



# Vancouver Island Section Newsletter

May 2020

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## President’s Message

Rob Watson

I hope each of you and your families are doing as well as can be expected in this unusual and difficult time. In April, Linda and I received daily briefings from one of our extended family members who was critically ill with Covid-19. He is a fit and young-ish man in his 40s. It was ugly reading, and we are grateful he is on the path to recovery. We are so fortunate to be in B.C. and especially on Vancouver Island where the incidence is lower and more under control than in some other places.

It feels like a distant dream when I think about all that has transpired since our last newsletter in November 2019 as well as our most recent club event, the Brunch at the Malahat Inn in early February. When it became obvious that Covid-19 was gaining traction in early March, we sent a cancellation notice directly to all those who had registered for the Interior Detailing Workshop which was to be conducted by Andrew O’Keefe. With no group events allowed, it was apparent we could not hold either of our May events either – the New Car and Technology Event or the wine tour.

In addition to the first part of our 2020 Event Schedule blowing up, the application to hold July’s Oak Bay Car Collector Festival had not been received according to the District of Oak Bay. We can all guess but at this time, I have no confirmation one way or the other about whether it will go on. There is a notice on GAIN’s Concourse d’Elegance website that their show in August is cancelled. Crowd restrictions are unlikely to change dramatically and as a result we have changed our plans.

With restaurants slowly and cautiously reopening, we are going to proceed with our third Summer Solstice Dinner at the Farm Table Inn on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> June (see below). As well, we are looking at rescheduling last



year's popular Cowichan Valley Wine Tour to Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup>Recent July. Barry Patchett and Philip Early are planning the details. Instead of lunch at a particular venue we are considering a bring-your-own picnic lunch so we have more control over the required physical distancing. A separate notice will be sent out in June as details firm up.

Beyond July and August, the Event schedule is uncertain; much depends on how Covid-19 and the associated restrictions and freedoms play out. Look for updates in our July Newsletter following the wine tour.

Something to be aware of though is that MBCA has encountered a financial 'speed bump' from the loss (among other things) of their annual rebate from Mercedes-Benz in Germany. National has reassessed its balanced budget and cut expenses, which includes a 50% reduction in the rebate sent to Sections this year. This has a direct impact on our Section because, as many of you know, every year each Section normally receives a US\$11 rebate for each member. As a result, and in turn, we will need to be more mindful about our own budget for this year.

Finally, for next year (2021), we are considering organizing a Safe Family Safe Driving Program sponsored by the MBCA Educational Foundation. The Program is structured to take your own car on a closed circuit to learn defensive driving skills. A description of the Safe Family program hosted by the Portland Section, which Linda and I participated in last year, can be found in the article written by Linda in our Section's September 2019 Newsletter ([link](#)). This program is geared to families, including teenagers or those who have just obtained a driver's license. Let me know if you would be interested in participating in the SFSD program so we can gauge the feasibility of hosting it on Vancouver Island.

As we emerge from our cocoons, I hope each of us will continue to follow Dr. Bonnie Henry's oft-repeated mantra, "be kind, be calm, be safe."



A car driver's dream . . . or a nightmare? This is taken from the bus Linda and I were on in early December 2019 looking towards Chile. We were climbing towards the *Paso Internacional Los Libertadores* in the Andes on our way to Mendoza, Argentina. We had a mission: to check out whether their Malbec wines live up to their promise!



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## 2019 – 2020 Section Officers

President: Rob Watson  
Vice–President: Dennis Ostrowerka  
Treasurer: Philip Early  
Secretary: Hazel Ostrowerka  
Membership Chair: Alex Currie  
Newsletter Editors: Barry Patchett and Rob Watson  
Dealer Ambassador, Victoria: Dennis Ostrowerka  
Dealer Ambassador, Nanaimo: Barry Patchett  
Honorary Vice–President: Peter Trzewik

Northwest Regional Director: Jeff Shindler (jeff.shindler@shaw.ca)

Section e–mail: [mbca.visland@gmail.com](mailto:mbca.visland@gmail.com)

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### Section members (with the month and year of joining MBCA) who reached their Membership Anniversary milestone between January and May.

#### 5 Years

Garry Graves (March 2015)  
Anthony Morris (May 2015)  
Don Simmons (March 2015)

#### 20 Years

Wilfred and Betty Beaton (January 2000)  
Louis and Catherine Hobson (January 2000)

#### 40 years

Barry Taylor (January 1980)

If any members have not received their Anniversary pin and would like to, please contact Rob Watson at this [link](#).

### Thank you to Members and Associate Members who renewed their membership between January and May.

Barrie Aldrich  
Wilfred Beaton  
Murray Bradley  
Donna Donaldson  
Ron Drane  
Louis Hobson  
David Holgate  
Doug Logan  
Neil Mahady  
Anthony (Tony) Morris  
Heinz Mueller  
Edward Petro  
Gerald (Gerry) Woloshyn

### Welcome to New Members (with month of joining MBCA)

Barry and Pat Elias (December)  
Edgerton Nicholson (December)  
John Mallett (February)  
Christopher Gray (March)  
Wayne Ricalton (April)



## 2020 Tentative Event Calendar

<p><b>JUNE</b>  <i>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>: Father's Day</i>  <b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June</b>  <b>Summer Solstice Prime Rib Buffet Dinner at the Farm Table Inn</b>  Organizer: Barry Patchett</p>	<p><b>SEPTEMBER</b>  <i>Monday 7<sup>th</sup>: Labour Day</i>  <b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September</b>  <b>Tour of Viking Air (to be arranged), AGM and lunch at Mary's Bleue Moon Café</b>  Organizers: Rob Watson and Alex Currie</p>
<p><b>JULY</b>  <i>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>: Canada Day</i>  <b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July</b>  <b>Second Cowichan Valley Wine Tour and Lunch</b>  Organizers: Philip Early and Barry Patchett  Organizer: Alex Currie</p>	<p><b>OCTOBER</b>  <i>Monday 12<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving</i>  <b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b>  <b>Three Point Motors Winter Maintenance or Technical Event</b>  Organizers: Dennis and Hazel Ostrowerka</p>
<p><b>AUGUST</b>  <i>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>: BC Day</i>  <b>NO EVENTS SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME</b></p>	<p><b>NOVEMBER</b>  <i>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>: Remembrance Day</i>  <b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November</b>  <b>Christmas/Holiday Lunch</b>  Organizers: Linda Derrick and Cheryl Macdonald</p>

### Upcoming Events

#### Summer Solstice Prime Rib Dinner at the Farm Table Inn Thursday, 18 June, 2020

The Farm Table Inn reopened on May 28<sup>th</sup>. On Thursday, 18th June, we will have our third and popular Solstice Dinner at the Farm Table Inn, just off Highway 18 near Lake Cowichan. This year, because of restrictions with buffets, dinner will be *a la carte* with Prime Rib as the main feature (see menu in the link below). Whether we sit inside or out will depend on weather, but the restaurant will have all the protocols in place for personal distancing (see below). We have reserved 18 places so be aware, it will be 'first-to-respond, first reserved.'

With the Summer Solstice only two days after our dinner we will have 16 hours of daylight and the delight of a drive home while it is still light.

As is the case with restaurants, the Farm Table Inn has undertaken many precautions. The following is from their website:



*“We want to assure our guests that we will be taking every precaution necessary to ensure a safe and relaxed visit with us. We have been hard at work for the last two months adapting to the "new normal" and can't wait to put our plans into action.*

*“Some of the things we have to offer include brand new renovations of our guest bathrooms, a freshly painted and sanitized kitchen, safely distanced seating in our spacious dining room, expansive patio space for safe outdoor dining, safe payment area, and a brand new Farm Store with freshly made meals, farm raised pork products, preserves, etc., to take home.*

*“Please be assured that our top priority is the health and safety of our guests. We have created a new business and operating plan that encompasses all safety measures recommended by WorkSafe BC and the BC Health Authority. We will be vigorously sanitizing and deep cleaning on a continual schedule, as well as ensuring daily temperature and health checks with all staff members.”*

**Summary:**

**Organizer:** Barry Patchett

**When:** Thursday, 18th June

**Time:** about 6:00 PM (to be confirmed)

**Where:** Farm Table Inn, 6755 Cowichan Lake Road, Lake Cowichan

**Cost:** This year it will be an a la carte menu (see: <https://www.farmtableinn.ca/menu>)

**RSVP:** Please reply to Barry and our Section Gmail address by clicking [here](#) by Wednesday 10 June. Numbers are limited to 18.

## Recent Events

### Brunch at the Malahat Inn

Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2020

Rob Watson

Photos by Christo Pandelidis, Barry Patchett and Gary Graves

Snow is always a risk in these parts in February, but we were fortunate to have a sunny, clear day for the 26 members and their guests who filled two long tables overlooking Finlayson Arm in the Saanich Inlet. After the initial gathering and chit-chatting, some much-needed warm beverages (coffee!) and an increasing volume of conversation, many hit the brunch buffet to make their selections from eggs benedict, pancakes, waffles, custom omelettes and more.

Brunch was followed by a short thank you to all for attending and a special, warm welcome to two new members to our Section – Barry and Pat Elias from Chemainus.

If only the extraordinary turnout for our brunch at the Malahat Inn could have been an precursor for the lost events from March to May (sigh)!





The happy gathering (CP). (Correction: the Brunch was in February, not January)



Christo (when he is not behind a camera) and Galena Pandelidis (CP)



Debra Ratcliffe and Garry Graves (CP)



Hazel Ostrowerka (CP)  
Hazel Ostrowerka, Board Secretary. Always a great smile.  
(CP)



You just can't get some people to sit down. (CP)





The whole gang, happily chatting while getting some nourishment. (GG)



... and on it went until it was finally time for the drive home. (BP)

## Links of Interest

Bob Wilson, when he was Newsletter Editor, did a superb job of including interesting links about Mercedes-Benz and the automobile industry. This is a small start to continue his initiative. If you find interesting tidbits for inclusion in our Newsletter to share with our members, please forward them to our Gmail account.

Sir Stirling Moss died on April 12, 2020. He was, of course, a legend in motorsports racing winning 212 of 529 races, including the famous Mille Miglia in 1955 driving a 300SLR with his navigator Denis Jenkinson. This is a tribute to Sir Stirling from MB on YouTube ([link](#)). Denis Jenkinson wrote a very interesting article many years ago about their experience in Motor Sport Magazine ([link](#)).

For some visual entertainment, Bob Wilson forwarded the link for a virtual tour of the Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart ([link](#)). The Museum is a must for “Benzophiles” with its extraordinary, historical collection.

Thanks again to Bob for a [link](#) to the new A-Class Hybrid. It has an electric only (and local?) range of 75km with a combined hybrid fuel consumption of 1.4 to 1.5L/100km.

The E-Class is receiving an extensive update and you can see pictures and read loads of documents about the new features from MB Global Media site at this first [link](#) and a summarized version at this second [link](#).

And finally, thanks to Barrie Aldrich and Bob Wilson, with a video about the first long distance drive in a motor car with Bertha Benz and her two sons driving from Mannheim to Pforzheim ([link](#)). It took Frau Benz 10 hours to complete the journey. According to Google maps, the journey would now take just over 60 minutes.

