



# THE Ottawa Tri-Star

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## Farewell to 2019

As 2019 draws to a close and winter starts to impose its cold snowy grasp on us, it is nice to reflect on the good times we had this year.

The Ottawa Section held 10 outings this year. All were well attended. The weather cooperated except for three events experiencing a bit of rain but not enough to dampen our enthusiasm.

For those of us who store our cars in the winter, the long wait for Spring has begun. My car is safely tucked under its cover with battery chargers connected, glowing like Christmas lights in my garage.

I want to thank the members of the Ottawa Section Board of Directors for their great support and assistance in making 2019 a very successful year.

Hope everyone enjoys the holiday season and all the best for 2020. See you in the Spring!

### Drive Safe!



Mike McKinnon  
President &  
Ottawa Tri-Star Editor

Visit the Ottawa Section of MBCA at  
[www.ottawa.mbca.org](http://www.ottawa.mbca.org)



## President's Message

By Mike McKinnon



2019 was my first year as President of the Ottawa Section. Following in the footsteps of John Fisher and Larry Lomas is no small task.

I tried to ensure that the Club remained a viable organization and that current members wanted to continue belonging to the Club. I also attempted to find ways to broaden the experiences and hopefully attract some new members.

One step we took was to increase the level of involvement with one of our major supporters, Star Motors. We hope that this arrangement will benefit both our Club and Star Motors. We participated in the second annual Benzfest which was very successful. Star also assisted in the Safe Drivers event held at the EY Center.

The Safe Drivers course was a new type of event that was organized by our Vice President, Josef Ferner. Although the turnout for this was lower than we hoped, it was an excellent day that we would like to do again in the future.

As mentioned in some of the previous Tri-Star issues, declining membership is a concern to the MBCA. Drew Webb, our new Regional Director has been very active in looking into membership, including sending out a survey to a number of people who had not renewed their memberships.

The survey results showed the following:

Some of the departing members no longer had their MBs,

Some were not happy with the types of events being offered in their Sections.

Some felt there was poor communication from their Section leaders.

Drew also organized a telecom with all the Section Presidents to discuss what the various Sections were doing to retain and grow their memberships. This was a very useful exercise and we found that the Ottawa Section was fairly progressive in some of the efforts we are taking. This includes producing recruitment flyers that are being handed out at Star Motors and

Young St Garage.

I did some analysis on our own Section membership and found the following:

Current membership 54

Avg Length of Membership 11 years

No. of members 4 yrs or less 13 (25%)

For the members that did not renew, the average length of membership was over 14 years. None of the departing members had attended an event in at least the last two years.

The core of the Club is strong and participates regularly in events. We recognize that there are different reasons why people join the MBCA and not all want to be active in Section occasions..

We hope that we will continue to offer value to our members in the coming years. As always I welcome any suggestions or comments on ideas for events or ways to improve our Club.

### Ottawa Section Board

**President & Newsletter Editor**  
Mike McKinnon  
(613) 257-1913  
benzowner@bell.net

**Vice-President & Secretary**  
Josef Ferner  
(613) 599-8908  
jgferner@rogers.com

**Webmaster**  
Vacant

**Treasurer**  
Bob Richer  
(613) 738-4731  
bricher@capcorp.ca

**Membership Director**  
Bob Mather,  
(613) 692-4947  
robert.mather@rogers.com

**Past President**  
Larry Lomas  
(613) 720-3847  
lomas@videotron.ca

**Board Members at Large**  
Mel Roy  
(613) 834-4187  
Roymel2@aol.com

Peter Kolassa  
Peterpaulkolassa@gmail.com

Bernie Benovitch  
benovitch\_b@rogers.com

**Tech. Advisors**  
Winfried Hillebrand  
(613) 851-1139  
wahille@rogers.com

Kurt Hillebrand  
613-234-2910  
kurt@youngstreetgarage.com

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# Benz Meets Rolls At Montebello

By Mike McKinnon

On September 28 the Ottawa Section once again held its Benz Meets Rolls Event at the Chateau Montebello, located in Montebello Quebec.

This has been a popular get together for many years and allows us to meet and socialize with members of the Montreal MBCA Section as well as

to display our cars on the front lawn as we have done in years past, due to the amount of rain that was falling.

The poor weather did not deter 35 members from Ottawa and Montreal coming out for the morning. Drew and Claudia Webb also made it all the way from Massachusetts to participate with us!



We lined up our cars along the road in front of the Chateau and under

the St. Lawrence Section of the Rolls Royce Club.

the cover of umbrellas, were able to examine the cars and share stories before heading into the Chateau for lunch.



The Chateau Montebello, now owned by Fairmont Hotels is the world's largest log cabin. Originally built as a private club in 1930, it was for some time part of the CP Rail hotel chain.



We all enjoyed lounging (and warming up) in the main lobby by the giant stone fireplace as well as the

lunch buffet held in the main dining room.



We enjoyed exchanging ideas with the other club sections and hope that we can conduct some joint events next year.



I'd like to thank Hubert Drouin and Larry Lomas from the Ottawa Section as well as Dave Peebles from

The impressive structure provides a wonderful venue to hold our meeting.

the Montreal Section and Timor Katz of the RROC for their efforts to help organize B-M-R. We look forward to holding this again in the future.

Unfortunately this year the weather did not cooperate and we were unable



# Annual General Meeting

By Mike McKinnon

On October 24th, the Ottawa Section held its Annual General Meeting and dinner. This year we met at the Carleton Yacht and Golf Club.

Thirty-two members attended the AGM. The meeting agenda included an overview of the year's events. The Club held 10 outings this year, which may have been a record.

Bob Richer, our Club Treasurer, provided a report on the Club finances—we are in good shape!



Bob Mather provided an overview of the membership status. Although there was a net decline in membership, we did get some new members as well. There was some general discussion on membership issues within MBCA as a whole and some suggestions were made on ways to help increase visibility in the Club to try and solicit new members.

Two awards were handed out at the AGM. The first was to Bob Mather who has served on the Board of Directors for many years as Membership Director and resident event photographer. Bob has decided to step down from the Board at the end of this year but has promised to stay active in the Club. We greatly appreciate the contribution Bob has made to the Club and a token of our appreciation was presented to Bob.

The second award was to Josef Ferner, our VP and Secretary. This was Joe's

first year as a member of the Board and he has worked tirelessly in helping to organize events, record minutes of meetings and sending out notices to members on Club activities. Joe was instrumental in organizing the Safe Driving Day held at the EY Centre this year. This was a great event and took a great deal of effort to arrange. Joe is a very deserving recipient of the Member of the Year Award. I look forward to continue working with Joe in the future.

Bob Mather made a slide show highlighting this year's events and although we had to overcome some technical issues, everyone enjoyed viewing the pictures.

As usual we held a few prize draws. The big winner was Hubert Drouin who won a one year membership renewal.

The Board Membership for 2020 remains very much the same as this year as follows:

Mike McKinnon—President and Newsletter Editor  
Josef Ferner—VP and Secretary  
Bob Richer—Treasurer  
Larry Lomas—Past President  
Mel Roy, Bernie Benovitch, Peter Kolassa—Directors at Large



The only change to the Board was for the Membership Director. With Bob Mather's retirement, Tom Lang has agreed to take on this role. I'd like to thank Tom for offering to take on this position and look forward to working with him next year.

We held some discussions on suggested events for 2020. Some of these included:

- Joint events with other clubs
- Attending local Show and Shines
- Holding overnight events
- Driving events at Tremblant or Calabogie
- Attending at Cruise night at the



Rideau Carleton Raceway/Casino

- Holding social events all year long
- Visiting local wineries

We had a good year and hope 2020 will be successful as well.





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## Welcome New Members

We want to welcome our new members who joined the Ottawa Section in 2019.

Ray Berthiaume  
Hassan Moghadam  
Terry Jamieson  
Jim Hemlin  
Mike Hubbard

Welcome to the Club and hope to see you all in the new year!

## 2020 Event Planning

We hope you enjoyed the variety of gatherings offered this year. The Board tries to plan events that will appeal to as many members as possible.

This year we tried a few different types of things such as the Safe Driving Course and the Two Castles Boat Cruise.

We had some good suggestions raised at the Annual General Meeting and are always interested to hear from our members on their ideas of what we can do to make the Club an interesting and active organization.

We will be holding our Annual Planning Meeting early in the Spring but we welcome suggestions at any time so that we can have a list of candidates available ahead of the Planning Meeting. Feel free to contact any of the Board members with your suggestions.





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