



THE Ottawa Tri-Star

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Spring Has Sprung!

Although it may not feel like it given the cold weather we have been experiencing, Spring did officially arrive on March 20th. This gives one hope that it won't be too long until we again see green grass and flowers pushing out of the ground.

It also means that the driving season is just around the corner! I keep looking longingly at my Benz still tucked under its winter cover with battery charger lights indicating she is ready to go. With any luck it will be on the road in a few weeks.

While some of us were fortunate enough to spend at least part of the winter in warmer climes, the Club Executive was hard at work and hosted a planning session on March 1st to solicit ideas for events for this year's driving season.

We have a number of great activities lined up, details of which are included in this issue, so you can the reserve dates in your calendars.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again soon.

Drive Safe!



Mike McKinnon
Vice President &
Ottawa Tri-Star Editor

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Message from the President By Larry Lomas



In search of truth about EVs

When Teresa Di Felica, a director with CAA stepped from Winnipeg airport (Winterpeg to its citizens) in -29C weather, she noticed the cab she stepped into was a Tesla. Surprised, she asked the driver how it performed in such brutal conditions? His reply, just fine. And he gets heat before he leaves his driveway and he never needs to stand in an Arctic blast with a gas nozzle in his hand. To some of my friends I must have the appearance of an evangelist when I come up with comments concerning what I believe is one of the best motive power and carbon fighter for our planet's well being and of course ours as well. I can usually expect a few to have some negative comments from time to time



based on what they had heard. So, I decided to search for truth and found that energyexchangs.net and other sources addressed more myths than I expected. I will state some of the truths in point form to save space:

- CAA calculates fuel cost mid size compact at \$1,800 based on 20,000 km/yr. vs \$502 ON Hydro (highest in CA) for EV equivalent & Automotive Research at Germanys N-G University found that maintenance costs for EV was 35% lower than of its gas equivalent.
- EVs costs are dropping as more models come on the market and are expected to drop further with increasing competition.
- when batteries near a certain lower efficiency point some are used to help lower energy cost at factories (charged at off peak brought on line at peak) and all now can be recycled and rare metals are reused.

Readers will no doubt remember the \$2.9B fine that VW paid the US government over its criminal diesel fiasco. Well, it and other private money is at work building more charging stations throughout the US. As of December 2017, there are 45,500 charging cables in operation in 16,500 locations in the US. There are 6 or 8 owned by Hydro Quebec

at a shopping centre within 10 km of our house.

This will be of benefit to VW, its innocent child Audi, Mercedes, Jaguar and a host of others working on EV models to capture their share of this ever-expanding market. China is all auto companies biggest market and there are more EVs there, both imported and domestic, than in all other countries combined.



You can be sure there were myths about the introduction of the horseless carriage. Apparently, some in the medical profession warned that the human body could not withstand velocities exceeding 40 kph.

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The Ottawa Tri-Star

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2018 Events Calendar

Here is the listing of events planned for the 2018 Driving Season.

These were agreed upon by the Board and Club Members attending the planning meeting held at the Army Officers Mess on March 1st. Some of these are favourites that we have visited in prior years while several are new experiences that were suggested.

Details of the events will be provided by email closer to the event dates.

The success of the Club depends on the participation of its members so we encourage members to attend as many events as possible.

The main focus of the Club is to socialize with other MB owners. It does not matter what model or year your car is, or how young or old you are for that matter!

Come out and join in the fun!



Ottawa
Section

Planning Date	Event Description	Coordinator
17 April	Spring Lunch at the Army Officers Mess	Larry Lomas
26 May	Early summer clean you car event and BBQ at Star Motors	Bob Richer
9 June	Lunch at Ivy Lea Restaurant and tour of Singer Castle; Also possibly Boldt Castle	June & Bob Graham with John Jerry
July	Open	
August TBD	Drive to "Shakespeare on the St Lawrence" with lunch or dinner. Consider matinee performance.	Sue and Bob Mather
29 Sept	Benz Meets Rolls at Chateau Montebello Que. Buffet lunch and parking on the front lawn.	Hubert Drouin
1 November	MBCA Ottawa Section AGM and Annual Dinner. Upstairs in the Canal Ritz	Sue & Bob Mather



USING CAR2GO IN VANCOUVER

By Bob Mather

Smart cars painted blue and white with the CAR2GO logo on the side have been a feature of Canadian and international cities for a few years now. I have walked by these vehicles without interest until our recent two week visit to Vancouver where we actually used CAR2GO.

Using the service is simple; download the CAR2GO app onto your smartphone, complete the registration process, wait a day or so while the company checks driver's credentials and you're all set. Once you are in the system the rest is easy.

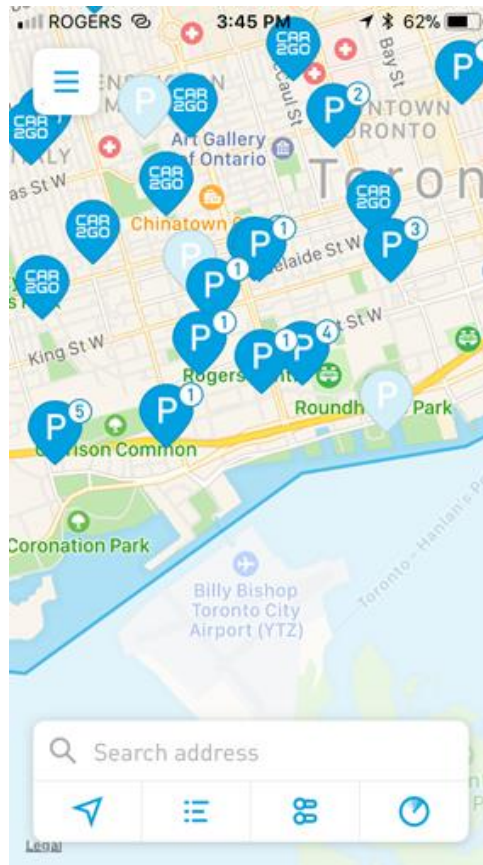
The app shows the location, model, distance and fuel level of available cars on your screen. If the car is close, just walk up to it and press start on your smart phone. A few keystrokes later the car is unlocked and you get in and drive off. It is possible to reserve cars for 30 mins using the phone. This useful feature ensures that someone else does not take the car while you are walking to it. Ending the rental is equally simple. Put the key back in the holder on the dash or in the glove box and get out. A few seconds later the car is locked and the rental is over.

How much does it cost? \$0.37/minute for a smart car and \$0.47 for an A class. Prices vary city to city and new pricing options like day rates are being added to the service. A trip from downtown to UBC (13km in traffic) \$7 to \$12.

Reasonable and convenient. There is a stopover feature, simply leave the car (legally parked) take the key and

return to it later. The rental clock is still running, so this only makes sense if you are picking up a coffee or something like that.

Cars must be left legally parked within a defined home area. There are designated "parkspots" in the city. These spots are free and convenient to the city core. There are spots at the



airport as well. Another useful feature allows the user to set up a call back scheme that gives notification when a car is within a certain distance. Cars are in demand and only stay about 20mins after being parked.

Most of the cars are Smart Cars and only two seaters and having to walk several hundred meters in rainy Vancouver or chilly Montreal to access one can be a disadvantage.

The cars do seem to migrate from the suburbs to downtown in the morning and back in the late afternoon. An indication that some people have figured out how to fit CAR2GO into their commute.

My opinion;

- 1) This kind of shared ownership works as an economical alternative to car rental;
- 2) Free parking downtown makes the service very attractive;
- 3) The cars available in the Vancouver CAR2GO pool fit the role well;
- 4) There is not a Smart Car in my future, too small. Real easy to park though.
- 5) Register before you leave on a trip to save time.

The two A class cars we sampled were great and we'll certainly consider a CLA or a GLA if we are in the market for a new car. I would consider some form of shared ownership for a daily driver, however, I am not ready to give up my Cabriolet.

CAR2GO is a subsidiary of Daimler AG, Stuttgart and does not operate in Ottawa. If you have used a car/ride sharing service in Ottawa of the service tell STAR about it.



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Around the Horn

(Not the one on your car)

By Mike McKinnon

Have you ever yearned for an adventure on the high seas following the route of early explorers?

While not exactly living in the same conditions as the early explorers, my wife Diane and I fulfilled a bucket list trip this January by taking a cruise around Cape Horn at the southern tip of South America.

After exploring Buenos Aires, Argentina for four days, including spending New Year's Eve there, we departed on the Emerald Princess for a 14 day cruise which concluded in Santiago, Chile.

The ship stopped in Montevideo Uruguay, the Falkland Islands as well as several ports in Argentina and Chile. This cruise focused on natural scenery and wildlife and it did not disappoint! We explored Buenos Aires by taking part in a free walking tour in 32C temps. It is a beautiful city with plenty of parks and great architecture.



La Boca area of Buenos Aires

We took in a tango dinner show which was amazing. The tour of the Teatro de Colon (the opera theatre) was another highlight.

After spending a day exploring Montevideo, we headed south with our next port being Puerto Madryn. We took a bus tour to the Tombo Penguin Reserve which is the breeding area for Magellanic penguins.

It was fascinating to watch these birds in their natural habit. We were told as many as 500,000 penguins visit this area between



Penguins at Tombo Reserve

November and March to have their young. They then return to the sea and seldom come ashore for the rest of the year. It was comical to see them waddle on land - a stark contrast to how sleek they are in the water.

Our next stop was at the Falkland Islands.

The Argentinians still refer to them as the Maldives and there is still bad blood between Argentina and the UK as to the ownership of these desolate islands. We were told not to wear any clothing with Argentinian flags or logos when we went ashore.

We did a walk around Port Stanley, visiting the memorial to those that died in the conflict with Argentina in the 80's, followed by a bone jarring ride in a Land Rover cross country to the Bluff Cove penguin rookery.



Arrival at Port Stanley

This area had Gentu and King penguins. They show little regard for humans as they raise their young and trek long distances back and forth to the sea to bring food for their babies.

As we sailed further south, the temperatures got cooler. Although not cold by Canadian standards, we still pulled on down jackets and hats when we went on deck. After a couple days at sea, we finally reached Cape Horn.



Mike rounding the Horn

The weather cooperated and sea states were not bad. It truly feels like you are at the end of the world.

At our southern most point we were approximately 800 kms from Antarctica. We could only imagine what the early explorers like Magellan and Darwin thought as they passed through this area.



Cape Horn

(Cont'd next page)

Around the Horn - Continued

(Not the one on your car)

By Mike McKinnon

(Cont'd from previous page) - Once we had rounded Cape Horn, we sailed east again and entered the Beagle Channel, named after Darwin's ship, which sailed through this channel to avoid the rough seas south of the Cape. The scenery was magnificent with towering mountains, glaciers and waterfalls. Our last stop in Argentina was at Ushuaia,



Emerald Princess

a place where most expeditions to Antarctica depart from. It is located near the Tierra del Fuego National Park which is where the Pan-American Highway ends - appropriately named the End of the World.

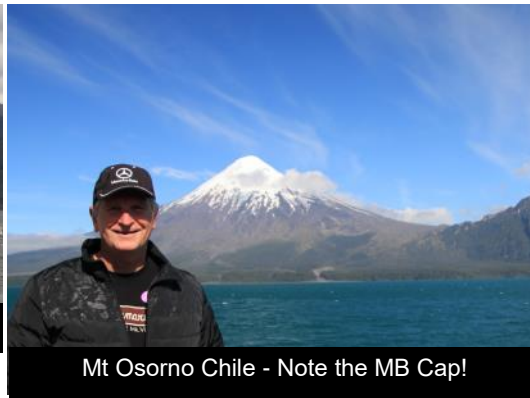


At the end of the Pan-American Hwy

Departing the Beagle Channel, we entered the South Pacific and for the first time on our journey experienced some rough seas. We spend much of the day hunkered down in our cabin. Our only time venturing out was to the restaurants where we experienced dishes sliding off counters and we bounced off the walls when

walking through the hallways. Fortunately I have an iron stomach, and Diane had some good anti-nausea meds so we did not suffer too much.

At Puerto Montt, we took a tour on a catamaran to visit Mount Osorno, an extinct volcano that is very reminiscent of Mt Fuji in Japan, with its snow covered, cone shape dominating the skyline.



Mt Osorno Chile - Note the MB Cap!

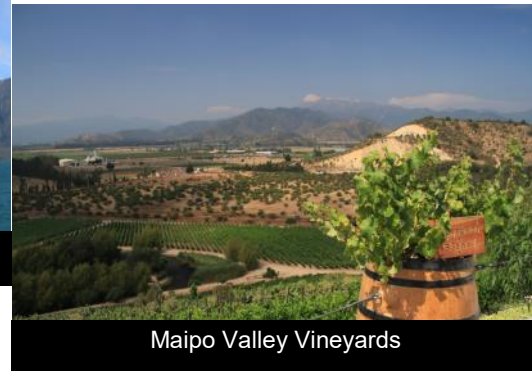
Fourteen days after departing Buenos Aires, having travelled 7,500 kms, we arrived at San Antonio Chile where we departed the ship and took a two hour bus ride to Santiago and back to warmer temperatures.

We stayed for four days in Santiago, exploring the various parts of the city. There was a real positive vibe in Santiago and we enjoyed the food and entertainment that that seemed to be everywhere at all hours of the day. While in Santiago we rented a car and drove back to the coast to visit Valparaiso, a UNESCO heritage site. This small port town is perched on steep hills and is renowned for the artwork painted on sides of its buildings.

We could not leave Chile without sampling some of their excellent wines, so we stopped at the Indomita Vineyard and Winery on the way back to Santiago. It was a beautiful venue overlooking the Maipo Valley. Of course we did a wine tasting and brought several bottles back to Canada.



Murals in Valparaiso



Maipo Valley Vineyards

We were sorry to have our South American adventure come to an end but are glad to have had the experience and check off another bucket list item - Going Around the Horn.



Sunset on the Emerald Princess



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