



THE Ottawa Tri-Star

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Gotta Love Summer!!

We're half way through the season and I hope everyone has had a chance to get out and enjoy the great weather we've had lately.

We had a great turn out with over 50 cars participating in the visit to Upper Canada Village where we joined in with the Eurocar 15 group on May 30th. Members had the chance to visit the Village and learn about our heritage.

Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate again for the second year in a row for our participation in car shows. We had planned to try the Wheels on the Mississippi Show in Carleton Place this year but torrential rains that day necessitated the organizers cancelling the entire show. Maybe we try it again next year.

On July 25th, we had a lovely drive to Wakefield Que for a lunch at the Wakefield Inn and a good time was had be all exploring the village.

We still have some excellent events still to come this year, with our next event being held on August 16th at the Carleton Golf and Yacht Club where our members can not only show off their cars but their golf skills!

In this issue I've included an interesting article about the sort of deal we all love to come across - finding our dream car where you'd least expect it.

I hope everyone enjoys the rest of the summer and can join in on some the remaining events.

Safe Driving!

Mike McKinnon
Vice President &
Ottawa Tri-Star Editor

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www.ottawa.mbca.org

Message from the President

By Larry Lomas



We and our Mercedes are aging well.

Gregorios Sachinidis, a citizen of Greece turned over his 1976 240D (Diesel), a variant of the famed and long produced model 123 to a Mercedes museum in Germany a few years ago. That model first produced in 1976 is driven by many owners around the world in all kinds of weather and road conditions. The museum was anxious to get Gregorio's 240D because it had faithfully rolled along for 4,573,291 KMs. There many other, well cared for Mercedes of various models and years that have surpassed the 1 million Km mark and not all of them were diesels.

I loved both of my model 123's diesels and alas their lives were cut short by salt. Unlike in more temperate parts of the world, road salt and winter accidents write offs account for a great loss of these otherwise tough, mechanically fit, long distance runners. Fortunately, in recent

years Mercedes and other auto manufacturers have addressed this situation on the factory floor with much improved metal protection and the use of tough high strength plastics.

Most of our club members drive great older cars and this seems to be true in other clubs from what we observe in the events coverage in the Star and MBCA website. In a Wall Street journal article 14 Jan 2013 the average age of MB owners in the US was reported to be 52 years and by the way that is 3-4 years older than both BMW and Audi drivers. I think all that attended our very successful UCV event in May would agree that locally, that spread is much greater judging by the average age of the attending BMW and Porches drivers.

So, although both we and our cars are a long away from our best before date we do have that aged image. I feel we need to do something to both lower our

average age and to perhaps provide more vigor and imagination within our club. To that end I have spoken a few times to a lady who drives a Smart Car which we all know to be very affordable and I believe their owners are generally a younger average age. Through her I hope encourage other Smart drivers to join us in enjoyment of our Marque and mutually new friendships.

I would much welcome any suggestions members may have to to the same end. Please contact me at the following address.

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The Ottawa Tri-Star

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Upper Canada Village - Eurocars15

We had a great turn out on May 30th for our tour with the Eurocars 15 group to Upper Canada Village near Morrisburg .

There were **50 cars** that attended to event including:

Mercedes Benz	16
Porsche	17
Jag/Bentley	6
Maserati	1
BMW	3
Citroen	6
Alfa Romeo	1

Participants enjoyed showing their cars as well as taking in a complimentary tour of the Upper Canada Village site.



Benz At Wakefield

By Larry Lomas

On Saturday July 25th, a convoy of thirteen Mercedes and twenty four members traveled from our meeting place at the Plateau Shopping Centre along the relatively new and scenic Highway 5 to picturesque Wakefield and Fairburn House. There we were treated a very interesting presentation of Wakefield's interesting history and that of Fairburn House followed by a tour of the Village's famed covered bridge, log cabin and other artifacts dating back to the 1830s. Following a tour of the graveyard overlooking the village where Nobel peace prize winner and former Prime Minister of Canada, Lester B. Pearson choose to be buried, we had lunch at the Wakefield Mill. We would like to thank Philip Cohen, a well know Wakefield resident, who accompanied us throughout and provided interesting comments and further history information on sites we visited.

Much to our pleasant surprise our member Michael Hoegl drove his V12 SL600 from his home in Parry Sound to join us. Having arrived the previous evening he returned after lunch. I spoke to him this morning and he got home safely after 5-6 hours of driving. By the way the 6 L engine was rebored to 7L so it is technically a SL700. He admits it's difficult to keep his speed down on the open road.

Thanks to all members who supplied photos.



Rare classic Mercedes Gullwing miraculously found on eBay From Driving.ca, Written by Alyn Edwards



Ottawa surgeon Hassan Moghadam loves classic foreign sports cars. He already owns a stunning 1969 Aston Martin DB6. Yet even this gorgeous piece of machinery was not enough to satisfy his thirst for special cars.

Always looking for the next perfect car, he learned his ultimate dream car was listed on eBay in the spring of 2012. Better yet, the owner was not a world away, but a mere hour from his Ottawa home.

The car, a 1956 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing, is one of the most sought after on earth. Prices range from \$500,000 to \$2-million. This particular exotic would have been one of the very few 300SL Gullwing coupes delivered to Canada in the second year of production. So valuable and so rare is this car that when the Gullwing showed up for sale on eBay, many thought it was a scam.

It wasn't.

"It was my dream car and it was only an hour away," Dr. Moghadam says. He rushed to see the car with his then

seven-year-old son Alexander. When he asked Alexander if he should buy the car, the response was: "No dad. It has lots of bumps and bruises."

"I told him, that's what makes the car special. It is a true barn find and a hidden treasure. He then got excited and jumped in the car," explained Dr. Moghadam.

The deal was made on a handshake and the car was left in the former owner's care for eight months before it was delivered to Ottawa in early December 2012.

This car is a Canadian time capsule, likely one of the most exotic cars in the country. Original paperwork shows the MB 300SL was ordered on June 19, 1956 and shipped to Montreal six days later. It came with a cold winter package, which meant a curtain blocked cold air going through the radiator and

could be opened and closed with a system of pulleys and chains.

"This car was basically stored for years in a barn and never driven," Dr. Moghadam says. "You're never going to see one of these cars that is unrestored; it was only painted once in the 1960s and displays a Quickie Oil Change sticker put on at 30,000 miles. The car has only gone 31,000 miles."

George O'Connell is pleased the exotic sports car he owned for almost all his adult life is now in good hands. "I wasn't using the Gullwing and it was time to sell it. It went to a young, delightful man. He's going to take it and enjoy the hell out of it and that's a good thing."

The silver 1956 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing formerly owned by O'Connell, who lives in Rigaud, Quebec, 17 kilometres from the Ontario border, was bought in 1960 when O'Connell was 23 years old. The exotic Gullwing was originally special-ordered by a Montreal dealership for a taxi company owner in the then-remote St. Lawrence River port of Sept. Iles, Quebec. When the Gullwing arrived at the dealership, the taxi company owner sat in it once before deciding it wasn't for him.



Hidden treasure: Classic, all-original, barn find Mercedes-Benz 300SL that popped up for sale on eBay in Canada looked too good to be true



By coincidence, the next owner was also from Sept. Iles and was the manager of the area airport. During the 1950s, Sept. Iles was a remote community only accessible by air or water. The manager already owned a Mercedes-Benz 190 SL sports car and, once a year, he would load his roadster on the boat to Montreal, get the car serviced by the dealer, and then take a trip.

While visiting the dealership, he fell in love with the nearly new, silver 300SL Gullwing. The manager bought it and took it back to Sept. Iles on the ship. Because local roads were gravel, he often raced his German sports car on the airport tarmac.

Within a few years, a wealthy son of a British industrialist who was working in Sept. Iles talked the manager into selling it. But when the industrialist transferred his son to Australia, the car came up for sale. That's when George O'Connell bought the car for all the money he could come up with — \$4,300 — just as the son was about to board a plane.

O'Connell's father, H.J. O'Connell, was a Canadian road and airport construction magnate with a waterfront mansion in Pierrefonds on the St. Lawrence, an equestrian farm across the street and his own ski hill north of Montreal. He also had a massive collection of 130 collector cars.

George had worked for his father before setting out on his own to manage

equipment for giant construction projects all over the world. He left the Gullwing coupe with his father.

Despite a full stable of collector cars, his father would often take guests for drives in the silver Mercedes-Benz Gullwing sports car. They included Conrad Hilton and Jacqueline Kennedy. Before Pierre Elliott Trudeau became Canada's prime minister, George let him take the Gullwing sports car for a romp through the Gatineau Hills north of Ottawa. Two years ago, George decided to downsize his own car collection. "I wasn't using the Mercedes and asked a friend to help me sell it." That's how the exotic German-built classic was put on eBay and ended up in Dr. Moghadam's possession.

Alyn Edwards is a classic car enthusiast and partner in Peak Communicators, a Vancouver-based public relations company. aedwards@peakco.com

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2015 Events

We have a couple more events this season. Note that we have cancelled the drive to Ladysmith and replaced it with the Eurocars Tour and Lunch at the German Club event..

Golf and BBQ at Manotick - Sunday August 16th

Fore! Calling all golfers - good and not so good to join us for a round of golf at the Carleton Golf and Yacht Club in Manotick. A lunch time BBQ will be held at the club house followed by a tour of Waton's Mill for those who are not golfers while the golf is underway. Details will be provided closer to the event date. Event Organizer - Bob Mather - robert.mather@rogers.com



Oktoberfest in Ladysmith Que - CANCELLED

Eurocars Tour and Lunch at German Club - Sunday October 3rd.

This event will consist of meeting of all Eurocars at the the Nepean Sailing Club then proceeding on a scenic drive to the MLA (German) Club where we will have a car show and a light German lunch and refreshments.



New Ottawa Section Website

By John Bartholomew

Make sure you check out our new website. It is a clone of the MBCA's main website at mbca.org, so it has the same look and feel but with our own Section's local content and provides a consistency with other MBCA Sections' websites .

One of the advantages of moving to this new website is its synchronization with mbca.org, the MBCA "parent" site. Content such as our Section's Event Notices and Event Reports that we add to mbca.org will automatically flow down to our Section's site. This information flows to other nearby Sections as well to let them what we are doing and also works in reverse so we will know about other nearby Club events.

Our Section's inputs also get added to the Star Magazine's events pages. Lastly, our Section Event Notices and Reports can be sent to our mobile applications.

Check the website frequently for news and event updates!

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