



# ARCC UPDATE

September 2014

## *President's Letter*

by Alex Csank, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue

Hi folks

There are lots of fun things to do during our short Canadian summers, but for me there is nothing more fun than taking my GTV6 for a spin and "straightening out a few curves" on a quiet, country road. Fortunately, I live in a place where I can engage my passion on a regular basis. There are all kinds of ways to play with your Alfa, and I hope that you are all taking the time this summer to have a bit of Alfa fun! Some of you may prefer going vintage racing in a well-prepared GTV, while others enjoy displaying your little Italian beauty, or perhaps a 'Cruise Night' or a driving tour is more your style. Regardless of how you most enjoy your Alfa Romeo, the best part of our 'driving season' is happening right now – in the late days of summer and early autumn. Looking at our club calendars, there are lots of great events planned, including wine tours, driving tours, weekend road trips, cruise nights, concours d'elegance and rallies. I encourage you all to join your Alfisti friends and make the best of the remaining weeks of the Alfa driving season!

In the news: The new 4C will soon be available to the lucky few who have already placed their orders, while the arrival of other models like the Giulietta and the new midsize Giulia will likely have to wait until later in 2015. Alfa is also working on a new 6C model to compete with Jaguar's new F-Type. As always with Alfa Romeo, I will just take a "wait and see" approach to any media generated announcement.

As always, please send me your feedback and suggestions about this and any other club related issues anytime.

Rev high!

Alex

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## *Newfoundland in a '91 Spider*

by Gord Zimmerman and Sue Ferguson, Bobcaygeon

What a great trip we had! Six weeks of top down weather (except for 4 days) driving from home in Bobcaygeon to Newfoundland and back.



*Reach out and touch an iceberg!*

We drove a total of 5,447 miles (8,715 km) in our '91 Spider that has 111,000 miles on the clock. We averaged an incredible 36.8mpg (7.7 l/100km) and spent \$967.34 on hi-test fuel. Before the trip I had Pino do an oil change and go through the car checking all the mechanicals. He replaced an axle seal, the differential gasket and a suspect alternator. Brakes, shocks and ball joints were all good. With 4 new (higher profile) Cooper tires we were good to go.

We left on July 11th after finding enough room to pack our warm & cool weather clothes, camera, maps, cooler, spare oil, a few tools, some rags along with our trusty wash kit, a California Duster. By July 17th we were on the ferry from North Sydney Nova Scotia. After six hours we were driving off the ferry in Port au Basque, Newfoundland. Sure can see why it is called "The Rock".

Using our GPS we found all the B&B's we had booked for our 4 week trip around the Island. I can't describe the fun we had there – it would take a book. Suffice to say every day was an adventure.

We thoroughly enjoyed the local cooking. We had cod, halibut, Fish & Brewis, Jiggs Dinner, lobster, mussels, moose burgers, Truckers Mess,

scrunchions, toutons, Cod au Gratin, Mang, cod tongues and cod cheeks along with fried, mashed & baked spuds. All this was washed down with refreshments from Quidi Vidi Brewery "Iceberg" beer (yes, made with water melted from icebergs), "1892" and a proliferation of ales and lagers. The beer was good but after a teeth jarring drive I found that a Newfoundland rum was perfect at the end of the day. Sue liked her wine from all over the world. The rum had names like "Iceberg", "Newfoundland White" as well as "Screech".

For breakfasts we had homemade bread with partridge berry, blueberry and bake apple jams with our eggs and bacon.



*Sue and Gord at Gros Morne.*

We hiked on trails all around the Island, went cod fishing and out-island touring by boat, seeing some of the coast from which the fisherman of the 1800's and 1900's fished. We met fishermen using boats ranging from small dories to 60' long liners. We met the mayors of some of the out ports and even attended the opening of a Museum in Botwood.

We even got "screeched" in St. John's.

The wildlife we saw included Moose on the road, behind fences and even in a grave yard.



*Moose on roadside – fine as long as they stay there!*

We touched icebergs in Leading Tickle and watched whales feed from the rocks off Newman's Cove for a couple of hours. We saw caribou on the road, lynx, owls, eagles, puffins, gannets & kittiwakes. There

was a pod of seals in one of the coves. We feasted on berries we picked on our walks. But most of all were the fantastic views. The hospitality and friendship we experienced from the locals was unforgettable from fisherman, wives, kids, grocers and innkeepers.

The plays, pageants and musical events we attended were priceless. Sue danced with the ugly stick. What a hoot! We were all singing and laughing at a kitchen party. Generally we met all the actors or musicians before or after the performance. Some were famous poets and play wrights. I found room in the Alfa for about a dozen CDs and some books.

Our trip took us to Swift Current where we met Vern Smith and he took us on a personal tour of the most fantastic car collection in Canada. It's worth checking out on the Internet. Vern even played the organ for us. He has over fifty 99.9/100 point cars in his climate controlled building located down an unassuming road in the middle of Newfoundland – who would have thought?



*Vern's antique car collection.*

I took some of our new-found friends for a drive in the Alfa. Before we returned home the whole village knew about "Tom's trip in that little red foreign car".

Our travels took us to St. Teresa, Corner Brook, Lark Harbour, Bottle Cove, Rocky Harbour, Gros Morne, Springdale, Roberts Arm, Triton, Grand Falls-Windsor, Botwood, Leading Tickle, Norris Arm, Lewisport, Twillingate, Deadman's Bay, Gambo, Salvage, Dildo, Bonavista, Trinity, Dunfield, Cupids, Winterton, New Perlican, Harbour Grace, Swift Current, Spaniard's Bay, St. John's, Cape Spear, Trepassey, St. Shot, Placentia. Finally after 33 days we boarded the 12 hour ferry back to North Sidney.

The driving took a lot of skill and care. We had to look out for potholes, climb some tough grades on every type of road from the main Trans Canada to the secondary roads. We got a kick out of some of the highway signs such as a moose trampling on a car, a motorcycle going over bumps, and of course

beware of pot holes – they were everywhere. I almost lost my teeth on one drop off. I thought the Alfa would break a spring shock or some other suspension part but we survived with just a scratch on a wheel. The suspension will need a full check now that we're back home. The only difficulties we had were adding oil every 1,000 miles, and our custom steering wheel started to come loose on its hub from all the jarring. I had an Allen wrench and Phillips screw driver and was able to tighten it up so all was good. We found out what a Squishy road is (see below) and what *smot* means – some hot!



*Fun Newfoundland road sign.*

Sue sent an email to the NFLD Down home magazine which describes the roads the best.

*"We have just completed the full TCH transit in a 1991 Alfa Romeo Spider red sports car and can certainly empathize with your pavement descriptions. We slalomed our way across the country as we enjoyed the fabulous sights, food & of course the Newfoundland hospitality. Dodging potholes was a fulltime job because we wanted to return the car as well as ourselves in one piece. It forced us to slow down and savour the province for sure. Gravel roads are something we would never cross in this car in Ontario but to get full enjoyment we ventured across some to get to the end of the smaller roads & see the villages. The roads are fabulous – it is just the surface that needs TLC."*

With an overnight passage on the Ferry we arrived back in North Sydney and decided to do the Cabot Trail before heading home. What a great adventure! We learned so much about a province we all just take for granted.

*All photos in Gord's article by author.*

## **C.A.R.M. News**

**by Alex Csank, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue**

August was a busy Alfa month, with some of our members participating in a vintage car show in Baie D'Urfé on Sunday, the 3rd and a nice drive through the Eastern Townships on the 23rd. We also had a CARM driving tour, our annual "Ride to Rigaud" held on the 30th.

Ride to Rigaud Recap – Meeting on a bright and warm morning on the last Saturday in August, three GTV6s, one European Alfetta GT and a couple of young guests who joined us in a Saab 900 Turbo headed out for a nice late summer ride through the suburbs and into the countryside to the west of Montreal. We proceeded via the lakeshore road through towns and historic villages, passing by all the expensive estates and homes situated along the shore of Lac St. Louis, eventually making our way off the big island, we turned onto a country road on Ile Perrot, following along until arriving at Quinn Farm, where we took our first break and purchased some fresh vegetables, fruits and other local products. Once ready, we proceeded off the island and into old Dorion, driving along more country roads towards St. Clet, following the twisty lanes into Rigaud, where we stopped for some photos and another short break at the Catholic Sanctuary. Continuing along the twisty and smile inducing lane towards our lunch stop at Restaurant Rube, we were greeted by the owner who provided us with some excellent gourmet burgers and pulled-pork BBQ sandwiches. Well fed, we took a side trip and visited my friend George's woodlot and farm, where we drooled over some of his collection of interesting old cars and other equipment. Our final leg took us down into Hudson, where we were scheduled to take the ferry across to Oka, but the line up was very long, so we decided to skip that final portion of the drive. It was a great day, with some terrific roads and food.



*Alfas on the "Ride to Rigaud". Photo by Alex Csank.*

## 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
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

### Calgary Alfa Marque Society

Date	Time	Event
May 29	TBD	Garage Tour
June 14	TBD	Reynolds Museum Show
July 19	TBD	Stanley Park European car show

## Alfa Romeo Club of Canada

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## 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 28	10:30 am	Rattlesnake Run
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 24	10:00 am	Viva Italia
Sept 7		Concours d'Eleganza
Sept 21	12:30 pm	Apple Harvest Leduc
Dec 14		Christmas Tree Slaughter
Jan 2015		Alfa Christmas Party

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