



# ARCC UPDATE

November 2015

## *President's Letter*

by Alex Csank, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue

The leaves have all fallen now and most of us have brought our snow tires out of storage and put our Alfas to bed (in storage), for their long winter's nap. Putting some nice Pirelli snow tires, already mounted on 4 nice alloy rims onto the Abarth, this will be the first year in quite a while where I will be driving an Italian car in the winter. While we will try to avoid using it in the worst weather (that job is reserved for my Jeep), we will be using the Abarth on the better days when the snow, salt and ice aren't at their worst. I'm hoping that we'll have a mild winter with not too much of the white stuff.

So now – as we begin decorating for the holidays, we also begin the process of planning our events for next year's driving season. By the time you read this letter, I will have already met with the leaders of most of the Italian car clubs from Montreal, Ottawa and the GTA (an association we call *AMICI*) to discuss our coordinated events for 2016. I will have also discussed the combined North American Alfa Romeo Club convention – ALFA EXPO 2017 – with them, as I am hopeful that we can combine our Concourse event with other Italian marques to create a Canadian version of the Monterey California *Concorso Italiano*.

While on that topic, I will be using this column to present and discuss the progress of our planning for ALFA EXPO 2017 as we move ever closer towards the event. This month, I would like to lay out the basics for you and provide the schedule, theme and major convention events.

Each year, for over 50 years now, the Alfa Romeo Owners Club USA has held a national club

convention, which is a large-scale gathering of Alfisti, who get together to socialize; share knowledge, parts and stories; enjoy some great road tours; engage in friendly competition events like Autocross (slalom solo racing), Time Trials (at a track), Rallies and Concourses (Show and Shine); and conduct some club business like electing club directors to form the executive for the upcoming year. The ARCC has always been included as invited guests, and many of our members attend these conventions regularly. Those of you who have attended know how much fun they can be, and those who haven't yet experienced a convention ... you really should!

In 2012, our Toronto club, with the astute leadership of members Oliver Collins and John Pickering – who acted together as Co-Chairs – hosted the first combined North American Alfa Romeo clubs convention, *Alfa Canadese*. This terrific event was very well received and was a great success. Many Alfa owners attended the convention, some traveling from as far away as California and Florida ... and **most** attendees drove their Alfas from their homes and back! The US-based conventions of 2013, 2014 and 2015 are now behind us, and the 2016 convention will be held in Nashville, Tennessee next summer. Looking ahead towards Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of both Expo '67 and the unveiling of the Alfa Romeo Montreal prototype, and because Montréal also happens to be celebrating its 375<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2017, our Club Alfa Romeo de Montréal (CARM) has been awarded the 2nd North American Alfa Romeo club convention, which will take place from Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, with pre-convention tours available for those who wish to participate from Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, through Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.

Here's a breakdown of the proposed convention schedule:

### ***Monday through Wednesday***

**Voyageur Tours** (3 days). Pre-Convention tour groups departing from Kingston, Ontario to Montréal through Ottawa and other locations.

### ***Thursday***

#### ***Official Convention Start Day***

**AROC USA and ARCC Board of Directors Meetings** (morning). With a combined one hour session at 10:00 AM.

**Track Day/Time Trials** (afternoon). Track and details TBD (tentative plan).

**Bienvenue Supper** (evening). Welcome reception at a rustic *Cabane au Sucre* with *Québécoise* live music, foods and ambiance.

### ***Friday***

**Alfa Romeo Montreal 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Brunch**. (morning) for Alfa Romeo Montreal owners.

**Orange Julep Lunch** (midday). Informal drive-in dining at this famous local landmark.

**Gimmick Rally** (afternoon). Start at Orange Julep, finish at the convention hotel. Rally includes a lap of the Gilles Villeneuve Formula One track and a driving tour around the site of Expo '67.

**See Montréal Activity Day** (all day). Pre-arranged boat, walking and bus tours in the city.

**Méchoui Cook-Out** (evening). A relaxed BBQ-style event with live music, outdoors if weather permits.

**Meetings** (evening). At hotel (Newsletter Editors, AlfaBB, Digests, Convention Teams, etc.).

### ***Saturday***

**Autocross/ Solo II** (all day). At Blainville Test Track, north of Montréal. Picnic style food available.

**Driving Tours** (all day). Choice of three scenic tours, depart from and return to Hotel.

**Technical Seminars** (late afternoon). At hotel.

**Banquet** (evening). Hotel ballroom with live music; short on speeches and interruptions.

### ***Sunday***

**Concorso Italiano Canadese** (morning). Featuring the Montreal. Combined with other Italian car clubs, but marques will be placed and

judged separately. Food, drinks and bathrooms available.

**Model Car and Art Judging** (morning). Indoors at Concorso location.

**Awards Reception and Closing** (midday). Brunch and farewells.

**Post Convention Supper** (evening). Local restaurant. Pay as you go, optional event for those who just can't leave.

If you would like to help out with the planning, please let me know. We have lots of work left to do.

Please keep sending me your feedback, and also your photos, articles and ideas for the newsletter. George Beston is always looking for your input for upcoming editions.

Rev high!

Alex

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## ***CARM News***

by Alex Csank, Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue

The weather was pretty nice through most of October in the Montréal area and it enabled us to enjoy our last driving event of the season. Several of our members, and a couple of guests met at a Tim Horton's in Saint-Eustache on the morning of Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> for our annual *Autumn Leaves* drive.



We ventured north from our departure point, winding our way through the countryside towards the southern part of the Laurentian hills, before turning southwest and passing through the picturesque town of Lachute. Following the meandering country roads with the local forests, farms and woodlots all ablaze with rich colours in every possible shade of red, gold, green and

brown, we made our way to the shores of the Ottawa River. Once there we boarded the small ferry boat near the Carillon dam and crossed the river. We waited patiently once we arrived for the ferry to make another trip, as one of our wayward members had been left behind while using the restroom. We were glad that he had left his keys in his car, as otherwise he would have had to pay for three trips (across, back and across again) instead of just the one!



Once we were all present and accounted for, we zigzagged our way through the town of Rigaud and up the hill towards the historic Catholic Sanctuary.



Stopping briefly for photographs and a leg stretch, we snaked our way up and over the top of Mont Rigaud on some terrific twisty roads, arriving for a visit at the hidden country home of one of our members, where we all enjoyed viewing his very eclectic and extensive collection of vintage cars, motorcycles and other equipment just as Mother Nature decided to provide us with our first real dose of snowflakes. Eventually, we left and made our way to Rube's Restaurant for a tasty and relaxed lunch, before heading eastward back home.



Although the driving season is over, we will still be able to enjoy each other's company, as we will be enjoying our annual *Pot Luck* party on November 28<sup>th</sup> at the Saintannétarium, where Alex and Diane (its only inmates) will host our gang for a fun game of horse trading that we call a "Gift Exchange". More winter season events will follow, with a technical session in January, a Valentine's dinner in February, a lunch in March and a pizza night in April. In May, we'll get back into our driving events with a springtime gimmick rally. If you get a chance, please join us for any of our upcoming events.



*CARM members at a rest stop on their Autumn Leaves tour. Photos by Nathan Van Egmond.*

## ***Preparing your Alfa for Winter***

**by Marc Faubert, Gatineau**

By now your cars have likely been tucked away in winter storage. Early November was uncommonly mild for the Ottawa area which allowed us to squeeze in a few extra drives.

It's always with a bit of sadness that I go through my little ritual of winterizing my Italian cars. We all have our checklist; fog the engine, moth balls, steel wool in exhaust, rosary hanging from rear view mirror etc. One item that is common for most is an oil change.

If you have never performed an oil change on your car, here are two tried and true options for you to consider.



**Method 1** (this is how I do it):

1. Go for a spirited drive to get that oil warmed up. I use this time to pick up oil and a filter at the auto parts store. Car requires 7 litres so I need 2 X 5L at \$30 each. Oil filter is around \$10. Total cost \$70 and about 45 minutes of your time.
2. Locate floor jack and axle stands. 30 minutes.
3. Jack up car and secure with axle stands. 10 minutes.
4. Get your 24 mm socket and oil drip pan and crawl under car. 3 minutes.
5. Wiggle yourself from underneath and get the correct socket which is 27 mm for my 1980 Spider. 5 minutes.
6. Remove plug and drain used oil on driveway and drip pan in a 25-75% ratio. Drop plug in used oil. 3 minutes.
7. Extricate yourself from under car and get your oil filter wrench. Attempt to remove oil filter. 30 minutes.
8. Bang your head against the oil sump and get a large screwdriver and hammer. 3 minutes.
9. Drive screwdriver through the oil filter and turn counter clockwise using your preferred swear words as lubricant. 20 minutes.
10. Ensure that any further oil spillage is either evenly spread on your driveway, or runs up your arm all the way to your armpit.
11. Replace copper washer from drain plug or re-anneal using a blow torch. This will likely require a trip to the hardware store for a fresh propane tank. 45 minutes.
12. Go back to auto parts store and get the correct oil filter. 45 minutes.
13. Smear a light dab of oil on rubber gasket and reinstall oil filter. Hand tight plus a quarter turn. 3 minutes.
14. Bang your head against oil sump.
15. Remove the OLIO cap and pour in fresh oil. 3 minutes.

16. As quickly as possible, get back under car and install drain plug. Torque setting should be 51-58 ft/lb. 2 seconds.
17. Check oil level and update your maintenance log. 5 minutes.
18. Wash everything up and enjoy a cold beverage while admiring your handiwork. 60 minutes.

Total time: 5 hours, 10 minutes, 2 seconds. Total cost: \$70 excluding propane tank, gas and cold beverage.

**Method 2**

1. Drive to your local Alfa mechanic. If you don't have one, contact your local Alfa Romeo club chapter for recommendations. Membership has its privileges.
2. Enjoy a complimentary espresso and catch up on the latest issue of Hemmings Motor News.
3. Give mechanic \$50 and drive home.



Total time: 20 minutes. Total cost: \$50 excluding gasoline.

The choice is yours my friends.

**Stamps, Cards and Anniversaries**

by Peter Marshall, Billingshurst, U.K.



John Lewington's excellent article in the October issue prompts my reply. My own Alfa stamp interest has gone into envelopes and cards. The card illustrated above carries a post marked date of 25.1.62. The image on the Repubblica di San Marino 150 Lire stamp is marked 'ALFA 1910' on the top left corner. The images superimposed on the Alfa Romeo badge are a 20/30 HP in the centre and, clockwise from 2 o'clock, a P3, a 159, a 2000 sprint and a P2.

The card below celebrates Alfa Romeo's word championship in 1975. Both post marks are dated 8-5-1976, and the card also carries a 40 Lire stamp of the Italian Republic.



However it was a postcard that caught my eye and I can picture a trivia quiz night at the local hostelry ...

“When did Alfa celebrate their 100th anniversary?”

And the answer comes back as quick as a flash ~ “2010”.

“When did Alfa celebrate their 50th?” ~ “1960”.

“No!”

There is their well known brochure which celebrates “50 Anni Di Alfa Romeo” – words printed boldly on the cover – and on opening here is what one sees:



But, I also have a charming little post card that says otherwise. It has never been posted and there is only an uncompleted message from Alfa Romeo on it. When you release a little tab at the back of the door (!) there is a concertina drop-down fold-out showing the full 1956 Alfa Romeo range, and titled as such. (eight of eleven shown below) There is no other explanation of 1906.



A likely explanation is that in December 1905 S.I.A.D., *Societa Italiana Automobili Darracq* moved from Naples to Milan, so would have started production in 1906.

Being close to bankruptcy in 1909, the *Banca Agricola Milanese* came to the rescue with a big loan and on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1910 the name was changed to *Anonima Lombarda Fabbrica Automobili*. Hence that is the date now celebrated as Alfa's beginning, and doubtless Fusi's book *TUTTE LE VETTURE DAL 1910* contributed to that.

## Upcoming ARCC Events

Regional representatives are requested to send your 2015 events calendars to the secretary or the editor for inclusion in the next issue.

### Club Alfa Romeo de Montréal

Date	Time	Event
January 24		Annual Meeting and Lunch
February 21		Tech Session
March 28		Cabane à Sucre
April 18		Lunch Meeting
May 9		Springtime Tour
May 23		Laurentians Fun Rallye
June 6		Grand Prix Expo (Club Fiat)
June 7		Grand Prix Expo, Barbeque
June 14		Fathers' Day Veterans Tribute Car Show
June 21		Fathers' Day Tribute Car Show
June 20-21		Ottawa Italian Festival
June 22-28		AROC USA Convention
July 5		Fiat Breakout - Montréal
July 25		Mid-Summer Drive
August 8		Italian Car Day, Woodbridge
August 22-23		Raduno Estivo, Kingston
Sept 12		Super Auto Show, Mirabel
Sept 19-20		Lake Placid Road Trip
Sept 27		Raduno Montebello
October 3		Vineyard Tour
October 17		Fall Colours Drive
November 28		Holiday Party

### Alfa Romeo Club of Edmonton

Date	Time	Event
May 2		Tech session – "up your hoist"
June 14		Reynolds History Road
June 20		Solstice Rally
August		Viva Italia
Sept 12		Concourse

### Toronto Chapter

Date	Time	Event
May-October, First Tuesday	7:00 pm	Cruise Night – La Paloma
May 18		Victoria Day Pancake Drive
June 21		VARAC Vintage Festival
June 22-28		AROC USA Convention
June 28		Rattlesnake Point Run
August 8		Italian Car Day, Woodbridge
August 22-23		Raduno Estivo, Kingston
Sept 27		Raduno Montebello
November 28	7:00 pm	Holiday Dinner

### Calgary Alfa Marque Society

Date	Time	Event
May 24		Airport Tunnel Car Show
May 29		Garage Tour
June 14		Reynolds Museum Show
July 19		Stanley Park European Car Show

### Alfa Romeo Club - Ottawa

Date	Time	Event
May 9		Springtime Tour
May 23		Laurentians Fun Rallye
June 20-21		Ottawa Italian Festival
Sept 27		Raduno Montebello

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