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Off To A Great Start!

What crazy times we have been through. We are just getting over the pandemic and then Mother Nature says "Oh no you don't - Here's a big storm just to keep you on your toes!" Hopefully everyone is okay after that storm.

The summer weather has finally arrived so let's hope it continues to favour us when we are holding our events.

Our Club has held a few events already so we are off to a great start. We have more things planned for the remainder of the driving season. So far the price of gas has not deterred our members from turning out to our events!

We're glad to see many familiar faces and thrilled that some of our new members are coming out to join us at the events. I appreciate the suggestions and support by several folks to help organize our outings.

Stay Healthy and Safe!



Mike McKinnon
President &
Ottawa Tri-Star
Editor

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President's Message

By Mike McKinnon



It's hard to believe we are already into July. We wait so long for summer and then it just flies by.

The Club Executive started planning events in early April. We discussed what suggestions members have made and what things were popular in the past. We also try to identify activities to add some variety to the outings that hopefully might attract folks who may not have attended events in the past.

One of the suggestions made by Bob and June Graham (who joined our Board at our last AGM) was to hold informal events that we are calling Coffee and Cars sessions. These are somewhat impromptu events where someone can suggest a get together at a specific location and time just to get together for a coffee and chat. The intent is that we'll hold several of these sessions over the course of the summer. These will be in addition to the more structured Club events.

The first of these Coffee and Cars sessions was held on May 1st at the Burritts Rapids Lock Master Park. We had a good turn out and enjoyed getting together. Bob Graham introduced us to Bean Bag Baseball which was a lot of fun.

I encourage members to feel free to suggest locations and times for Coffee and Cars sessions. Just send me and email and we'll make sure the notice gets sent out to the membership.

June Graham came up with a new idea to help get the ladies in our Club more involved. June arranged for a Mercedes Ladies Breakfast on Saturday, June 25, at Miller's Oven in Manotick. This was a popular event with 10 ladies showing up.

To make sure the men didn't feel left out, Elias Giannakopoulos planned a coffee get together for the male members to have their own coffee get together the same day as the ladies!

We're working on lining up a couple of outings to some popular spots we have visited in the past which members said they would like to return to.

We have made reservations on August 13th at the Opinicon Restaurant located at Chaffey's Locks on the Rideau Canal system. We visited there a few years ago and it was a very popular event so mark your calendars. Details will follow on a later date.

Welcome New Members!

We'd like to welcome the following new members to our Club:

- Elizabeth Heathering
- James White
- Donald Buschlen
- Richard Kiefl
- Brad Foster
- John Stevinson

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Coffee and Cars at Burritts Rapids

By Mike McKinnon



Our first event was organized by Bob and June Graham. Bob and June had suggested in addition to our regular planned events, we could hold informal get togethers on an ad hoc basis.

appreciate Bob for educating us on the intricacies of the proper way to throw a bean bag.

We are calling these sessions Coffee and Cars. Any member can suggest one of these sessions whenever they feel like having a drive and just get together to chat and have a coffee with other members.



Our first session was held on May 1st at the Lock Station Park in Burritts Rapids on the Rideau River. This was a very pretty location and we once again lucked into great weather.

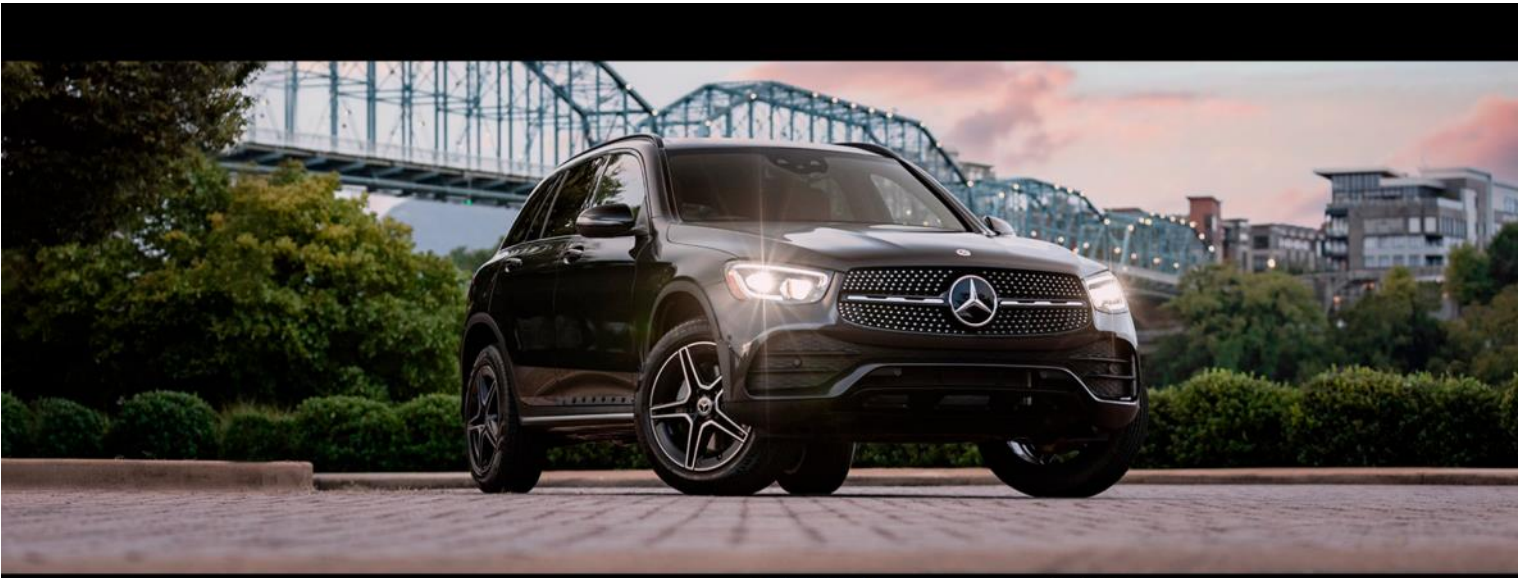
The Burritts Rapid event was a great start to this season and hope we will have more Coffee and Cars sessions in the coming months.

We had 28 people turn out and enjoyed coffee, some baking and of course Tim Bits!

Folks reconnected after the winter and had lots of stories to share.

Bob Graham introduced us to Bean Bag Baseball– a game he had made. The group was divided into two teams and it was game on. It's surprising how competitive some people are! The game added a lot of fun to the outing and we





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Long Sault Parkway Drive

By Mike McKinnon

Our second event this year was a drive along the Long Sault Parkway. This event was held on May 29th and



had 26 people participating in 15 cars. The weather once again cooperated and made for a great day.

We met at the Foodland parking lot in Ingleside before heading the short distance to turn on to the Long Sault Parkway.

The Parkway is 11 kilometers long and connects a series of small islands. The area was impacted when 40,000 acres of land was flooded for the construction St. Lawrence Seaway and Hydro program to develop power generating stations near Cornwall in the 1950's. The Parkway is now administered by the St. Lawrence Parks Authority.



We went in convoy from Ingleside to the Woodlands Beach Picnic Grounds where we stopped for a picnic lunch along the river. As seems to becoming a regular occurrence, part of our group got separated due to traffic flows. This resulted in about 6 cars missing the turn off to the Parkway and having to do a U-turn to get back to the right location. I'm not going to mention who was leading that group but it is someone who is becoming well know for causing U-turns

at our events! The picnic area was not busy so were able to line up the car for some great photo and video opportunities. Thanks goes to our Webmaster Tom Zouzoulas who took some excellent photos and video and posted them to our Facebook page. Check them out on the Mercedes Benz Club of America/ Ottawa Section Facebook page. If you are not already following us, be sure to sign up.

After lunch we continued along the remainder of the Parkway ending up in the village of Long Sault.



As part of the planning for this event, I read about the Lost Villages Museum located close to Long Sault. I contacted Jim Bromwell, the President of the Lost Villages Museum to see if we could visit the museum as part of our tour. The museum is run on a volunteer basis and the Club made a donation to the Historical Society for hosting us.

Jim was happy to accommodate us and met us when we arrived. He gave us a briefing on the history of the museum and about how some of the buildings were relocated as a result of the inundation caused by the Seaway and Hydro projects. He also told some interesting stories about some of the people impacted by the flooding of the villages.



We then took time to visit several of the buildings at the museum and enjoyed seeing the various artifacts and information presented there.

Feedback from the participants was quite favourable with folks enjoying the drive and found the museum very interesting.

It was nice to discover a new area not previously visited by the Club. Hopefully we can make more new discoveries for future events.



Hers and His Coffee in Manotick

By Mike McKinnon

With the success we had with our first Coffee and Cars session in Burritts Rapids, it was great to have a couple of our members step up and organize some more of these sessions.

June Graham thought it would be fun for the ladies of our club to get together for their own session (no doubt so they could talk about the men in the club!)

June made a reservation for breakfast at 10 AM at the Miller's Oven in Manotick for June 25th. Ten of our wonderful female members attended and from what I'm told had a great time. June arranged to have prizes to award as well. No word on what the conversations were about!!

We had 8 male members attend. After getting our coffees, we walked over to the Watkin's Mill dam and crossed to a lovely park on the other side of the river where we could sit in the shade and discuss a wide range of topics.

Thanks goes to June and Elias for organizing those events. The feedback continues to be positive on these informal get togethers so we hope to have more of these over the rest of the driving season and possibly over the rest of the year.



When Elias Giannakopoulos heard about the ladies having their own get together, he immediately said the men should also have their own session as well. In order to avoid conflicts on who got to drive the Benz to the event, Elias made arrangements for the "Benz Boys" to meet at 10 AM at the Morning Owl coffee shop, just around the corner from the Miller's Oven where the ladies were meeting.





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New Edinburgh Street Festival

Our Club had been approached to participate in the New Edinburgh StreetFest being held on September 10th. The organizers are looking to include a display of classic cars as part of the activities.

Laurentian Chapter (IODE) is planning a heritage fair to celebrate New Edinburgh's history, to raise funds for charity and to bring people together to meet safely and have some fun!

The recipient of funds raised at this event is **Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families**, an organization based in Vanier that supports and helps Inuit youth at risk in our community.

As part of the StreetFest activities they will be holding an antique car show. The organizers have asked if any of our members would like to include their cars in the show. The criteria that we are applying is that the cars should be 1970's vintage or older. The exception being for R107 series cars due to the lack of change in body style over the course of that model's lifetime. So if you have a later year model R107, you are welcome to participate in the show.

We have a few of our members who have already agreed to attend. If you would like to participate please contact Mike McKinnon at benzowner@bell.net.

