



THE Ottawa Tri-Star

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Another Great Season!

As we brave the cold and snow and wait for the start of a new driving season it's time to reflect on the great events we had last year as well as planning for the upcoming 2015 season.

2014 was a terrific year, starting with our first event in May, having lunch on the St Lawrence at the Ivy Lea Club, to our last driving event in September, having lunch at the Fairmont Hotel in Mt Tremblant, (eating seems to be a common theme to a lot of our events!). We wrapped up the year with a very well attended AGM and dinner at the Keg Manor. We had good times and enjoyed the comradery of being together with fellow Club members.

We had a great time at the Eurocar event where we joined in with some other local car clubs, enjoyed sampling wine at the Jabulani Winery and got drenched at the Merrickville Car Show.

We got an early start to the 2015 season in January with over 30 members attending the Schnitzel night at the Maple Leaf-Almrausch Club (another event with food and beer!)

We've already started planning for this year's events but always welcome suggestions so feel free to pass them along!



Fall Foliage at Mt Tremblant

Hope you enjoyed this year's events and look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Mike McKinnon
Vice President &
Ottawa Tri-Star Editor

Visit the Ottawa Section of MBCA at
www.ottawa.mbca.org

Message from the President

By Larry Lomas



Mike's comments captured our 2014 season well and I will only add that the Merrickville Auto Show overall attendance was about 30%-40% of normal as it was hit by a "perfect storm". It consisted of the televised final FIFA matches that day and worse than forecasted torrential rain storms.

However a good idea came from that experience as we all huddled cheek to cheek for protection under our club's modest tent. We need a bigger one and Treasurer Bob Richer is shopping around for one or two to be christened by sunshine, of course, at Eurocars15 at Upper Canada Village on May 30.

I want to share an experience I had last year with my ML320. Hopefully this year will be uneventful!

Are you all right?

The question was clear and we knew why it was asked and wanting to face the person addressing us, I could see no one to our front nor to our right side. When it was repeated I then realized it came from our ML320 speakers and hearing my wife Debbie, say she was OK, I then answered, yes. I had other matters on my mind so I thought no more of the repeated questioning as I tried to remove the deployed air bag that was blocking my view to the left and my passage through the

driver's door. I wanted to see what had struck us. There was nothing to my immediate left although I could see wheel tracks and evidence of a ploughing through the large snow bank on the boulevard median further to the left. I then saw a taxi pointed towards the oncoming traffic in the south bound lanes. When I then looked back at our SUV there was some damage to the driver's door and much more damage to the left front fender and the left front wheel was at an impossible angle to the right. Despite the appearance of fairly modest damage the repair bill to the insurance company was breathtaking.

The response from both the Gatineau police and the fire department was swift and in force there being two cars and two fire trucks, again more questions about our physical condition. Then a firefighter with wrenches in hand asked me to open the hood and then not seeing our battery inquired if I knew where it was located. When I took him to the passenger's side front seat and pointed to the space beneath and he proceeded to move the seat forward in preparation to remove the positive terminal clamp beneath a covering floor panel. Realizing his concern I told him it was diesel fuelled and he replied it was a requirement nonetheless.

When I bought this Mercedes certified SUV it

was fully equipped at least as far the features I wanted. It also included a MB installed phone which was limited to communication with MB Canada HQ in Toronto for road side assistance, help in the event of an accident or any other required assistance. I had not the occasion to use it and accepted it with little further interest. Shortly after the accident I contacted MB and I was told that the previous owner had ordered what was then called Teleaid service and with it this special phone was factory installed in the centre console. Included in its monitoring of the vehicle were the airbags and were any of them deployed an automatic call was placed to MB advising them of that fact and the approximate location of the vehicle. That service is no longer available although it is still supported for factory equipped vehicles at that time. There is another service in the works and it should be available within the next year or so.

By the way, Mercedes has QR code stickers that are to be placed on the inside of fuel inlet door and the driver side B pillar for models built starting in 1990. Fire fighters are being equipped with smart phone type readers that will tell them the location of the battery and other data that they may need to know about our vehicles in the event of an accident. Ask your dealer to have them set aside for you the next time you make an

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The Ottawa Tri-Star

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2014 - A Pictorial Review



Lunch at the Ivy Lea Club



MORE 2014 EVENTS



EUROCAR TOUR



JABULANI WINERY TOUR



MORE 2014 EVENTS



Mt Tremblant Quebec



A Gift of Life

Contributed by Joan Fisher

The following letter was forwarded by Joan Fisher, the wife John Fisher who sadly passed away just over a year ago. John was one of the founding members of the Ottawa Section club and served as President for many years.

The letter was sent to Joan by one of the recipients of the organ donations that John made to help give the gift of life to others.

This touching letter serves a reminder to all of us the importance of completing your Organ Donation card and that your family members know of your wishes.

Dear Donor Family,

It is now approaching 1 year since I received the gift of life through your family's generous gift of organ donation. I know this season could be hard but I wanted to let you know how thankful my family and I are for each day you have added to my life. Your family's gift has enabled me to take part in many family activities this year, including my daughter graduating grade 8. I have also been able to return to work and begin taking part in sports that I had given up many years ago. I have been able to go canoeing with my daughter, play hockey, golf, and actually enjoy shoveling snow this winter. I also was

able to travel on vacation to Tennessee to watch a NASCAR race with my family, and to Cooperstown with my brother and dad to visit the Baseball Hall of Fame, and go golfing for my dad's birthday. This fall my brother had his first child. A beautiful daughter who will get to know her uncle now because of your thoughtfulness. I cannot express in words how thankful I am for every day added to my life. I have taken many opportunities to encourage others in organ donation at many speaking events I have been invited to. I look forward to continuing with many more chances to share about the wonderful gift I have been given.

This time last year my lungs were below 15% capacity and I was on oxygen as a result of my health decline from Cystic Fibrosis. Now my lung capacity has risen to the highest it has been since college and my wife and daughter have never seen me have so much energy and strength. My extended family and friends continually comment on how much healthier I look. On behalf of my wife and

daughter, my dogs and cat, my parents and extended family, we all want to say thank you a million times.

Sincerely,

Your Thankful Recipient

We think John would be happy to know he had made a difference to someone's life and also would be happy that part of him got to go to a NASCAR race!



2015 Events

By Mike McKinnon

We have a great line up of events planned for our 2015 driving season. The following section provides a listing of the events currently planned so you can mark your calendars!

Benz Meets Eurocars - Mess Lunch—Tuesday March 31st

We're holding a lunch at the Army Mess on Tuesday March 31st as a combined event for members of the Ottawa Section of the MBCA and other local European Car Clubs. Details will be posted on the Club website and by email shortly. Event Organizer - Larry Lomas - lomas@videotron.ca



Benz Meets Eurocars Over Schnitzel—Friday April 17th

Come out and enjoy an evening of great German Schnitzel and Beer at the Maple Leaf Almrausch German Canadian Club. This is a joint club event with members of the Mercedes Benz, Jaguar, Porsche and BMW Clubs of Ottawa. This is a great chance to meet other fans of European cars. More details will be provided on the Ottawa Section website as well as emails closer to the event. Event Organizer - Winifried Hillebrand - wahillebr@mamgma.com



Eurocar15 - Upper Canada Village - Saturday May 30th

Last years Eurocar event was very popular. The Ottawa Section of the MBCA is responsible for organizing this year's event. We've lined up a great day at Upper Canada Village. Near Morrisburg. Come out and show your car and take in the charm and history of Upper Canada Village. Participants and up to three guests get free admission to the Village. Check out the website at <http://www.uppercanadavillage.com/index.cfm/en/home/>. Details will be provided closer to the event date. Event Organizer - Mel Roy - Roymel2@aol.com



Carleton Place Car Show - Sunday June 28th

We're going to take a break from participating in the Merrickville Car Show this year and attend the Carleton Place Car Show. This is a great venue in a park beside the Mississippi River in the beautiful town of Carleton Place. An area will be reserved for Club members to show your car and take in what is becoming a great car show. More details to follow. Event Organizer - Mike McKinnon - benzowner@xplornet.com



July Summer Meander to Wakefield Que. - Saturday July 25th

This year's Meander will take us through the Quebec countryside to the quaint village of Wakefield with its historic covered bridge (<http://outaouais.quebecheritageweb.com/article/bridge-building-rebuilding-wakefield-covered-bridge>). After a tour of the town, we'll head to the Chelsea Pub for lunch (<http://www.chelseapub.ca/>). More information will be provided closer to the event date. Event Organizer—Larry Lomas - lomas@videotron.ca.



2015 Events

Golf and BBQ at Manotick - Sunday August 16th

Fore! Calling all golfers - good and not so good to join us for a round of golf at the Carleton Golf and Yacht Club in Manotick. A lunch time BBQ will be held at the club house followed by a tour of Waton's Mill for those who are not golfers while the golf is underway. Details will be provided closer to the event date. Event Organizer - Bob Mather - robert.mather@rogers.com



Oktoberfest in Ladysmith Que - Sunday October 3rd or 4th

Join us at the final driving event of the 2015 season at the 30th Anniversary Oktoberfest celebration in the pretty town of Ladysmith Que. Details will be provided closer to the event detail.



New Ottawa Section Website

By John Bartholomew

Make sure you check out our new website. It is a clone of the MBCA's main website at mbca.org, so it has the same look and feel but with our own Section's local content and provides a consistency with other MBCA Sections' websites.

One of the advantages of moving to this new website is its synchronization with mbca.org, the MBCA "parent" site. Content such as our Section's Event Notices and Event Reports that we add to mbca.org will automatically flow down to our Section's site. This information flows to other nearby Sections as well to let them what we are doing and also works in reverse so we will know about other nearby Club events.

Our Section's inputs also get added to the Star Magazine's events pages. Lastly, our Section Event Notices and Reports can be sent to our mobile applications.

Check the website frequently for news and event updates!

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Ottawa Section

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Welcome to the website for the Ottawa Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA).
The Ottawa Section encompasses eastern Ontario and the Outaouais area of western Quebec. Our section is approximately 80 members strong, owning a variety of vintage, classic and modern Mercedes-Benz.
The Ottawa area has many scenic and historical locations and attractions, and provides magnificent driving experiences for Section events.
Our Section welcomes new members and encourages member participation in our events.
For those interested in obtaining additional information regarding MBCA, the national website is at www.mbca.org or contact one of our Executive or Directors with any additional questions.

- Membership in the Mercedes-Benz Club of America provides:
 - subscription to the award-winning magazine The Star TM
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