



THE Ottawa Tri-Star

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Spring is here, let the events begin!

Hello again fellow Section Members. We're all delighted that the snow is gone, longer hours of daylight keep stretching our daytime more and more every day as we ready ourselves, our homes and yes of course, our cars for fair weather activity. Snow tires are coming off, I did June's Jetta snow tires last week and was surprised to realize how much better it feels taking them off rather than putting them on! Out in the garden the tulips, garlic, strawberries, irises and as you can see in the picture here, June's lovely yellow daffodils are ushering in spring in fine form. I also caught sight of the little plant beside this cluster at the front edge of the berry patch that is reaching for the spring sunshine just as the plants are! Anyone else notice these coming up in their flowerbed or vegetable garden?



Sorry, but I had to snap a quick pic before my green-thumbed bride came by and ripped it out by the roots to make room for the spring planting. Hopefully you will all be able to join us for Cars and Coffee over the spring and summer, look for the schedule elsewhere in this issue, and try not to look at the price of fuel before you fill up your Benz this spring. And, if you see one of the little pick-ups like the one below on the streets of Ottawa, wait for the diver to show up and invite them to join the club! See you on the road!



Bob Graham-Tri-Star Editor

(Thanks to Bob Richer for his never ending quest for pics of any and all Mercedes-Benz.)

Visit the Ottawa Section of MBCA at
mbca.org/section/Ottawa



President's Message

Tom Lang



The big news this issue is that the new MBCA website is up and running, and so is our Ottawa chapter website hosted by mbca.org. In other news, MBCA has decided to start referring to sections as chapters, so welcome to Ottawa chapter. You may also have noticed that everyone's member number has changed, so be sure to note your new number when you register or log in at mbca.org. There is an article in this issue contributed by MBCA about the new website. MBCA has been planning the new website on the GlueUp platform for some time, but their hand was forced when they were informed that the platform hosting the old website became unsupported as of November last year, so it was only a matter of time before the old website suffered an unrecoverable crash. That event happened in February, so the new website was quickly launched, and chapter presidents and webmasters were

invited to attend Zoom training sessions to get up to speed on the new website, which is considerably more capable than the old one. Club webmaster Tom Zouzoulas and I attended these sessions, and are taking a crawl-walk-run approach, but



eventually we will be able to do cool new things like organize and manage club events through the website. Imagine being able to register for an event by clicking on a Register link in the

announcement email, instead of having to respond to the event organizer in a separate email!

I encourage you to register on the new website and check out our section webpage. To get there, go to mbca.org and click on the COMMUNITY tab, then select "Local Clubs/Sections" from the dropdown menu. This will take you to the "Local Clubs/Sections" page, where you can scroll down to "Northeast Region" and click on "Ottawa" to have a look around. Or you can take a shortcut by simply navigating to mbca.org/section/Ottawa. We hope you like what you see. Be sure to click on "My Profile", then on "Memberships" to view your new member number. More to come!

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The Ottawa Tri-Star

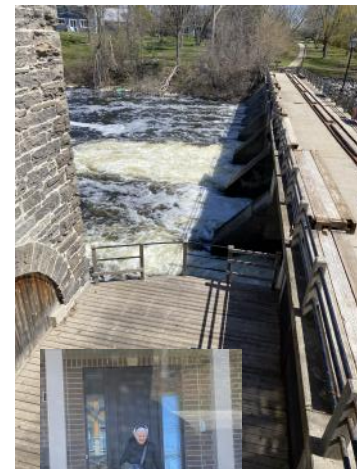
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Travels with Fritz

By June & Bob Graham

One of the great joys of owning a Mercedes-Benz is actually travelling in it! They are almost, without exception, great touring vehicles. In this recurring feature of the newsletter, June and I will share some places we have travelled and visited in our old car, Fritz. He has been in the family for over 30 years and despite being old, smelly and slow, (not unlike yours truly) has visited many interesting places. We gladly share those with you, some far afield, some very close to home, and hope they inspire you to get out on the road and see the world around us.



THIS ISSUE: Spend the Morning in Manotick



Most everyone knows the Village of Manotick, in fact several of our members call it home, and what's not to love? Charming old houses, great small and not so small places to eat and shop, the old Long Island Mill, the Canal and the River both run right through the middle of town. Many folks from the city centre have moved out here and many more are doing so all the time. June and I had some errands to run here so we made a morning of it and decided it would be this issue's Travels with Fritz. First stop was the Manotick Shoe Repair. A gent with obviously decades of experience revitalized June's beloved Manitobah Muckluks that we found years ago in a little gift shop in Jasper AB, but have seen a lot of wear, and because of the one-year-only Thunderbird decorations on them, are irreplaceable. Problem solved at this little shop that also sharpens skates, cuts keys and replaces watch batteries. Then it was just south of town to a new subdivision to pick up some new linen pants that were an inch or so too long, and Olga's Alterations on the corner of Trestle and Chirscraft (I love those street names, almost something Arthur Conan Doyle would have written) took care of them. Then over to Take Another Bite on Mill street for a fabulous dessert and a coffee while my bride selected a tea called Peaches and Cream. A pecan pumpkin pie tart was split between the two of us but frankly, I could have eaten two of them myself it was so delicious. We pulled Fritz into the parking area in front of the Mill so I could take a picture or two then went across the street to the Used Book Store, which is really something. I was thrilled that June found a paperback copy of Garrison Keillor's Lake Wobegon Days for me. If you know Keillor, you know what I mean. And if you don't, give a call in a week or two and I'll lend you my copy. You might get just as excited about it as I am. Finally, while waiting in front of the shoe shop, I notice a dark purple frame house with burgundy painted trim on the east side of Main St. that has a sign in the shape of a cauldron out front reading "Enchanted Chamber". I neither enquired, nor am I interested, in what goes on there. Back to Take Another Bite, please.

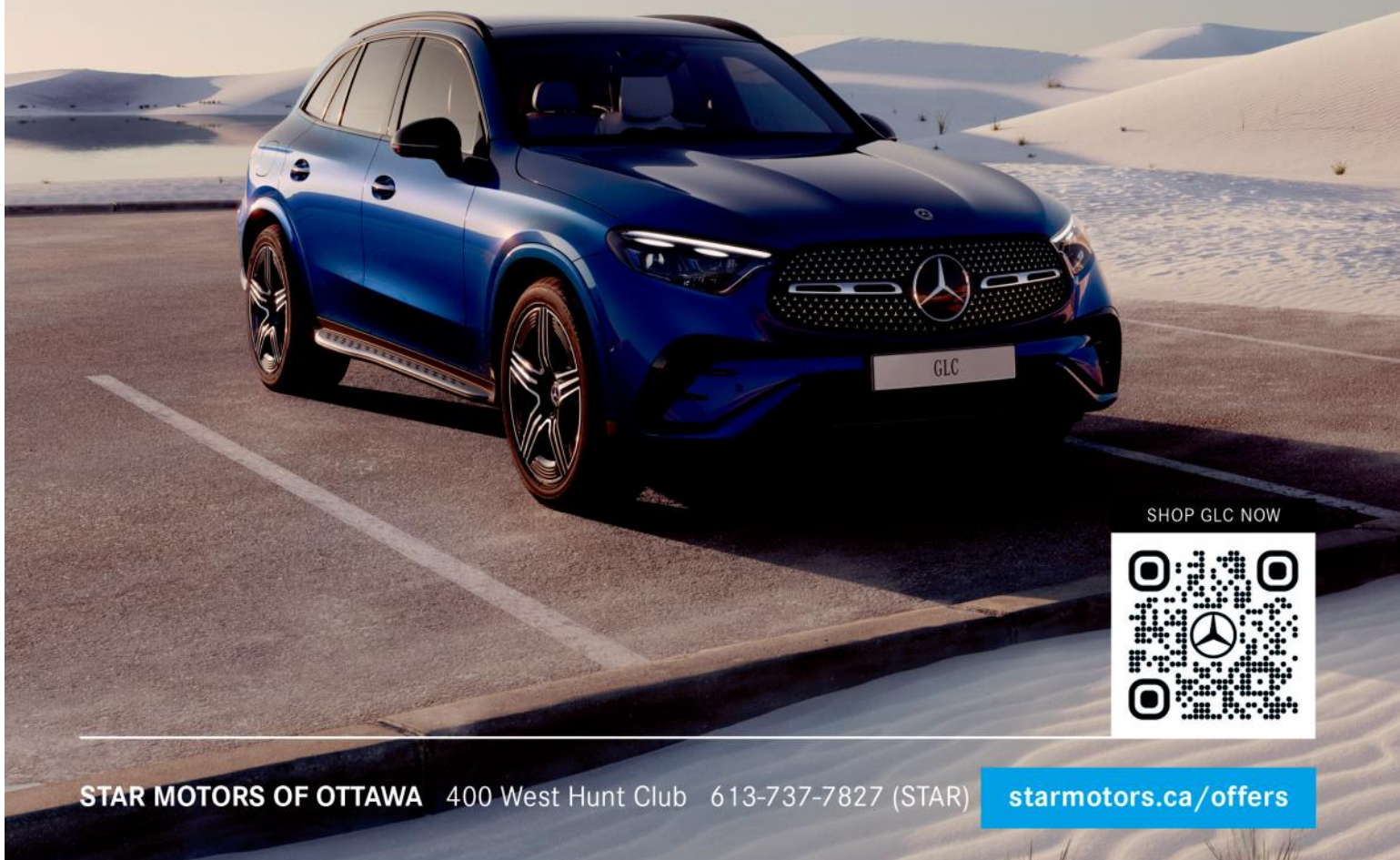




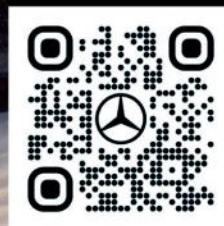
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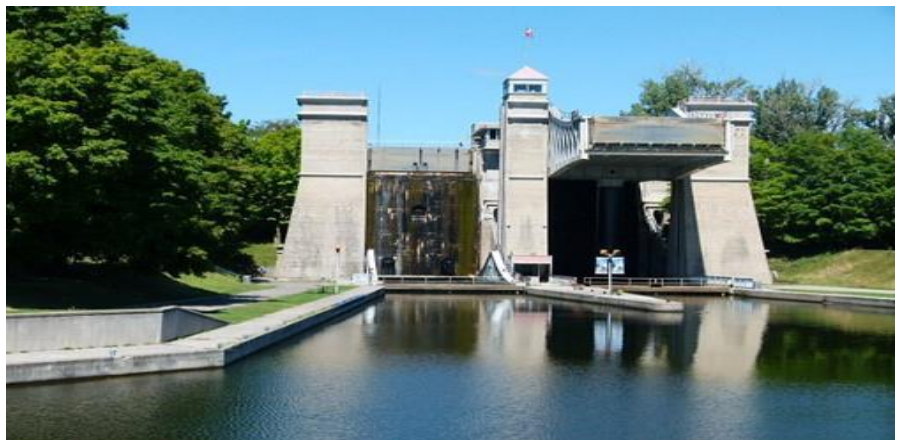
Overnight Club Trip to Peterborough

If you have something to share: ottawasectioneditor@gmail.com

Overnight Club Trip to Peterborough and Surroundings

Ottawa chapter has had an interesting idea put forward by one of our members for a novel driving event. Because the idea is quite ambitious for our club, as it involves a drive of around 265 km in each direction and an overnight stay, your board of directors is soliciting feedback from members who would be interested in attending this event. The timeframe being considered is August of this year. Please read the description below and email our President at tlang1@sympatico.ca if you are interested in participating. We would like to have all responses by the end of May, so we have plenty of time to make bookings if there is enough interest.

The highlights of the trip are the Canadian Canoe Museum and Peterborough lift locks. Located in Peterborough, the new Canadian Canoe Museum's exhibits explore how the canoe defines the Canadian character and spirit. As well as the canoe collection, the museum features a dramatic waterfall, and a traditional Mi'kmaq wigwam. The museum now holds the largest collection of its kind, with more than 600 canoes and kayaks, and a thousand related artifacts.



Near the museum are the Peterborough Lift Locks. Opened in 1904 and designated as a Canadian National Historic Site, this is the highest hydraulic lift lock in the world. Powered by gravity, the Lift Lock towers almost 20 m (65 ft) above the Trent Canal, enabling lifts in two counter-balanced, bathtub-like chambers. The locks can be visited, and a 2-hour sightseeing cruise is available as well.

The trip itinerary would start with gathering somewhere in Ottawa's west end in the morning, then driving separately (or in groups of members' own choosing) on Hwy 7 and meeting again for lunch in Kaladar. The next driving leg takes us on Hwy 7 to the Canoe Museum for a visit, followed by individual check-in at our hotel, and a group dinner at a restaurant in the evening. After breakfast the next morning, weather permitting we will visit the lift locks before going our separate ways. Some people will retrace their steps back to Ottawa, while others may use the opportunity to visit Toronto and points west.



Random Ramblings: Cars & Coffee-Lets Do It

Lets face it, Caffeine and Gasoline rhyme for a reason
 If you have something to share: ottawasectioneditor@gmail.com

So here we go with a project that June and I have been wanting to start for a while. Just drop by the location, if and when you are able, have a coffee and a chit chat then move on. Stay 10 minutes, stay a couple of hours, its up to you. Husband/wife out of town or otherwise engaged? No problem. Just drop in with whatever vehicle you have and take part. Over the summer you may see June or I arriving driving anything from her Beetle convertible to my Yamaha motor bike. Its all about having some social time with no particular plans or time frame. Some highlights: Tuesday June 11 anytime from 5 pm on, Cruise Night for CHEO at Hazeldean Mall. Sunday July 7, picnic in Eganville at 11 am. Sunday Aug 25, Cumberland Heritage Village Museum, Live Steam Trains in Scale Model! The rest are just plain old meet and chat. Hope you can take part at some point. **YOU NEED NOT REGISTER OR SIGN UP, BUT WE'D LIKE TO HAVE A ROUGH IDEA OF THE INTEREST FOR EACH OUTING. BUT DON'T LET THAT STOP YOU FROM DROPIING IN !** Cheesy Photo Below!!

Ottawa Section MBCA 2024 Cars and Coffee Schedule				
Date	Time	Location/Address	Bring along...	Notes
These are informal gatherings, no program or activity just coffee and conversation, could be 3 or 30 attending				
Although it is not required to 'Register' or 'Sign up' to attend, we'd like to have a rough idea of the interest for each outing. CASUAL DROP INS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME				
If you can please..... RSVP bobdgraham@yahoo.com or June Graham 613.243.6018 3 days before event				
Sun May 5	10am	Red Dot Café, 5673 Main St Osgoode	Lawn Chair	If desired,you could make a reservation for breakfast
Wed May 15	10am	Second Cup, 3170 Greenbank Dr at Strandherd	Lawn chair	Plenty of shopping opportunities nearby if cars aren't your thing
Sun May 26	10am	Burritts Rapids Lock, 673 River Rd Kemptville	Coffee and Lawn Chair	Washrooms will be open
Tues June 11	5pm	CHEO Cruise Night, Hazeldean Mall Kanata	Lawn Chair	Fund raiser for CHEO run by a local car club
Wed June 19	10am	Black Walnut Bakery, 979 Cameron St Cumberland	Coffee and Lawn Chair	Charming little bakery in an old house in Cumberland, don't sell coffee but Mr. Gas next door does!
Sun June 23	10am	Meet at Foodland, Bank St at Parkway Rd Greeley, drive to Winchester Tim Hortons	Lawn chair	A short cruise just for a change, coffee available at both ends of the cruise
Sun July 7	11am	Eganville Tourist Info location, Bonnechere St W near Bruce St in Eganville (washrooms there)	Law chair and picnic lunch	We will cross the footbridge with a beautiful view of the river gorge and picnic in the park on the far shore
Wed July 24	10am	Second Cup, Hunt Club Rd at Riverside Dr (South east corner)	Lawn chair,	We may sit outside and watch the airport activity, weather permitting
Sun Aug 11	10am	Scotty's Corner Diner, 2006 Robertson Rd at Old Richmond Rd, Bells Corners	Lawn Chair	You may want to enjoy breakfast there, reported to be highly rated. The patio will be open too
Sun Aug 25	11am	Cumberland Heritage Village Museum, Ottawa Valley Live Steamers Train Day, 2940 Old Montreal Rd. Cumberland	Lawn Chair and Coffee	The Live Steamers have large scale model trains and will be running demos with rides from 11 til 2, Admission Charge for Museum/park
Wed Sept 11	10am	Starbucks, 2271 Prince of Wales Dr, just south of Hunt Club	Lawn Chair	Nice central location
Sun Sept 22	10am	Small park at Sussex Dr and John St inNew Edinburgh	Lawn Chair and Coffee	Close to a riverside walk and the leaves should be colourful at this time



The Last Word is Mine

By Bob Graham, Newsletter Editor.
ottawasectioneditor@gmail.com
Let me know what YOU think

You have seen earlier in this issue how our club is reaching out and looking to plan more and unique events. Cars and Coffee is just one idea. We are very optimistic and hope it will be successful. Remember one thing; even if there are two people and two cars, it had the potential for a fun and interesting time. Even if just for an hour, it's the whole point of this organization. I have been pleasantly surprised by the reaction to our little newsletter, hope we can keep up to that initial level and that you as members will let us know when we are doing a good job and when we could use some improvement. Many people over the years have stepped up to make this a great group based here in the Capital Region, and I would be remiss if I didn't mention our second president, Larry Lomas. Larry and his wife Debbie have been members for many many years, and when our first president John Fisher passed suddenly and quite unexpectedly, Larry took the reigns and led us for several years very capably. Larry is well known for his deep baritone voice, and warm smile, and both he and Debbie give the club a little touch of elegant dignity and quiet,

confident leadership. We certainly don't see them as often as we'd like and really hope that the stars align and the sun shines at the appropriate moments so they are able to join us this season for at least a few of our events. If we can get him off the water!

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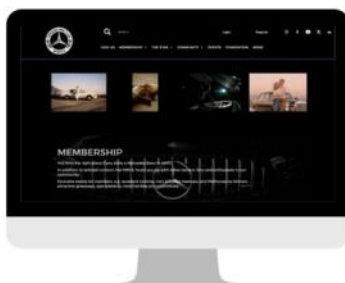
I, for one, have been encouraged by the latest rumblings from the National Business Office. Seems to me the new website is going to be much better, but like most new IT type offerings, there are glitches to work out, no surprise there. You will notice that we'll have some new recruitment materials available soon for us to hand out at Cars and Coffee, and other events that draw the

general public to, and around our events. Big thanks to President Tom L for spearheading that and taking the bull by the horns, so to speak. And, the work that he and Webmaster/Club Secretary Tom Z are doing getting all of us technological dinosaurs from the Edison age up into the digital age to access club materials and information is Herculean. I can't imagine how much patience it must take to get most of us there. Just imagine trying to tell a five-year-old how we used an old library card or dialed a rotary phone and you might get the picture.

.....
Anyway, I hope to see all of you on the road and attending our events this year., Happy Motoring to one and all!



MBCA WEBSITE UPDATE



by Diana Quinn, Eastern Regional Director | MBCA Technical Advisor

The new [MBCA](https://www.mbca.org) website is **HERE!** If you have not already visited and established your new MBCA member account, do it now. Every member should have received an email inviting you to establish your account and establish a new password on March 13, 2024.

What if you didn't get that email or put the email in your trash? Simply go to [mbca.org](https://www.mbca.org) and click on **Register** and proceed with your email address. If you get a message that your email address already exists, then click on **Login**, and then click on the **Forgot Password** link to set your password. Need help in logging in? Send an email to info@mbca.org or contact the National Business Office at Tues-Thurs: 9 am - 3 pm MT, phone: 719-633-6427.

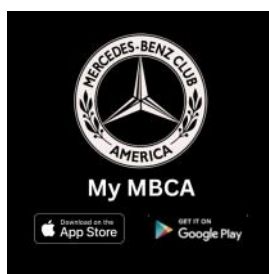
Once logged into the website:

- Click on your **PROFILE**, complete your profile, and tell us more about your interests and the cars in your garage.
- Click on **GO to My Glue Home** to explore Your Chapter Community, interact with your Chapter Community, stay informed with upcoming Events.
- **EXPLORE** more in the Mercedes-Benz Club of America of the website. Switch organizations by clicking on the blue circle with your initials, then **Switch Organizations** to the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.
- **Join our Communities (Mercedes-Benz Club of America):**
 - Star Interest Groups** (Groups by Car Models)
 - Star Marketplace** (Buy and sell cars, parts, and Mercedes-Benz related items)
 - Star TECH** (Join the conversation on maintenance, and technical aspects of your Mercedes-Benz)

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Log into the app with your MBCA email and password. Tip: To set/reset your password go to www.mbca.org > **Login** > **Forgot Password**

- Select the **Mercedes-Benz Club of America** organization
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