



# ARCC UPDATE

March 2019

## President's Letter

by Alex Csank, Vankleek Hill

Alfisti,

Springtime is finally here! Soon enough, we'll be able to find roads without all the salt, sand, gravel, ice and snow that makes winter driving for most of our Alfas uninviting. Of course, winter is just the time for the newer (non-Quadrifoglio) Giulias and Stelvios with their capable all wheel drive systems to display their traction and control capability. I hope that those of you with the newer Alfas will give us some feedback on how your cars performed over the winter.

All the local clubs are busy working on planning a terrific list of upcoming events, and by the look of things, it will be another great year of fun activities for everyone. ARCC and your local clubs wouldn't be able to function without the few, but very hard-working volunteers who put together, plan and run the events and keep you informed about all the local activities. On all of our behalf, I extend a big "Thank You!" to the leaders, planners and others who give so generously of their time, efforts and resources to make club membership worthwhile.

### Annual General Meetings (AGMs)

CARM held their Annual General Meeting in January; in Ottawa and Toronto, plans are set to hold AGMs in April. For local clubs these meetings are important gatherings, as the annual activity calendars are presented, budgets and other items are discussed, and any administrative or leadership changes take place. Please make the effort to attend your local AGM. And if you have any suggestions or feedback, or ideas for events – *especially if you want to help* – please contact your club's leadership; they can't do it without you! We are also planning to hold an ARCC Executive meeting to include all local club leaders and others once the coming driving season winds down in October or early November.

### Raduno Estivo 2019

Regionally, I'm busy with other Italian Car club leaders from Montréal, Ottawa and Toronto putting together plans for this summer's annual *Raduno Estivo* weekend gathering, which will be held in Belleville, Prince Edward County, Kingston, Gananoque and 1000 Islands in eastern Ontario on the weekend of the 26<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup> of July. This event is limited to just 80 attendees (about 40 cars) from many of the Italian Car clubs from the Montréal, Ottawa and Toronto areas, so if you would like to attend, please let your club leadership know as soon as you can.

### AROC USA 2019 Convention



From our *Alfisti* friends to the south: Experience the excitement of attending a convention amidst a renowned car festival! The 2019 AROC Convention Cortile Della Corsa 2019 (translating

to “Courtyard of Racing”), honours Alfa’s racing history. A wide choice of events and activities await attendees in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. From the very popular pre-convention tours, to a track day, autocross, go-karting, a vintage car parade through downtown Pittsburgh, dinner at the Pittsburgh Golf Club, and a car show and concours weekend – including spectating at the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix historic races – all await lucky participants. As a member of ARCC, you are welcome to register. To enjoy the vintage racing event or to participate in the pre-convention tours, save Friday, July 12 to July 21 on your calendar. The traditional convention activities commence on Tuesday, July 16 and run through Sunday, July 21. Registration information is at:

<http://www.threeriversalfisti.org/cortile-della-corsa>.

### ***Spring is Coming – I Promise!***

In about a month, we’ll be able to get back on the roads in our favourite older Alfas (and 4Cs), flex our springs, shocks and bushings, and feel the flow of the oil, hydraulic fluid and coolant through our lively machines once again! Remember that it’s a great idea to invite friends along as guests. They will be very welcome, and you just never know when one of them might catch the Alfa virus!

Diane and I wish you all the best and hope to see you at one of the many activities we are planning to attend this year. And remember! Please keep sending me your feedback, and also your photos, articles and ideas for the newsletter. George Beston needs your input for upcoming ARCC Updates.

Rev high!

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## ***CARM Annual Meeting***

**by Jean-Michel Reysset, Montréal**

CARM (Club Alfa Romeo de Montréal) held its General Assembly on January 26, 2019 with 13 members in attendance. Also attending as guests were the ARCO (Alfa Romeo Club of Ottawa) president and a few ARCO members.

Following introductions and a quick recap of 2018 activities, the meeting moved on to present the state of the club finances. Club expenses covered day-to-day operations, payment for a few event expenses, and door prizes during club events like the year-end supper. CARM ended the year with a small surplus.

CARM leadership and committee membership was then discussed. The President’s mandate was renewed. Club members volunteered to assist with specific club activities and become part of the Committee. Roles and responsibilities of the club committee will be defined at future meetings. Various tasks and responsibilities assigned included volunteers to the club’s committee who will have the following roles:

1. Swag (designing and purchasing CARM polo shirts and other accessories which will carry the CARM logo);
2. Treasurer and Membership;
3. Assistant for CARM touring events planning;
4. Website and Member Directory (including member and car photos);
5. Facebook Page

In 2018 CARM paid memberships totalled 50 members. Membership fees will remain the same for 2019. Current CARM members will, upon their renewal for 2019 receive a CARM logoed Polo shirt. For new members and their partners, the Polo will be offered at cost price. Members will be encouraged to wear them at CARM outings.

CARM will be preparing a photo montage of club members and their significant others for the club member directory. Members are asked to provide a photo of themselves (or as a couple) with their Alfa(s). This will help put a face to the drivers of each car. In addition, we will be updating the CARM website to post upcoming CARM events and chronicle club activities.

As in previous years CARM is planning some great events and outings. We will strive to create activities that are fun for all participants and maximize time behind the wheel and do our best to update CARM members of any changes to the calendar due to inclement weather, low member participation or other unexpected events. The tradition of *Espresso e Biscotti* compliments of Alfa Romeo des Sources will continue this year with a slight change. These events will be now be held approximately every 3 months and will be associated with various CARM events.

Based on our previous successes CARM will continue to plan for joint club activities with other Italian Car clubs. The intent is to hold events that allow to us share our passion with a larger group of enthusiasts, open the door to well-attended and diverse activities while maintaining each club’s separate identity. Additional activities have been discussed that are of longer duration and distance. These include a four to seven day road

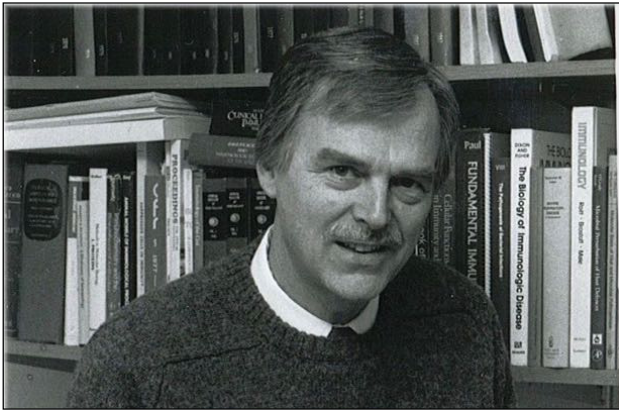
trip to join the AROC convention in Pittsburgh, a whale-watching excursion in the Charlevoix region and possibly a tour of the Gaspé. CARM will reach out to its members to gauge interest in these events as they require additional planning and, with the exception of the Pittsburgh trip, may be scheduled for 2020.

The meeting and lunch ended over coffee and hopes for an early spring.

Just a few more weeks before we uncover our Italian beauties.

## ***Bruce Wilkie 1941-2019***

by George Beston, Cobourg



*Photo from Guelphtoday.com.*

For those who may not have known Bruce, he has been a member of our club almost as long as it has existed. I first met him and his wife Dorothy in Belleville at an ARCC national convention back in the 1970's. Over the years he has participated in many club events and shown great enthusiasm for Alfa Romeo, owning many nice Alfas and getting into SCCA vintage racing with a right hand drive GTA. When that got too precious, he switched to the beautiful Roman Tucker prepared step nose Giulia GT pictured here.



*Photo by Ken Lee.*

In my experience, Bruce was a real gentleman, and I'm very happy that we shared a common interest or two. He will be missed.

The following is the obituary that appeared in a Guelph newspaper shortly after his passing. It gives the reader some idea of what a gifted and accomplished individual we've had in our midst. It's ironic that this respected immunologist was also an avid propagator of the "Alfa Virus".

### ***Bruce Wilkie***

***January 19, 1941 – February 25, 2019***

Survived by his wife Dorothy (nee Gibb) of 53 years and his daughter Carla (Peter) of Squamish. Bruce was born in Perth, Scotland and emigrated to Vancouver in 1955. He graduated from North Vancouver High School in 1958 then attended UBC for two years prior to acceptance into the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph, Ontario. Bruce graduated in 1965 from the OVC, winning the Winegard medal as the top student. The same year he married Dorothy Ann Gibb, whom he'd met during High School.

After a year of clinical practice in Chilliwack, BC, Bruce and Dorothy moved to New York state where Bruce completed his PhD at Cornell University in 1971 in Veterinary Immunopathology. Two years of post-doctoral work in Bern, Switzerland was followed by an appointment to the Ontario Veterinary College in 1973, as professor of Veterinary Immunomicrobiology.

Bruce had a distinguished career at the University until retiring in 2006, after which he was granted the title University Professor Emeritus honouring his outstanding research record and significant contribution to the training and development of numerous graduate students. In 2015 the OVC Alumni Association named Bruce the Distinguished Sciences Alumnus for his long, productive academic career. Notable, Bruce and his colleague Patricia Shewen developed a highly successful vaccine for Shipping Fever Pneumonia in cattle, called Presponse. This innovation earned a Bronze Trophy in the 1989 Canada Awards for Business Excellence. Bruce also proudly organized the first International Veterinary Symposium, held in 1986 in Guelph, among his many professional achievements.

His interests outside of academia included running, photography, skiing and perhaps most significantly, racing his vintage Alfa Romeos, the latter hobby being avidly embraced by his wife Dorothy as well. The pair spent untold hours travelling to racetracks in the US to pursue their passion.

Given the devastating diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease in 2007, Bruce defiantly continued both his research and working on his beloved acreage in Puslinch up until his death.

Following Bruce's wishes, there will be no funeral. A celebration of life will follow at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations could be directed to Parkinson Canada or a charity of your choice.

## ***Car Show Season!***

***Detroit Auto Show  
by Elio Comello***

To say the least, the 2019 Detroit Auto Show, the last indoor Auto Show, was underwhelming. They did not even have a printed floor plan. (You had to take a photo of it on a column outside with your cellphone). No presence by Mercedes, Audi, BMW, Rover, Volvo, Ferrari, Maserati, Porsche, Tesla, MINI, Jaguar. To my disappointment even Elio Motors wasn't there. Great focus on trucks, SUV's, overall luxury and gadgets galore. Alfa Romeo proudly introduced its most powerful ever production engine. Nowhere in sight were there any EV's or autonomous vehicles to speak of and every marque's staffing was minimal. Almost without exception the suppliers like Magnetti Marelli had departed before the show opened to the public. In short it was like visiting a car dealer's showroom with junior staff and few of them. Lots of virtual reality and driving games however.



*Photo by Elio Comello.*

Alfa Romeo had its full line of Giulias and a couple of Stelvios, one of whose hood could not be opened. My guess is the plastic hood latch release was to blame. see picture of open hood below).



*Note the yellow plastic hood release – hardly good for longevity. Photo by Elio Comello.*

Paddle shifters where everywhere. Luxury, "tech" and hyper horsepower was reflected in the price tags. Fiat had the whole lineup with a really nice 124 Abarth Spider. The Alfa/Sauber F1 display drew a lot of attention. To me the hit of the show was a black 1964 VW Beetle in concourse condition.



*Alfa/Sauber F1 car. Photo by Elio Comello.*

Detroit is a wonderful city and our group consoled ourselves at Fishbones restaurant for Cajun food and craft beer, lamenting the passage of cars that gearheads could fix.

***Canadian International Auto Show  
by George Beston***

My birthday present late last year from my cherished daughter in law was three tickets to this year's Canadian International Auto Show, one adult and two youth. The idea was that I could take their boys for a day with Grandpa. After a lot of discussion, I invited some extras to help me cope. The offer of lunch across Front St.

at Boston Pizza flushed out both my sons and my granddaughter to join the fun.

We ended up attending the show on the Sunday that was the final day of the show. A retiree like myself should know better. The show was absolutely mobbed making it very hard to take pictures and requiring patience to get a chance to sit in any of the vehicles on display.

I can say that the show was worth attending but I will make a determined effort another year to avoid the last day! It may have been the crowd, but this was the first time in many years that I didn't see an Alfa Romeo in one of the displays of exotic or historic autos.

The Alfa Romeo booth was equipped with Giulias and Stelvios including the Quadrifoglio versions and a nice 4C Spider. There was a video loop running with nice footage of many past and current Alfa models on public roads and race tracks. Fascinating to me, but well beyond the attention span of three nine-year-old cousins.

Here is my best shot of the Alfa booth. Somehow my granddaughter Violet managed to photo bomb me while I was distracted trying to get a useful image. It might have been accidental.



*Photo by George Beston.*

The best news I have regarding the C.I.A.S. concerns the draw for two tickets to the 2019 Canadian Grand Prix that was being held in conjunction with the Alfa Romeo display. I have it on good authority that it was won by none other than our own Gord Zimmerman! I think it's fantastic that a long time Alfa Romeo enthusiast and volunteer event organizer from our Club snagged this prize.

## ***“Scoop up these 8 cars before they take off”***

**from the Hagerty Newsletter**

*Editor's note: As demonstrated by a few other Alfa Romeo models, S4 Spiders from the early 1990's have yet to get much love from buyers. Hagerty seems to think that might change, and included it as the only Alfa in this recently published list.*



*Photo from www.mecum.com.*

### **1992 Alfa Romeo Spider**

*Median value for cars in #3 (Good) condition: \$16,700*

North American Miatas from the early '90's are increasing quickly in value, and the Alfas are their prettier (and heavier) Italian cousins. As very clean and low-mile Miatas get expensive, it's not a stretch to consider an Alfa instead. They are stylish roadsters with the classic look of older Alfas, albeit with relatively modern technology like electronic fuel injection.

Young buyers don't seem to love the Spider S4, with 76 percent of quotes coming from Boomers and Pre-Boomers over the last 12-months, but that doesn't mean it is doomed.

Spiders are being added to insurance policies at an increasing rate—between January '18 and Jan '19 the number added to policies increased 38 percent. Meanwhile, the average sale price at auction over this period increased 19 percent. The average quoted value of the car has been very consistent over the last 10 years, ranging only from \$12,800–\$15,800. It's fair to say that these roadsters are due for value appreciation, after many years of chugging along in the background.

## Upcoming ARCC Events

Regional representatives are requested to send your 2019 events calendars to the secretary or the editor for inclusion in the next issue.

### Club Alfa Romeo de Montréal

Date	Event
February 23	Valentine's Dinner
March 16	Tech Session, Des Sources Alfa
May 4	Gimmick Rally in the Laurentians
May 18	Drive to Québec City
June 1	Espresso and Biscotti, Des Sources Alfa
June 8	Grand Prix Barbeque
June 9	Veterans' Salute, Ste Anne de Bellevue
July 7	Supper at Tre Colori
July 16-21	<a href="#">Cortile della Corsa 2019</a> , AROC Convention, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
July 26-28	Amici Raduno Estivo, Prince Edward County & Gananoque
August 3	Espresso, Biscotti and Driving Tour, Des Sources Alfa
August 17	Shriners' Fundraiser BBQ, Des Sources Alfa
August 18	Adventure with ARCO to Embrun ON
September 15	Eastern Townships Drive
October 5	Espresso and Biscotti, Des Sources Alfa
October 19	Autumn Leaves Drive
November 23	CARM End of the Season Supper

### Alfa Romeo Club - Ottawa

Date	Event
June 15	Ottawa Italian Car Parade
July 16-21	<a href="#">Cortile della Corsa 2019</a> , AROC Convention, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
July 26-28	Amici Raduno Estivo, Prince Edward County & Gananoque
September 29	Raduno Montebello

### Alfa Romeo Club of Edmonton

Date	Event
July 16-21	<a href="#">Cortile della Corsa 2019</a> , AROC Convention, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

### Calgary Alfa Marque Society

Date	Event
July 16-21	<a href="#">Cortile della Corsa 2019</a> , AROC Convention, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

### Toronto Chapter

Date	Event
April 11	AGM
May 2	Cruise Night, La Paloma
May 5	ICD Go-Kart Event, Downsview Park
May 20	Victoria Day Pancake Run, Cookstown
May 26	Tech Session & Swap Meet, Pinarello Motori
June 2	Rattlesnake Point Run, Milton
June 6	Cruise Night, La Paloma
June 16	Drive to <a href="#">VARAC Vintage Festival</a> , Mosport
July 4	Cruise Night, La Paloma
July 7 TBC	Drive & BBQ Event, Oakville
July 16-21	<a href="#">Cortile della Corsa 2019</a> , AROC Convention, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
July 21	J Bird's Spider in the Garden, Ancaster
July 26-28	Amici Raduno Estivo, Prince Edward County & Gananoque
August 1	Cruise Night, La Paloma
August 10	Niagara Drive & Wine Tour
September 5	Cruise Night, La Paloma
September 8	Fiat on the Forks
September 13-15	Bancroft Weekend Tour, Bancroft
October 3	Cruise Night, La Paloma
October 6	Fall Colours Drive, Creemore
November 23	Holiday Dinner, Woodbridge

Unofficial Cruise Nights are held every Thursday evening from May to October at La Paloma in Woodbridge.

## Alfa Romeo Club of Canada

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