Editor’s notes:

Our November 3 regular meeting is just days away from the release of this newsletter and that meeting is very important for the good of our club. We often make lightly of this meeting and joke about the attendance at the lower ebb because there is no full meal deal and it happens to be election night. Setting aside the lighter aspects of this meeting we can take a more serious approach toward elections. At this meeting on November 3 we have every position available and this is a great opportunity, particularly for the newer members, to get involved and more familiar with the Chapter. And I’m not joking!

You’ll find information in this newsletter about some highlight annual activities that are planned for the next month. These include the Awards and Christmas banquet, membership appreciation and our New Year’s Day run. All of these, and many more activities during the year are substantially subsidized through the profits of our annual swap meet. So take advantage of the offerings! And consider your volunteer efforts for the swap meet.

On the back page of this newsletter is a calendar of scheduled activities that are now confirmed. If you got ambitious you could make notes on a calendar and if you felt as keen as a techy you could place reminders in your computer, tablet or telephone.

Our last Sunday run for this year will be with us soon. Sunday November 15 is the scheduled date for this run and it is to be planned and hosted by Richard Johnson. Mark the date and we’ll see you then for this run.

On page 6 and continuing to page 7 there is an article that was forwarded by Don Stevens for our newsletter. Don felt that the article would be of interest to our members. This piece originally appeared in Old Autos and was written by Joan Aaron.

On page 3 we have coverage of the Island Autumn Tour (formerly Island Challenge/Malahat Challenge) that was hosted by the Nanaimo Chapter this year. Associate Members Tom and Ann Tams kindly sent in the article and pictures. Tom and Ann are Active Members of the Cowichan Chapter and Associate Members of our Victoria Chapter. Thank you Tom and Ann for your interest and participation.

Our Governor, Brent Morrison, has just returned from the Governor’s Meeting two weeks ago. He will be reporting at our meetings on the direction set by the Governors and the new National President.
Organized and lead by Reg Potts and Bill Nicolson our October Sunday run was billed as a Fall Leaf Colour Drive. And this outing did live up to the billing.

There were 22 vehicles and 38 people out for this perfect fall weather day, on a route that was 25 miles distance and 1 hour of comfortable driving. We were quickly enjoying the colour as promised in the title of the run, as the drive sheet directed us north to the Peninsula via a circuitous, yet easy to follow and comfortable drive. I think that it is the drive on Conway, just off Interurban where the road takes a short climb to change inclinations to the down slope at a very sharp crest of the hill. I find it “interesting” that the driver is pointed to the sky rather than to the road. But just put your trust in the road and continue blindly. Come to think of it that’s how a lot of people regularly drive!!

Our drive took us on a swing through Dean Park before getting back to East Saanich Rd and then over to the west and north again with an ending at Spitfire Grill for refreshments. The food was great and it was nice to socialize again with the members who took this Sunday run. As well it was great to chat with Barb and Al Kent who didn’t take the run but did come over from Sidney for an early dinner.
Island Autumn Tour 2015

Article and pictures courtesy Associate Members Tom and Ann Tams

This was billed as a no frills tour, hosted by the Nanaimo Chapter of the VCCC in lieu of the Island Challenge with no restriction on the year of the car driven. The registration fee was $50.00, about a third of the usual. The organization was great, Ray and his crew did an excellent job. The venue, St Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, was suitably located on the north side of Nanaimo and the ladies of the Parish did an excellent job of providing the meals for both Friday and Saturday evenings.

I counted 26 cars, one of which was Pat Meehan’s 1912 Ford. The 4 island chapters were all represented with cars ranging from the Brass Era to the 60’s which, except for the cars of the host chapter, is a first for this event.

Registration opened at 4:00 PM Friday at St Andrew’s Parish Hall followed by the meet and greet and a light dinner. After the meal Ray went over the program for Saturday and introduced a new wrinkle, we would be given playing cards along the way for a total of 5 cards, a card or group of cards would be randomly drawn at Saturday’s banquet and the lucky winner would receive a prize of $100.00.

Saturday morning we all gathered at St. Andrew’s parking lot for a 9:00 AM start on our tour. We left almost on time and travelled through the back roads, through Lantzville to Hwy. 19. We made a right hand turn at Nanoose Bay on to Northwest Bay road which we followed to Hwy. 19A at Parksville. We travelled through Parksville and northward on Hwy 19A at a stately 30 mph stopping at Qualicum Beach for a rest stop. After sufficient time had passed, the Tour continued, arriving at the Driftwood Mall in Courtenay at 12:00 noon. We all dispersed for lunch, meeting back in the mall parking lot at 1:00 PM for our return journey south and our last scheduled stop at the Ice Cream Zone at Little Qualicum.

2016 Dues—See Jane Thomas with your $50

The 2016 membership forms were brought from the October 17 Governor’s meeting by our Governor Brent Morrison and these are now with Jane Thomas. Our membership fee for the year remains at $50, with $45 going to National and $5 staying with our Chapter. It’s obvious that $5 doesn’t generate the finances to maintain our costs for the year and it does take the revenue from our Swap Meet to carry us through the year.
Corn Roast 2015

In his report to members at the General Meeting in September, Dave Wallace stated quite succinctly when asked about the upcoming corn roast, “it will happen on September 13”. And just like Dave said, it did happen on September 13. What he did leave out of his report was that the corn roast not only happened but it was thoroughly enjoyed by many members.

There was the corn of course and this was steam cooked by Dave Hopkins. There was also the grilled hot dogs and onions, with Jane Thomas at her usual post. Judy Wallace and Karen Hilder again controlled the kitchen. The soft drinks, chips and ice cream were tastefully consumed before many of our members headed over to the miniature train, operated by the Vancouver Island Model Engineers. Yes, it did happen.
October Meeting

Tuesday October 6 was the date of our recent regular meeting and this was a meeting of minimal business, important voting, and interesting entertainment.

The important voting was for the Robert Lawrence Memorial Award, our annual membership vote for the person, or persons who best represent the principles of commitment and contribution to the Victoria Chapter. The results of this vote and the award are presented at the Awards and Christmas banquet, to be held this year on November 29.

The entertainment at this meeting was a presentation by Bruce Campbell, who has a hobby of scanning for metal objects. He complimented his presentation with a display of his metal detecting equipment and a significant sampling of objects that he has found over the years. He has taken his hobby to numerous sites of interest, mostly on the lower Island and this has included underwater in places such as the Gorge waterway. His collection of objects include coins, watches, jewelry, knives, lighters and badges. There are also hundreds of other items. There were many questions at the presentation and this speaks to the interest from members.

Family Fun Day-Saturday September 19

Our Chapter received the request and notice went out to members for participation in the 155th anniversary party that was to be celebrated by St. Luke’s Church. Their request to us was for some classic cars that would add to the family atmosphere of the event that would be from 10 am until 130 pm. While only 5 members responded to the request, our being there was very much appreciated by the organizers of this family day.

This Saturday morning broke with light rain but fortunately the moisture ceased in time for the 10 am start and the weather improved as the day progressed. This was a fun time for people who came to the event, with activities for adults and for children. And there was food of course, with a featured barbecue. Our cars were a hit and it was great to see the very young people show such a strong interest.

A very gracious thank you was received for our members Don & Dolores Stevens, Paul Taylor, Heinz Mueller, Bill Bouchard and Brent Morrison for sharing this Saturday.
The following article was written by Joan Aaron and appeared in the September 21, 2015 issue of Old Autos. Don Stevens felt that our members would enjoy this article. Thank you Don and thank you Joan Aaron.

Clubs organize some of the best old car tours ...

By Joan Aaron

Many of today’s old car guys have no time for old car clubs. Cruising different parking lots fits easier into our schedules, mandatory family events, and socializing fun. Work load demands also severely cut into the old car hobby. Therefore car memberships dwindle. Perhaps as we age, our interests and hobbies change. We cannot let our activities be organized. Our restored old cars need less care and the garaged “cream puffs” wait for retirement restoration hours or are too costly to do now. Many of us do not want cars judged, nor find fun in competing against friend’s cars.

Yet only car clubs know their marques, and understand their mechanical eccentric ways. Most car clubs are full of enthusiastic, fun people who enjoy exciting hobby activities. These clubs provide a place for old car guys to share their interests. Their tours are natural settings to encourage friendships. That is why old car tours are the best. This tour gifted participants an awesome silver case fill with printed personalized cards.

This summer we decided, after several years off, to fit the ACCCC’s (Antique and Classic Car Club of Canada’s) Tour to Yesteryear into our schedule. Our lives have become full of family events, old friend’s funerals, doctor’s visits and condo invitations. Yet our old favourite grey 1956 Thunderbird is perched silently and alone, under its cover, in an extra garage spot. We joined our Brampton Region’s ‘Moments to Remember’ 59th ACCCC tour for its opening night and Monday Grand River cruise.

We learned much has changed within old car clubs. As we retire younger and healthier, we settle into new relationships and make more sensible decisions about our lifestyles. Some of us move out of town and look for new hobbies. The smart ones find old car clubs to join. Now clubs like ACCCC are revitalized. This tour was co-chaired by long time car club persons Mrs. Enthusiastic organizer Jackie Jeffery and her calmly droll partner Ted, along with Mr. ‘attention to detail’ newsletter editor Bob McGuigan and his partner Mrs. Steadfast ‘I got your back’ Suzanne. Along with their team members, they worked hard to keep 132 people rolling in 66 cars amused and happy.

The tour’s motto was ‘it is the people who count’. Many members had missed touring for several years, and happily returned. Good friendships are renewed while daily checking out interesting and educational places together. This tour book was much improved with pictures of the day’s tour leaders heading up their brief, clearly detailed pictured route, in both mile and kilometre directions, and full maps. They travel the slower back-roads together, where traffic ‘calming’ circles are spreading rapidly. The second car on tour stops to point out its turns. The book humorously depicted ‘corner turn styles’ to highlight this dangerous tour move. The last page is a useful turn arrow. This tour added a ‘sweep’ (last) car driven by a tour organizer, so ‘turn’ people rejoined the group safely. It included many safe features, like a ‘trouble’ rescue truck and focused daily road advice, all related to today’s busy road conditions and kept local drivers friendly.

ACCCC tours usually watch calorie intake, with a coffee stop and one meal daily, benefitting weight watchers who sit miles all day in old cars. The old cars in this tour are scarce, as we need air conditioning and ‘modern’ 1970’s and 1980’s cars so joints do not stiffen. There were no children on this tour, mainly young empty-nesters and youthful seniors, some with disabilities and helping aids. Ontario is an excellent place to tour as accessibility ramps, hand rails, and eating preferences are accommodated without fuss. Everyone on this tour was helpful, so all had fun – not just the cars. Cars are given priority and checked regularly on tour to keep running.
The volunteer tour organizers with their exceptional attitudes missed nothing. From tour registration and hotel check-in, they had it all covered. The hotel promised immediate Sunday afternoon check-in, for easy opening banquet attendance Sunday night after long trips from home.

Friendships are made by sharing humour, teasing, and fun adventures together. It is a result of the warm, welcoming, and clever planning of the tour organizers. This group was the best, in a fourteen region car club each strive for friendly welcomes of new members. It always takes time to feel comfortable within a new group, particularly when life is being renewed as an empty-nester or because of a trauma-filled life change. It is at these times, that it is easier to leave arranging your fun in the hands of capable club members. While enjoying your favourite old car, they will show you how to make the next stage of your life wonderful.

Awards and Christmas banquet-Sunday November 29

The annual Awards and Christmas banquet will be on Sunday November 29 at the Victoria Golf Course. Tickets are available from Jane Thomas and remain at $30 per person. The hospitality begins at 1230 pm and the holiday buffet starts at 1 pm. There are presentations of service pins, tour attendance badges and the Robert Lawrence Memorial Trophy will be presented.

Membership Appreciation-Tuesday December 1

This special regular meeting features refreshments of sandwiches, pastries and beverages. Of course there is the extra socializing that goes with the added refreshments. Plan to be there at our meeting time of 730 on Tuesday, December 1.

Christmas in the Village

This annual fund-raising event is held at Heritage Acres and our Chapter is one of the clubs and associations that decorate the buildings and grounds. Our decorating day is Saturday November 21 and with our efficiency we usually take less than two hours and finish in time for the lunch that is provided by the Heritage Society. We need volunteers for Saturday November 21 AND for Friday evening December 4 when it is our turn to staff the ticket gate and the parking lots.

New Year’s Day run

Start the new year properly and participate in our annual New Year’s Day run and diet donut refreshments. We meet at 1 pm at the Pacific Forestry Centre on West Burnside and leave at 130 on the relaxing tour. Traditionally the drive takes us on a section of marine drive and in whatever type of weather it is fun to pass by the many people who are out walking, biking, watching and running.
# Activities Calendar for 2016

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Sunday runs and New Year’s Day run meet and depart from the Pacific Forestry Centre on West Burnside.

Departure place for the July 5 Ice Cream run will be announced well in advance of the date.

Meetings are held at St. Luke’s Church Hall.

Corn Roast is at Heritage Acres.

All dates noted here are confirmed at time of printing this newsletter. Other activities will be announced to membership well in advance of the appropriate date.