



THE Ottawa Tri-Star

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Happy New Year!

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and are looking forward to 2014.

We had some terrific MBCO events in 2013 which were well attended by club members and we all had lots of fun and laughs.

This issue of the Tri-Star recaps some of the events over the last year or two. I've tried to include plenty of pictures as they are probably of more interest to our readers.

Our first event of the year is coming up on Thursday January 23rd. The MBCO New Year's Luncheon will be held starting at 11:30 at the Army Officer's Mess located at 149 Somerset St West. Please note that Jacket and Tie are required for gentlemen. Please contact Larry Lomas if you are interested in attending at lomas@aol.com, or 819-684-2469.

Although we are having a very tough winter this year the good news is that Spring and a new driving season is only a few short months away!!



Mike McKinnon
Ottawa Tri-Star Editor

Visit the Ottawa Section of MBCA at
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A Letter From the President

By John Fisher

In the last week of May I got a phone call from a gentleman with a German accent. He said that he worked for Mercedes-Benz in Stuttgart and asked me if I had an older model S-Class Mercedes. I told him that I had two such cars, a 1976 450 SEL European model, and a 1979 450 SEL of American origin. I added that neither of these cars was for sale. My new German friend laughed and said that he was not interested in buying the cars, but might be interested in borrowing them. When I pressed him for more information, he stated that he was not in a position to give me any more information, but if I would agree to speak with his colleague from Mercedes-Benz Canada in Toronto, I would be able to get some answers from him. I readily agreed and we arranged for his 'colleague' to phone me at 1:00pm the next day.

The next day, I was standing by the phone when precisely at 1:00pm it rang. I was greeted by a friendly voice with "Hi John, it's Arden Nerling." Arden works for MB Canada in the "Events" section. I asked Arden what was up with all this secret stuff. He explained the event they were dealing with had not been announced yet. Mercedes-Benz was holding the Media Launch of the brand new 2014 S-Class in Toronto, the first time such a launch was to be held outside of

Europe. The plan was to have a group of S-Class cars on display from previous decades leading up to the newest of the Class, the 2014 S-Class. They wanted my 1976 450 SEL to be one of those "ancestor cars". Unfortunately due to insurance issues, I was unable to provide the 76 450SEL but I told Arden that I had a 2003 S-55 AMG, to which he responded that he was still looking for a car of that vintage.

Arden offered to have my car picked up and trucked to Toronto, but I was having none of that. If my car was going to the 'S-Class Launch', then so was I! We arranged that Joan and I would drive the car to Toronto, and Mercedes would cover my travel expenses. The plan was for the 'Ancestor Cars' to be displayed in the reception circle at the Four Season's Hotel and the people flown in from around the world would be offered to be driven around Toronto in their choice of the 'Ancestor Cars'.

The centerpiece of the displays was a 2014 S-550 that had the engine removed, and the trunk and under-hood spaces filled with hydraulics and electronics to make the whole car a simulator for demonstrating the 14 amazing new safety features loaded into the 2014 S-Class. They had just finished setting up the simulator while we were there, and we were offered to be the first ones to try it out. A tech sat beside me with the computer that ran the simulation driving situations, while another tech sat in back with Joan. The room was darkened and 8 large screens came to life around the front of the car. A beautiful country road lay before me which was so realistic looking that I could almost smell the hay fields beside the road.

Within a few minutes we were both totally convinced that this was the real thing. In fact, so much so that Joan later became car sick!

When we returned three weeks later to pick up our car, they had started to disassemble the facilities. I asked what was to happen to the simulator. They said that within a couple of months it would be obsolete, so it would be destroyed along with the cars. "What Cars are being destroyed?" I asked. We were then shocked to learn that all 38 of the 2014 S-Class cars flown over from Germany for this launch would be flown back to Germany where they would be crushed! These cars are worth about \$140,000 each. How could they justify destroying them? The answer is that they are all 'prototypes'. They were not built on the assembly line. Since they hadn't been through the strict safety and standardization testing, they could never be sold or even driven on public roads. If anyone was ever to get one of these cars and subsequently suffered an accident, Mercedes-Benz would be liable and sued. Beyond that, they might actually be responsible for the accident, and this is something that Mercedes-Benz would not allow. Therefore, all 38 of these beautiful and near perfect examples of the best of automotive technology in the world are destined for the crusher. In fact, at the writing of this article, they have probably already met their all-too-early date with automotive destiny.

John Fisher, President

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The Ottawa Tri-Star

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2012 Pictorial Review



Joan Fisher signing up recruits



Dave's new import from Japan



Visitors admiring the Benz's at Merrickville



Regional Director Ernie Fancy chats with MBCO members at Jones Falls



Parking space was at a premium but shade was welcome at Merrickville!



MB's all in a row at Jones Falls



MB's parked in Newboro



MORE PICS FROM 2012



Ready to start the Rideau Lakes Meander



Barns and Benzes



Relaxing at McKinnon's after the Meander



By the pool after the Meander



MBCO Members at the Jabulani Winery near Richmond



MORE 2012 PICS



Tom Moul educating MBCO members on how to grow grapes



CHEERS! At the Jabulani Winery



2013 Events

The year started out with some of the members of the MBCO providing transport for VIPs in the parade to kick off the Ottawa Tulip Festival, as organized by Peter Fedirchuck.

In June, Mel Roy helped organized the MBCO's participation in the Eurocars 2013 event held at the National Aviation Museum. It was an enjoyable day that combined classic cars with classic aircraft.

The turn out at Merrickville, with over 25 cars participating, was amongst the best we've had. A big thanks to Barry and Marcia Phillips for again arranging to get us a place in the shade. It was very welcome on such a warm day.

The tour to Pakenham and the Mill of Kintail near Almonte, organized by Peter Fedirchuck, was a wonderful event where we saw some historic sites and drove through some beautiful scenery. Given the amount of rain we've had this summer we were fortunate to have great weather that day which added to the enjoyment.

The Benz Meets Rolls event at Montebello was held on Saturday Oct 5th. The weather was beautiful and the participants had a great day enjoying the fall colours at a wonderful location. Thanks to Larry Lomas and Hebert Drouin for organizing this event.

The year closed out with our Annual General Meeting and dinner held again this year at the Black Dog Restaurant in Manotick on October 29th. Twenty members attended the AGM and dinner. Thanks to Jean Guy Labelle for organizing this event.

The 2014 season kicks off on January 23rd with the MBCO New Year's Luncheon at the Army Officer's Mess. Contact Larry Lomas (lomas@aol.com, 819-684-2469 if you are interested in attending.



MB's in the Tulip Festival Parade



2013 Event Photos



Barry' Phillips' Singer



MBCO at the
Merrickville
Car Show

2013



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Autoweek's Drive Review of the Mercedes-Benz CLA Class

By: Mark Vaughn 3/06/2013

What Is It?

As the Mercedes-Benz C-Class gets bigger, which it will in the Fall of 2014, room opens up underneath it for a new entry-level Mercedes. That new entry-level Mercedes comes as the stylish four-door CLA.

Mercedes calls it a four-door coupe because, like its big brother the CLS as well as a host of imitators, most notably the Hyundai Sonata and Elantra, the CLA offers the styling of a coupe with the practicality of a sedan. While other markets get a number of drivetrains, America will get one engine and one transmission -- a 208-hp turbocharged 2.0-liter four powering the front wheels. Apart from the very limited B-Class F-Cell sold only in California in experimental numbers, it has been decades since Mercedes made a fwd anything.

A 4MATIC all-wheel drive CLA with Haldex-style electro-hydraulic multi-plate clutch will arrive in the spring of 2014.

The flowing lines of the exterior are not just nice to look at, engineers used them to produce the lowest coefficient of drag of any production vehicle ever -- a remarkable 0.23 in U.S. trim but 0.22 in one European version. All that should help return fuel mileage well above 30 mpg, though Mercedes won't be releasing EPA mileage figures until closer to the car's launch.

What's It Like To Drive?

When you consider that you could spend this much money on any number of compact and mid-sized sedans both foreign and domestic, the value equation of this well-built

and well-equipped baby Benz becomes clear. Mercedes loaded it up with safety features including Distronic cruise control, attention assist to keep you between the lines, and collision prevention assist, which senses imminent impacts and puts on the brakes.

A new connectivity feature connects your smart phone via mbrace2 to efficiently and cheaply integrate numerous apps, from Aha to Glympse to Facebook (which it reads to you) and beyond. The only thing missing is a convenient place



to stow the connected phone -- in our demos it slid around in the glove box, but Mercedes says an under-the-armrest connection will be on U.S. models.

At 125 mph there is almost no wind noise and the car is as stable and flat as a freshly fried kartoffelpuffer. Handling in both front- and all-wheel drive versions was also safe and stable if prone to occasional understeer when pushed hard. While it's perhaps not lively by sports- and sporty-car standards, that might not have been the engineers' goal. Roll, dive and squat are controlled better than anything else in the class -- and in a few other classes. The ride is on

the firm side but not uncomfortable. It's more well-controlled than taut. Europeans will get a choice of suspension calibrations but we in the U.S. will get only the Sport version. If it's not particularly sporty, that just means the AMG version, debuting at the New York auto show shortly, has more room for improvement.

The front seats lack for nothing, with multiple adjustments and plenty of head-, leg- and shoulder room. The back seats, while comfortably adequate for shorter people who

don't necessarily want to see much of the outside world, are cramped for adults, especially in headroom. Back seats would be perfect for, say, child stars who don't want to be seen while being chauffeured around. Small price to pay for all that style the roofline affords.

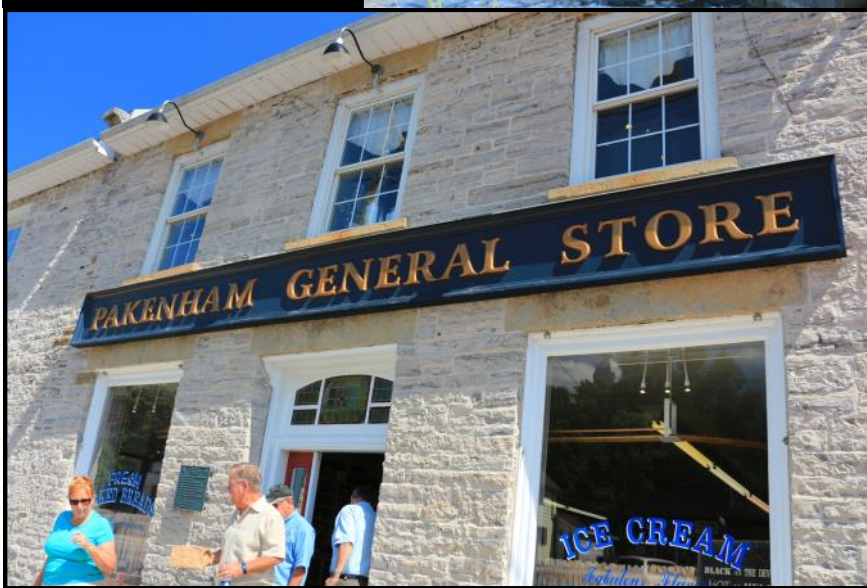
Do I Want It?

Clearly Mercedes planners are using this car to draw in younger buyers. With a starting sticker price of just over \$30,000 and a host of connectivity features Gens Y and Z crave, they could succeed. You can get the prestige of a Mercedes for the price of a bland mid-sized sedan. Even though it sits on the A-Class platform it looks and feels like a mid-size car. Unlike the truncated hatchback of a decade ago, this entry-level Benz makes no compromises and no excuses.

MORE 2013 EVENT PHOTOS



MBCO at Pakenham and the Mill of Kintail



CAR DISCOUNTS FOR CANADIAN MEMBERS!

MBCA members in Canada can receive up to \$1500 discounts on their purchase of new Mercedes Benz. The discounts are in addition to any dealer discounts or promotional offers. To qualify you need to have been a MBCA member for a minimum of one year. Members should negotiate their best deal with the MB Dealership. After negotiations, Members should show the dealership their MBCA membership card and inform the salesperson that you are eligible for the New Car Discount Program in order to have the additional discount applied. The latest discounts are listed below. This is a great benefit to the members of our Club.

2013 Model	Discount
Smart for two	\$500
B-Class	\$500
C-Class	\$750
GLK-Class	\$750
E-Class	\$750
CLS-Class	\$1500
CL-Class	\$1500
S-Class	\$1500
SLK-Class	\$750
SL-Class	\$1500
R-Class	\$750

Canadian New Car Discount Program: One Member's Experience

I thought that I should share with fellow Ottawa Section Members of the MBCA my recent experience while purchasing a new 2014 250 GLK Bluetec. I had researched the available models long and hard, and had come to realize that the car I wanted was the 250 GLK Bluetec. I also found that this particular model was much sought after, since everybody like me had reached pretty much the same conclusion about its attractiveness.

Anyhow, because of the demand I had to pre-order it (from van Herpt Motors, the Mercedes dealership here in Kingston with whom I have dealt for over 40 years on MBs and Volvos). I did so in May and took delivery at the end of September.

Understanding from owner Ed van Herpt Sr. that he couldn't get any GLK diesels for delivery until March of next year, I wasn't expecting an easy negotiation. . . Because of my long-standing relationship I did get a bit of a break on

price, but my real ace -in-the-hole was the MBCA's Canadian members New Car Discount Program, which Members might have seen advertised in all of the last three STAR magazines. John can tell you all about how it came to be. All I know is that as suggested, I saved this information until last, then showed it to Ed and was astonished to learn that this was the first he'd heard of it! But he duly photocopied the ad and my membership card, faxed them off to Dan Snell at Mercedes Fleet Canada in Toronto, and sure enough, back came the information that I was indeed eligible for an addition \$750 off under the MB Canadian Fleet Discount Program. I was very pleased indeed. It certainly paid for quite a few years of MBCA membership to say the least (much like a CAA membership, for example). This program is an extra inducement for an MBCA member to buy a Mercedes. The dealers love it because it is paid for by MB Canada, and therefore doesn't affect the dealer's profit margin.

Now why every dealer doesn't have the ad posted in his/her showroom, or



Merv Daub and his 2014 GLK

indeed hand it to every potential buyer (along with a MBCA application form), is beyond me! Ed indeed suggested he would be happy to do that very thing if John wanted to send him the materials. At the very least every dealer should be informed that the program exists. Anyone who has been a member of MBCA for at least one year is entitled to use it. Certainly I benefited from it and so should others. The maximum discount is \$1,500 for S-Class, SL-Class, CL-Class and CLS-Class cars. Smart cars get \$500. Most other models get \$750.

In closing I want to thank John and Doug Dees for their role in helping set it up the program for the Canadian members of MBCA. Also, thank you MB Canada for offering the program in the first place. Regards to all.

Merv Daub (Kingston)



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