



# ARCC UPDATE

April 2020

## *President's Letter*

by Alex Csank, Vankleek Hill

Alfisti,

Springtime. April showers. Snow melting away and giving rise to warmer temperatures and some really nice days; great for cleaning the yard, getting out the BBQ, raking up the lawn and seeing the first signs of spring flowers. While this year, all those things are still happening, our world has changed significantly and we have ALL been impacted by the arrival of this pandemic.



*Photo by Alex Csank. Artwork by Diane Taylor.*

On the ARCC front, for those of us who love to get out and drive our Alfas and get together with family, friends and other enthusiasts, this year's early schedule doesn't look very good. So far, all of our early events, including the AGMs for Toronto and Ottawa, CARM's Technical Session and Springtime Rally, the Ottawa Italian Car Parade and Italian Festival, and even the Canadian Grand Prix won't be happening as scheduled.

I know that we are all thankful for the courage and hard work of all those who are out there, engaged in taking care of our health, our necessary supply-chain, transportation, security and safety, and for making sure that we have food on our tables.

For most of us, staying home, and not being able to visit our adult children, grandchildren, parents, friends and neighbours, or have them visit us can be very difficult and frustrating ... and lonely. Please reach out by telephone, Skype, Facebook and other media to stay in touch and ask for help as much as you can. On that note, Marc Faubert has taken the initiative and has organized online gatherings for ARCO via Zoom meetings, with a "Weekly Cocktail Hour". Now, THAT's a great idea for those who can participate! I encourage others to do something similar if you can. If we can't get together and hang out in person, getting together in the virtual world is the next best thing.



*Photo by Alex Csank. Artwork by Diane Taylor.*

Remember to follow the advice and counsel of our healthcare and governmental authorities and help slow the spread of this virus. If we all work together, we will "flatten the curve" and save lives. Please do your part. We really have no clear idea at the moment as to when these self-distancing and isolation measures will be reduced, but I am hopeful that we will be able to enjoy a slow return to normalcy as the weather improves with the arrival of summer.

If you have Alfa stories, photos, technical advice or anything else you can share with our members, please send it to George Beston. Your many fellow club members will be very thankful to read your stories and see your photos.

Revvng high, but staying home!

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## ***Never Have I Ever***

by George Beston, Cobourg

### ***A note from your Editor***

In trying to explain what's going on in this time of pandemic, I told one of my grandsons the current situation we are all in is unique in my lifetime – which covers a LOT of ground that a ten year old boy cannot fully grasp. Similarly, with the Club and its newsletter the situation is so rare that it's hard to adapt to.

What I have never done before is to fill precious space in the Update with the perils of being Editor. I do the job because I like the challenge. I want regular communication going out to members as an indication that the Club has a pulse and to demonstrate that the club is a venue that can enhance our appreciation of a certain brand of automobile that generates enthusiasm in us and other “birds of a feather” in many places. The more we participate in or contribute to Club activities, the more we get out of our membership.

Because of the current Public Health ban on gatherings, it can't be a surprise that there won't be any group activities at all to report on in this *Update* anytime soon.

I have some technical articles in mind but we need more variety than that. Every month, Alex asks members for input to the newsletter. A number of stalwarts have come forward (much appreciated!) but we need more at this time.

So, if you have any Alfa related stories you'd like to share, bring them on! I only need a few pictures and an outline if you find the process of writing something up to be tedious or intimidating.

My thanks go out to Ian White, whose contributions for the latest issues have been interesting and entertaining. Ian has also contributed a Member Profile to this issue. This is a good idea that's been discussed for a while. Please consider writing one up on yourself and submitting it for publication.



*April 16, 0900 hrs. Give me a break! Photo by George Beston.*

## ***Member Profile***

by Ian White, Toronto

**Occupation:** Environmental Graphic Designer

**Where do you live?** Toronto, Ontario

**What was your first car?**

My first car was a 1986 beige Plymouth Horizon, what a horrible car!

**Your first Alfa Romeo?**

My first and only Alfa is a 1970 GT 1300 Junior.

**Tell us about your car:**

I bought the car in 1990. I was looking for a fun vintage car; I did not know much about the Alfa Romeo brand at the time but I fell in love with the look of the Junior. It was driveable but needed a lot of work. Over the years I was able to fix and improve the car, finding missing parts and giving it a fresh coat of paint. It is at a point where I can just enjoy it with just the usual general maintenance.



*Ian's 1300 GT Junior. Photo by Jon Finkelstein.*

**Do you have other vintage cars?**

No I don't. I would like to but space is limited.

### **Favourite road to tour?**

The Toronto club participates in a drive to Kingston, Ontario to meet up with the Montréal and Ottawa clubs. The drive through Prince Edward County is quite beautiful.

### **Any fun stories with the car?**

I was approached by someone at a club meet back in 2003 who wanted to use my car in a TV commercial. I said yes and my car was eventually used in an XM Satellite Radio commercial. I always joke that it was the only time my car paid me rather than always the other way around.

### **If you could have any one Alfa, what would it be?**

My dream car would be the 1965 TZ, but realistically a Junior Zagato would be more attainable.

### **What do you enjoy most about being a member of your local and national Alfa Club?**

I enjoy meeting like minded people who appreciate the Alfa Romeo brand. Learning more about the cars and their history. I have been to the combined AROC/ARCC National Conventions in Toronto and Montréal and had a great time at both of them.

## ***Bucket List Vacation***

**by George Beston, Cobourg**

### **Living the dream**

I am blessed with many opportunities in life. Among them, opportunities to travel, seeing bits of the world through the eyes of a gear head and automotive enthusiast. Given that my wife and partner of, oh, about 51 years now loves to travel to warm places during the winter, my travel opportunities are not infrequent.

This year, we committed to a bucket list vacation in Hawaii. To break up the long trip we planned some time in Southern California, plotting to spend a few days in San Diego, and then to explore a bit by going east to Borrego Springs, then north to Palm Springs and back to San Diego by a cross country route.

Our conveyance for this journey had to be a rental car, so I picked the most attractive car available in the low rental rate category, a 2019 Accord, pretty much the base model with about 180 horses from a turbo 1.5 litre and a CVT. Not too exciting, maybe, but competent and, just like my Alfas, a faster car than I am a driver.

Thanks to a number of well placed mountain ranges, there were a few roads that provided very

entertaining driving experiences. Speed limits on these roads are modest at a usual 55 or 60 miles per hour but given the tight turns posted at 30 and visibility around them frequently limited by rock cuts, those speeds were more than enough to keep me focused and entertained.

Three roads that I recommend if anyone is travelling and seeking entertainment are the Montezuma Valley Road between Ranchita and Borrego Springs, the trail through Joshua Tree Park from Joshua Tree to Cotton Springs and route 74 heading south out of Palm Desert. Conveniently, these roads are equipped with pull-outs to allow faster traffic to pass by. That's a good thing for visitors like me because there are some local drivers who know the roads and don't shy away from moving faster than the speed limits.



*California 74 south of Palm Springs, the "Pines to Palms Highway" Lots of hairpin turns! Image from "Maps".*

Alfas? We only saw three Giulias and two Stelvios on our travels. But then it was February! Our most interesting sighting was a C8 Corvette in morning traffic on I5 on our way to Lindbergh Field in San Diego for the flight home.

In my first line of this piece, I talked about blessings. Our vacation took place as planned, and we got home the night before it was announced that travelers should self-isolate. Friends who were on other vacation trips that we had considered fared much worse. One couple was forced to cough up \$4,000 each for an emergency flight back from Frankfurt, and another couple on a cruise ship had a stressful time, with their ship being refused entry at a couple of ports even though there were no health problems on board.

**In line with advice provided by provincial and federal government agencies, we have cancelled or postponed all events for the present time. Please watch for announcements from your local clubs for resumption of normal activities. Stay home and stay safe!**

## Upcoming ARCC Events

### Club Alfa Romeo de Montréal

Date	Event
May 2	Fun Rally
May 16	Auto-Slalom, Sanair
May 24	Lunch, Orange Julep
June 13	Balade Trois Rivières et La Tuque
June 20	Ottawa Italian Car Parade
July 5	FIAT Breakout, Montréal
July 11	Sommet des Légendes, Mont Tremblant
July 22-26	<a href="#">AROC Convention</a> , Colorado Springs
August 21-23	Raduno Estivo, from Montréal thru Ottawa to Toronto
September 10-13	Alfas at the Glen, Watkins Glen NY
September 19	Amici Perth Raduno, Perth
October 17	Fall Colours Tour
November 21	Christmas Dinner

### Alfa Romeo Club - Ottawa

Date	Event
June 20	Ottawa Italian Car Parade
July 22-26	<a href="#">AROC Convention</a> , Colorado Springs
August 21-23	Raduno Estivo, from Montréal thru Ottawa to Toronto
September 20	Amici Raduno, Perth

### Calgary Alfa Marque Society

Date	Event
July 22-26	<a href="#">AROC Convention</a> , Colorado Springs

### Alfa Romeo Club of Edmonton

Date	Event
July 22-26	<a href="#">AROC Convention</a> , Colorado Springs

### Toronto Chapter

Date	Event
April 2	AGM, Scuderia Ferrari Club
April 26	ICD Go Karting, Downsview Park
May 7	Cruise Night, La Paloma, Woodbridge
May 18	Victoria Day Pancake Run, Cookstown
May 23	Swap Meet, Pinarello Motori, Woodbridge
June 4	Cruise Night, La Paloma, Woodbridge
June 7	Rattlesnake Run, Halton Hills
June 19-21	Ottawa Italian Car Parade
June 21	Vintage Festival, Cdn Tire Motorsport Park
June 28	Keswick Drive, Keswick
July 2	Cruise Night, La Paloma, Woodbridge
July 12	Sun Collision Drive and BBQ, St Catharines
July 22-26	<a href="#">AROC Convention</a> , Colorado Springs
July 25	Niagara Drive & Wine Tour
August 6	Cruise Night, La Paloma, Woodbridge
August 9	Italian Car Day, Woodbridge
August 21-23	Raduno Estivo, from Montréal thru Ottawa to Toronto
September 3	Cruise Night, La Paloma, Woodbridge
September 10-13	Alfas at the Glen, Watkins Glen NY
September 19	Amici Perth Raduno, Perth
September 27	Alfas and Fiats at the Forke
October 1	Cruise Night, La Paloma, Woodbridge
October 18	Fall Colours Drive, Singhampton
November 21	Holiday Dinner Party, Woodbridge

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

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