



# THE Ottawa Tri-Star

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## In This Issue...

- President's Message  
P.2
- Historical Perth Tour  
P.3
- Mercedes Down Under  
P. 4
- Tall Ships Festival  
P.5
- 2nd Annual Oktoberfest  
P.7
- 2016 AGM  
P.8
- Classified  
P. 9

## Another Season Comes To An End

The leaves have turned, the days are getting shorter and the geese are flying south so I guess that means regrettably another driving season is coming to an end. It's been a great summer for those of us who can drive top down.

We had some great events this season but also had some where the turn out was not what we had hoped. Every Spring the Club Executive tries to come up with a series of events that we hope will be of interest to the members and want to participate in. We understand that sometimes the dates don't work or the weather may influence a decision to attend a particular event. A lot of work goes into organizing these events so we want to ensure that we get a reasonable number of members participating to justify the effort to plan and run an event.

It is important that members provide feedback on what sort of events they would like to see the Club conduct. We always welcome suggestions for new events, (and volunteers to help organize them!), but also want to know if there were reasons why you might not have wanted to participate in some of events that had been planned.

The Club will only be successful if the membership participates. We will be having our planning meeting for next season in the February/March 2017 timeframe so be sure to provide your comments and suggestions in order for us to consider them for next year.



Drive Safe!

Mike McKinnon  
Vice President &  
Ottawa Tri-Star Editor

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



## Message from the President

By Larry Lomas



### Gen Z, Arriving in Great Numbers

In a December 2015 article Goldman Sachs states that “this youngest cohort will soon overshadow their predecessors in size and influence. In North America alone there are 77 million born after 1998 and the eldest is arriving at University or the workforce.”

Having mastered the TV remote by 5 they now have a much more versatile device in hand and naturally expect an expanding digital experience throughout their lives and workplace.

They are expected to be more conservative (some suggest having a thrifty mindset as well) than their parents, more likely to equate dollars to success, and to be more entrepreneurial. It would follow that their great numbers and accumulation of wealth are of vital interest to marketers committed to satisfying their every demand.

We took Sophie our granddaughter born 2004 to Star Motors while I checked on our brochures supply there. Her first question was “How old would I have to be to order a car like that?” When I told her at your age or younger, you don’t

need a drivers licence, her response was “COOL”.

Now, as dependants she and brother Simon at 15 net worth’s are miniscule and hers took a hit recently during a soccer competition in Barcelona. Their



Sophie at Star Motors

personal transport is limited to pedal power for a number of years to come. In time as this generation finds career paths and accumulates wealth they will have more ways and means available to them including transportation options to consider and some certainly will question car ownership costs vs. the flexibility of

type and size of driverless vehicle appearing at their door on demand through their Smartphone for example. So if their first major purchase is a condo and not a car they would save even more money by not buying a parking spot. And what about future housing designs and the need for multi car garages and great unsightly supermarket parking lots when these cars, privately owned or available on demand, can find a spot on their own nearby in a tastefully designed multi story parking building awaiting your command for pickup?

It will be interesting to see which of our ways of going about life they retain and the new paths they will take. Elders in time, committed to the Mercedes marquee, yet no longer permitted to drive or not caring to would continue to retain mobility. Having a choice of models from a Smart for 2 up to an S class with fellow members, all could relax in style on a road trip to a MBCO event or pop down for dinner and theatre in Montreal. I look forward to the possibilities.

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## The Ottawa Tri-Star

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# Ottawa Section Tour of Perth Ontario

By Bob Mather

On May 28th the Ottawa section enjoyed a day out in Perth, Ontario. The weather cooperated and it was a beautiful spring day. Some members met in Manotick and took one hour drive to Perth in two groups. These two met up with the remainder of the 38 participants near the Old Fire-station in Perth.



Ready for the tour of Perth



Meeting in Manotick

In 2016 the town of Perth celebrates its 200th anniversary of its founding as a military settlement. We were met at the Old Fire-station by Perth's town Crier, Mr Brent McLaren. His knowledge of the history of Perth and his enthusiasm for his Town

In 1893 a 22,000lb mammoth cheese was produced for exhibition at the Chicago, Worlds Columbian Exhibition. This was to promote Canadian cheese around the world. It had the side benefit of promoting local wagon builders to transport the cheese which resulted in an interesting connection between the Mammoth Cheese and the British National Railway.



Would you like wine with that cheese?

provided by the Perth Tourist information office.



MB's at the Old Fire Hall

ensured that we had an informative and entertaining walking tour for the next hour or so.

We traced some of the history of Perth through our Guide's description of the town's heritage buildings. For many years Perth was the military, judicial, political and social capital of much of the Ottawa Valley.

the whiskey trade to the development of Perth and that beautiful Stewart Park once held thirteen distilleries!

The morning was capped off with a social lunch at a local restaurant,

Maximillian's, where we enjoyed selections from the menu that is typically German.

Afternoon self guided tours were aided by the information packages



Keeping cool in Perth

The organizers thank Mr Brent McLaren, Perth Town Crier and the staff of the Perth Tourist Office for their help in this event.



# Mercedes Down Under

By Mike McKinnon

In April of this year, I was fortunate to go to New Zealand on business and took my wife, Diane. We added vacation time to do some touring while we were there. We spent a week in Auckland, the capital city of NZ. Auckland, located on the North Island, is a beautiful city and we enjoyed staying in the harbour area and touring the various local sights. One of our favourites was Piha, a beach made of black volcanic sand and very close to the location where the movie "The Piano" was filmed. We also were able to visit the Hobbiton movie set, the only remaining set from the Lord of Rings movies.

While in Auckland, on a whim, I decided to connect with the local Mercedes Club to compare how they operate and make a connection with other MB enthusiasts in



Hobbit House

another part of the world. I sent an email to the Club President, Harald Decker. Harald responded quickly and was very interested to meet with us. We arranged to get together for a drink and learn about each other's clubs. Harald immigrated to NZ from Germany in 1986 and has been active in the NZ MB club since 1988. He owns several MBs including a '71 280SL and a '61 190SL. Due to the relatively small population in NZ (4 Million people and 40 Million sheep!), they do not have regional clubs and have a single club for the entire country. The club has approximately 350 members in total, a 100 of which are located in the Auckland area. They have



Harald and Mike

their summer between October through March.

The club is primarily a social club and they do not hold any technical sessions. The majority of their summer events are driving tours, typically lasting 2 to 3 hours. (I can say from experience there are some spectacular drives in NZ made more fun since they drive English style with left hand drive cars!). They usually have various members volunteer to organize the tours. They remain socially active in their winter months, doing group activities like bowling or going to movies along with a dinner. The club members normally have a Christmas get together, held in a garden setting! They also have fun theme events like "How do you show the love of your car?" where participants have to come up with ways to show how they comply with the theme.

The NZ club still produces a published



a wide range of models and ages of cars with the oldest being from 1938. Their driving season is opposite to ours with the main driving season being in

hard copy newsletter/magazine, the "BeNZscene", which cost them \$28K NZ for 300 copies. Harald was interested to hear that we had migrated to an electronic version.

Harald offered to tour us around, including going to a shop that specializes in restoration of vintage vehicles. Unfortunately our schedule did not permit us to do the tour but it was very generous for him to offer.



Milford Sound, South Island

We both agreed that it was a great idea to connect with other clubs whenever we travel. It's a good way to meet new friends and share stories about our clubs. We even talked about doing "twinning" of clubs similar to what many towns and cities do.

We of course extended the offer to Harald that should he or any of the NZ club members come to Ottawa, to be sure to contact us so we can show them some local hospitality.

Diane and I spent another week touring the South Island, which is much less populated and has more mountains and rugged terrain - think Lord of the Rings, as this is where most of the movies were filmed. We also spent a few wonderful days touring the Marlborough wine area! We loved our time in NZ and a visit there should definitely be on everyone's bucket list.

Check out the NZ club website at: [www.mercedesclub.org.nz/](http://www.mercedesclub.org.nz/).



# Tall Ships Festival

By Karen Koivumaki

Ahoy Mate! Those words were often spoken or heard by the estimated 40,000 visitors to Brockville's Tall Ships Festival on Sept. 16-18. Twelve members of the Ottawa Mercedes-Benz Club were a part of the throngs of people who lined up to see nine ships anchored along the Brockville waterfront.



The newly opened Aquatarium might be a destination for a club outing in the future. Though there were some light rain showers in the afternoon, it was certainly a day of Milford Sound, South Island celebration in Brockville.

The *Sail When and If* from Key West, Florida was commissioned by U.S. General George Patton in 1939 with a hope that he and his wife could sail it around the world if he returned from the war.

Today funds are being raised to do just that. Perhaps the most impressive ship was *El Galeon*, a Spanish replica vessel that acts as a floating interpretive centre to disseminate information about the early Spanish sailing culture around the world.

Some members were familiar with the brigantine *Fair Jeanne* built by Thomas G. Fuller and her sister ship, *The Black Jack* from Ottawa, which host young people and adults for sailing adventures and training on the Great Lakes.



Members learning naval history



Our group met for lunch at Buds on the Bay and then dispersed to see more of the ships, displays, the Farmers' Market, a fabulous young magician named Rynestone, elegant draft horses, to listen to some great Celtic, pirate and sea shanty music and much more.



Enjoying Lunch at Bud's





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# Second Annual Oktoberfest Run

By Larry Lomas

Departing Lincoln Fields Shopping Center, a parade of our member's autos and that of the other Euro clubs we again followed the scenic Ottawa River leading to 417 east on to our destination—the Maple Leaf – Almrausch (MLA German) Club in Carlsbad Springs.

Lotus 7. He appeared vintage himself preparing for departure as he donned his leather jacket, goggles, and leather cap. He is of large frame and just getting nested into the right hand driver's seat was an interesting maneuver. He reminded me of photos I had seen of famed, larger than life, Mercedes driver of the 20s and 30s during the Silver Arrow auto dominance of racing world, Rudolf Caracciola.



In total we sixty plus members and guests from the various clubs, including some from Montreal. We had a 34 interesting autos including: 1 Bentley, 1 BMW, 9 Jaguars, 1 Lotus, 8 Mercedes Benz, 1 Opel, 9 Porches, and 5 Rolls Royce.

Everyone enjoyed viewing and chatting with other drivers before retiring for hearty lunch in the spacious main dining room.

The fine auto collection attracted many of us back out to the parking lot where by mid afternoon we all had departed.



Enjoying lunch at the MLA



This was the second time we held this multi-club event and based on its popularity will likely be held again next year.

Harald Freise, president of the far flung Lotus Club, drove there in his 1962



# 2016 Annual General Meeting



## INVITATION TO ATTEND THE AGM OF THE OTTAWA SECTION OF MERCEDES BENZ CLUB

President Larry Lomas and the Board Members of the Ottawa Section of the Mercedes Benz Club of America invite you to attend the 2016 AGM.

After a summer of enjoyable and successful events the Board looks forward to your feedback and suggestions.

Past AGMs have been mostly social with time and space given over to members meeting members and sharing common interests. There will be the business of ensuring the future of the Section with the election of officers and reports from some Board members.

For planning purposes (to be confirmed)

Date; 3rd November 2016  
Location; Army Officers Mess  
149 Somerset, Ottawa  
Time; 6:00 pm Tour of Mess/Social  
7:00 pm Buffet Dinner

There will be the usual \$15:00 per person meal subsidy to encourage you to attend. The real bonus for attending is the chance to influence the Section's future. The chance to dine in one of Ottawa's historic buildings is a fascinating glimpse into the past is not to be missed.

Dress code : business casual







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Please call Bob Richer H: 613-738-4731 or bricher@capcorp.ca



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