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Farewell 2021, Hello 2022

I think we are all glad to bid 2021 farewell. Unfortunately the start of 2022 does not look much different from last year.

We can only hope that with vaccination and booster levels increasing and putting up with more restrictions in the near term things will turn around so that we can say goodbye to Covid-19 this year.

We were fortunate last summer things had relaxed a bit to allow us to get a few events in. The turn out was great and everyone enjoyed getting together. I've included a couple of articles in this newsletter on the events held in the latter part of the season.

Let's hope that by this Spring we can resume our regular schedule. I know I am fed up with Covid and long for the return of normal life.

If restrictions are relaxed in the coming months, we'll try to arrange a planning meeting to discuss what events we will hold this year. As always we welcome the participation of members to make suggestions.

In the meantime I hope everyone stays warm and healthy. I look forward to seeing you later this year.



Mike McKinnon
President &
Ottawa Tri-Star Editor

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<https://ottawa.mbca.org>

President's Message

By Mike McKinnon



Happy New Year! It's 2022 and what a sense of déjà vu! Who'd have thought that we would be entering a third year dealing with Covid.

Last summer it looked like we might have been getting close to the end and were finally able to hold some club events, albeit still with some restrictions. But just when things were starting to look good, along comes Omicron and here we are again with sky rocketing cases and more restrictions being imposed.

The good news (if there is any!) is that vaccines and boosters are available, even for younger kids. This will help reduce the severity of anyone contracting Omicron and reduce the strain on the medical system.

Diane and I were fortunate to squeeze in a week long trip to Barbados in early December before the spread of Omicron really took off. We had

hoped to go somewhere south for a couple of months this winter but have decided to stick close to home for the time being. Thankfully the winter hasn't been too bad so far.

The Club managed to hold four driving events plus our Annual General Meeting last year. We started off in May with a visit to the cheese shop in St. Albert along with a picnic.

We followed that event with a drive along some country roads from Smith Falls to Brockville with yet another picnic by the St Lawrence River. I only managed to get us lost a couple times!

In September we did an overnight trip to Mt Tremblant. This was something we had done a few years ago and decided to try it again. We had a great turn out and may well look at doing this again in the future.

Our last drive was held in October with a meander through Almonte to Calabogie where we enjoyed lunch at the Redneck Café. Although the weather was a bit wet it did not dampen our spirits of getting together.

Our Annual General Meeting and dinner was held at the Nepean Sailing Club in November. We renewed several Board positions and also welcomed Bob and June Graham to the Board of Directors.

In December the Covid Quartet 2.0 visited members and Star Motors, to sing Christmas carols and collect donations for the Ottawa Food Bank. We had a few less visits this year, but through the generosity of our members along with the support from Star Motors, we were able to collect over \$2000 in donations along with food contributions. It was a great way to end the year!

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The Ottawa Tri-Star

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Overnight to Mt Tremblant

By Mike McKinnon

Several years ago the club did an overnight event to Mt. Tremblant in late September, staying at the Fairmont Hotel. The leaves were at peak colour and the weather was beautiful. We had a great time and said it would be fun to do this again.



Somewhat at the last moment we decided this was the year to go back to Mt Tremblant. Covid restrictions had eased allowing some indoor dining and



we thought it would be nice for people to get away even for a short time.



We had 20 people sign up for the event and were able to negotiate group rates at the Residence Inn. Unlike most of our events, we avoided the weekend in order to get better hotel rates and smaller crowds in Tremblant.

Tom Lang made reservations for us at the le Bistro in Montebello for lunch and La Savoie in Mt Tremblant for dinner.

Our lunch at le Bistro was excellent. Some of us took the opportunity to enjoy their excellent poutine! We also took time to walk around the village of Montebello.

The weather is always a factor on our driving events and it was quite rainy in the days leading up to our trip. Thankfully we were blessed when the sun came out with warm temperatures so that the convertibles were able to travel top down!



The leaves were close to peak colour which made for a very scenic drive to

Mt Tremblant. We also were able to enjoy walks around the village.

After checking into the hotel and freshening up, many folks took a stroll



through the village before getting together for dinner. La Savoie is a Swiss restaurant specializing in raclette and fondue. We sat in small groups and enjoyed the excellent dinner served to us.



The following morning we woke to bright sunshine and were able to take in some more of the beauty of the mountains and village before starting our drive back to Ottawa.

Everyone agreed it was a wonderful event and we will look at planning more overnight events in the future.



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Drive to Calabogie

By Mike McKinnon

With the success of the Mt. Tremblant event, we wanted to try and squeeze in one more drive before the weather turned cold.

Bob and June Graham organized an outing in October that consisted of a drive to Almonte from Ottawa and then continuing to Calabogie. Lunch would be held at the famous Redneck Café. Eighteen people signed up for the event.

I had intended to join the group in Almonte but discovered that my SL500 had a flat rear tire just as I was departing from home. I was able to install the spare (that's another story!) but did not trust it for the drive. I was forced to attend in my Audi which was looked down on by the MB participants. My car is well hidden behind the participants when we took the group picture!

Bob and June had prepared a series of maps for the various sections of the drive. Unfortunately some of our group are navigationally challenged (maybe from relying so heavily on GPS) such that some participants took a different route than Bob had planned. Thankfully everyone eventually arrived at the meeting place near Burnstown before heading to the restaurant in Calabogie.

While we were enjoying our lunch, Bob and June challenged our automotive knowledge with a quiz and crossword. I can't say if the winner of the challenges did not resort to using Google to look up some of the answers!

Although the weather was a bit damp that day we all enjoyed ourselves and our thanks goes out to Bob and June Graham for organizing this event.



Unfortunately the weather was not as cooperative as our other drives and it was raining quite hard when the group stopped in Almonte. It didn't dampen our happiness.



Annual General Meeting

By Mike McKinnon

This year we were happy that we could once again hold our Annual General Meeting and Dinner in person.



Covid restrictions last year required us to cancel the dinner and hold the AGM via Zoom with limited attendance.

There was a degree of uncertainty while we were planning the event as the restrictions on indoor dining seemed to change from week to week.

We decided to avoid booking a restaurant and with the help of Bernie Benovitch were able to book the dining room at the Nepean

Sailing Club. We had previously held a dinner there so were familiar with the facility.

The meeting included a review of

this year's events along with reports on the Club finances and membership status. There was a preview performance by the Covid Quartet. The Club is again looking to raise donations to support the Ottawa Food Bank.

At the AGM, the following Board of Director positions were confirmed by acclamation for 2022:

President and Newsletter Editor - Mike McKinnon
 Vice President and Secretary - Joe Ferner
 Treasurer - Bob Richer
 Membership Chair - Tom Lang
 Webmaster - Tom Zouzoulas
 Directors at Large - Bernie Benovitch
 Mel Roy
 Bob Graham
 June Graham

Covid Quartet 2.0

By Mike McKinnon

Based on the success of last year's Covid Quartet outstanding performances, we decided we would do it again this year to raise donations for the Ottawa Food Bank. This year we were very pleased to add Joan Bowler to the group. Joan has a great voice and greatly added to the quality of our performances.

Bob Graham (our Musical Director) selected our song selection and we even had a bit of harmony in some of our songs this year.

As was the case last year, our friends at Star Motors generously provided a

\$1000 donation along with 120 food items. Star also provided gift bags that were given to the members we visited. We also did a performance at Star Motors which was recorded and posted on their website. We greatly appreciate the support from Star Motors to the Club and to the Ottawa Food Bank.

While the number of participants was smaller than last year, we were able to collect over \$1000 in cash contributions along with some food donations as well.

We were able to maximize the value

of the Club and Star Motors donations by adding this to the Fill The Foyer campaign at Cap Corp, through Bob Richer. Cap Corp matched our \$2330 to bring the total contribution to the Food Bank \$4660. With the 5 times buying power that makes the contribution worth \$23,300!





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"BlueTEC" Diesel Vehicle Settlement

From Newswire.ca

Daimler AG and its Canadian and American Mercedes-Benz subsidiaries have agreed to settle a class proceeding concerning approximately 83,000 "BlueTEC" diesel vehicles in Canada.

The proposed settlement provides for cash payments and other benefits to current and former owners and lessees.

The cash value of the settlement is approximately \$243 million CAD. The settlement also provides significant value to Class Members in the form of an emissions repair that provides for cleaner emissions that will comply with Canadian emissions standards.

This result was reached between the Defendants and Canadian class counsel, Koskie Minsky LLP and

Lenczner Slaght LLP, after almost six years of litigation.

The proposed nationwide settlement is subject to approval by the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. The approval hearing will take place on February 9, 2022.

If approved, the settlement program in Canada will include the following benefits:

Model Year 2009-2016 Mercedes-Benz and Model Year 2010-2016 Mercedes-Benz Sprinters with BlueTEC II emission control systems
Cash payments of up to \$2,925 to all who receive the emissions repair.
Cash payments of up to \$835 for all former owners and lessees.

Additional cash payments ranging between \$330.20 and \$660.40 for various reasons including those

relating to delays of the emissions repair, requirements to reclassify the emissions standard or reduced vehicle performance. A buyback option in some circumstances.

Peter Griffin, Counsel, Lenczner Slaght LLP has said "This result is the culmination of a concerted effort to bring to a conclusion an unfortunate chapter in automotive history in North America".
Kirk Baert,

Partner, Koskie Minsky LLP has said "We believe this settlement provides real compensation to class members".

For further information: please contact Class Counsel at:
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