas Tree Slaughter
Jan 2015		Alfa Christmas Party

Alfa Romeo Club of Canada

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