



# The Trillium

Volume 52 Issue 5

October 2024



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# Events Calendar

Oct. 9	<b>Brunch in Waterloo</b> Dearborn Restaurant, 105 Lexington Road	Brunch is back in Waterloo! Contact Joyce W.
Oct. 5 - 10	<b>67<sup>th</sup> International Rally</b> Sedalia Missouri	Just a short hop from Ontario <a href="#">Registration open now</a>
Aug. 23 - 28, 2025	<b>68<sup>th</sup> International Rally</b> York Pennsylvania	An even shorter hop from Ontario! Registration TBA

# President's Message

Melanie C.

Welcome fall! Our Fall Rally was a great success at Can-Am RV the weekend after Labour Day. I cannot thank Andy Thomson and Ana Masse enough for organizing the fun weekend. The Can-Am staff were on hand to help in any way they could so the weekend went smoothly. Although it was a short rally there was a lot of action packed into 48+ hours. The catered meal Friday and entertainment with Denny Kennedy was a great way to start.

Saturday morning many of us ventured to the Lambeth Community Centre for a yummy pancake breakfast put on by the local Rotary Club. We then had our annual general meeting. It was well attended. We were able to get through the business we needed to address, welcomed the new executive, and inducted new members. Several members had just joined the last few days! Thanks to Don M. for doing the honours, it is much appreciated! Your new President is David H., who was unable to attend as he was on a trip to the East Coast, and is looking forward to his new position. David will let us know when he has sites for next year's events as soon as they are firmed up. Lesley S. assumes First Vice President and Mark B. stepped up to take on Second Vice President. Patti B. will stay on as Treasurer and Carol B. will be Recording Secretary. We were also fortunate to have three new trustees: Donna C., Bill R. and Christine G. Thanks for stepping up to make your Airstream Club successful!

Saturday afternoon saw a backing up contest and lots of catching up with old friends and making lots of new ones. Andy presented a very informative talk on boondocking and had the new Tradewind trailer available for us to tour. We had a chili cook off that ended up with delicious samplings of chili for Saturday supper with salad, bread and dessert supplied by Can-Am. The evening was finished with musical entertainment from Michael Lambert and his group Frankie and the Fairlanes, followed by fiddle champion Scott Woods.



The Fall Rendezvous was held at Summer House Park at Miller Lake hosted by Jim and Ena F. There were quite a few there to enjoy a presentation on solar energy and catch up with friends. Several of our very newest members attended as well!

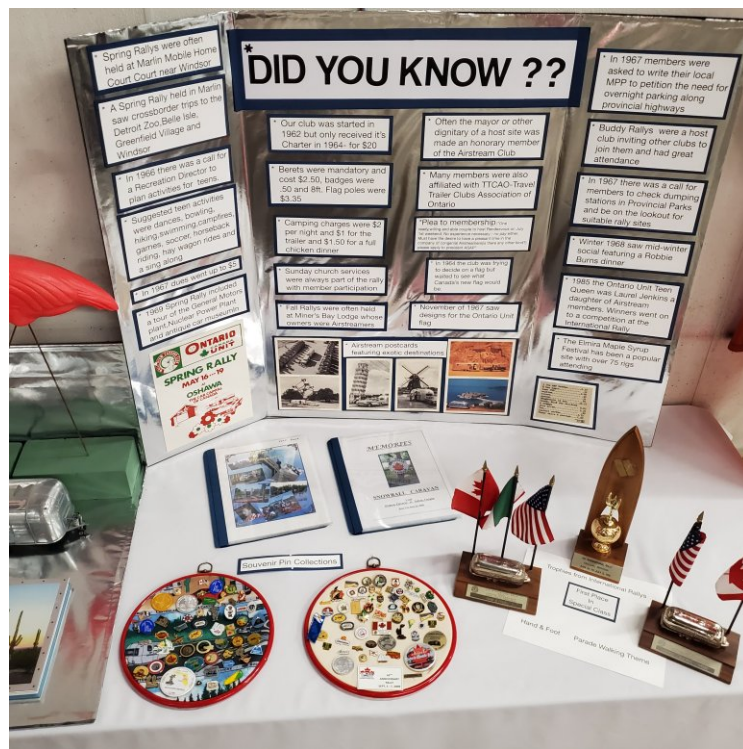
I have enjoyed my year as President. There are so many new things happening; I wish the position was two years. I feel like I've just warmed up to the role and it is time to move on. I know David will do a great job as President. If he has as much support as I did he will have a successful year. As I write this Murray and I are getting ready to head to Sedalia next week. It will be a great celebration. I was through there last week and the state park looks lovely. Enjoy the rest of the camping weather and stay safe.

See you down the road!

P.S.

In Search of an Ontario Club member for Region 2

Gary R., the Region 2 President, is looking for Canadian representation in the region for a VP2. It is a two year term with meetings held in a Zoom format. We are a large part of the region and do not have any representation for our club. Please consider this position and find out more about it by talking to me, or Gary R. at the International Rally, or Don M.. I think Don was the last, and maybe only, Ontario member to serve at the region level.



# Region 2 President's Message

Gary R.

August was a full month, with attending the Taste of New York Rally hosted by the New York Finger Lakes, Metro New York and the Hudson Mohawk clubs on Seneca Lake. What a fun time! The rally had people attending from California, Texas, Florida, Region 1, and Region 2 was well represented. Attendance was 130 people with 67 rigs. The three clubs put on quite the event! I've included some pictures from that rally.



On August 22, 2024 a 4-hour IBT meeting was held where we covered many topics. I'm going to hit only the highlights from the meeting.

- 707 East Pike remodel is on budget, and the staff plans to move in late October after the International Rally.
  - To accomplish this, there was a high level of volunteer labor.
  - PPG and Sherwin Williams donated paint supplies and material.
- Harvest Host Courtesy parking benefit is now available to all members.
  - Currently there are 350 host members.
  - JotForm for the parking is being updated with the following:
    - NO fee to use the 350 sites.
    - Pictures of the sites.
    - Services that are available at the site.
    - Jackson Center sites will be on the Harvest Host Courtesy parking.
    - There will be a Harvest Host representative at Sedalia MO.
    - Boondocking sites TBA
- During the IBT meeting Alan R. the International Financial Director, gave a deep dive into the financial health of WBCCI.
  - After his presentation, he and the financial committee made the motion to raise the annual membership rates to \$99.00.
  - The committee recommended that the membership fee be reviewed to stay in line with the inflation rate, which was one of the reasons the fee fell behind.

I know this was a hot button for many of the Region 2 membership, and I heard from both sides of the discussion. I was in favor of an increase of \$10.00 to \$85.00 with the caveat that the financial committee continue with a line-item review of the budget. If, after the review, an increase was still needed, then we would go forward with the rate increase to \$99.00.

Another assumption I heard was that the rate increase is due to the purchase of 707 East Pike. A breakdown of the membership fee showed the building purchase accounted for only \$4.00 of the increase. The inflation rate was the biggest cause for the increase. One example of inflation was that a senior coffee in December of 2023 was \$1.07 at a McDonald's in Rochester, New York. That same cup of coffee is now \$1.72. That is a 61% increase in less than 1 year.

After the discussion, the voting majority felt that it was better to raise the membership fee once, instead of going back to the membership the following year. I voted **against** the rate increase.

The increase to \$99.00 will take effect in September 2024.

The Region 2 luncheon at the International Rally is still open for registration. Mike G., the new Region 1 President, has reached out to us to see if we could have a joint luncheon because we share the same time and are in the adjacent room. I agreed with this proposal. Doing this will allow us both to have great food options at the event.

- Monday October 7, 2024
- 11:30 am-1:00 pm
- Missouri Electric Coop
- Bldg. MEC 2

The link for the luncheon is below:

<https://form.jotform.com/240456396910157>

Don't forget to stop by the Region 2 table during the Sedalia rally.

### **Can you believe that we are already adding rally dates to the 2025 calendar?!!!**

- May 1 to 5 Region 2 Rally, Grange Fairgrounds PA
- July 31 to August 4 Sampson State Park NY
- August 23 to 28 International Rally, York PA

# New Members

Please welcome our newest OCAC members.

Kevin H. & Welwyb W.  
2006 Safari 23

Pepper & Mark V.  
2021 Caravel 16

M. & Frances S.  
2006 Bambi Quicksilver Edition 16

Rudi & Barbara M.  
2020 Globetrotter 30

Christopher B.  
1967 Ambassador Twin 28

Katie S. & Colleen O.  
2020 Flying Cloud 26

Brian & Tricia M.  
2021 Globetrotter 25

David & Caroline L.  
2019 Flying Cloud 30

Lorna & Peter O.  
2025 Globetrotter 27

New members are reminded to send in headshots (together with partner, if applicable) to the [newsletter editor](#) or Kathy B.



*The Towing Specialists*

**Thanks Can-Am for  
all your support!**



# Brunch in Waterloo

Joyce W.

We are bringing back OCAC brunch in Waterloo! These will be held, once again, at Dearborn Restaurant, 105 Lexington Road, Waterloo, Ontario. There are three scheduled brunches:

Wednesday, October 9, 10:00 am.

Tuesday, November 5, 10:30 am.

Monday, December 2, 10:30 am

Please wear your badges.

If you are able to come please email me by Oct 2. Looking forward to seeing you.



# Editorial

Steve A.

In early September, Karen and I headed out to our first boondocking experience. I'm speaking, of course, about the Fall Rally hosted by Can-Am RV in London.

Staff provided valet parking for the incoming trailers. The Bug endured a bumpy, but uneventful, trip to the back lot. It was the strangest experience, following one's own trailer from behind.

The weather flip-flopped all weekend from windy and cold to rainy, windy and cold. Good thing all of the events were indoors. The rain gave us a lovely double rainbow as we headed out for breakfast Saturday morning. Katie S. managed to snap a few nice pictures.



In true spirit of boondocking, I valiantly tried to keep our batteries topped up with a couple of anemic solar panels. It might have been OK had there been any sun! Fortunately, Andy dropped by and repaired the 15 A plugs at the back of our site. Lifesaver!

The backing up contest was a hoot. We weren't backing up anything like an RV – no 25 footers here. Instead, the trailer was about 10' long and a golf cart served as the tow vehicle. The course was a simple curve with a short straight, from one wall of the service bay to the adjacent wall. Easy, right? Not so, as many people found out. The short trailer was super twitchy; it would jackknife in a heartbeat if you took your eyes off of it. On my first attempt, I did OK until I hit the straight-away. Then I looked away to check the wheels of the cart and bam the trailer was off the course: time 1:53. My second attempt was not as successful; the less said about that the better. Top time (second attempt) was Neil M. with 0:42.



BACK UP CONTEST			
1	Ajay Sharma	1:01.16	16
2	George Adanson	1:52.39	17
3	Nor Mathfield	2:09.73	18
4	Mark Ventresca	2:13.08	19
5	John Hunt	1:16.59 1:16.01	20
6	Steve Anzell	1:53.99	21
7	Ed Legrow	1:36.01	22
8	Marc Bergeise	1:10.46	23
9	Stephen Hill	1:42.21 2:11.62	24
10	Eddy Lloyd	1:13.48	25
11	Andy Thomson	0:53.08	26
12	Neil Macalmon	1:06.59	27
13	Awoley	1:56.15	28
14	Patton	1:01.51	29
15			30
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I learned a lot in Andy Thomson's boondocking presentation. He was refreshingly frank about tech that did, and did not, work as advertised. My favourite tip was a tricky way to rinse your black tank with your grey tank water. Genius.

The chili cook-off was unlike anything I had experienced before. The hall was divided up by table, and each given a cooking station and basic ingredients. There was a wide selection of more exotic spices, sauces, etc. and people could bring their own secret ingredients. We had one hour to prepare, and one hour to simmer.

There was an alarming amount of smoke from one team, and some questionable flavour combinations from others, but it was a blast. Our chili was, in my opinion, pretty good! Flavourful with a bit of heat (and our secret ingredient – red wine pilfered from the bar – didn't hurt one bit). The panel of judges, however, did not place us in the top five.



Saturday morning we took a short trip up the road to Lambeth where the local Rotary Club was hosting a pancake breakfast. Good food, good people, supporting a good cause. The griddles under the Airstream awning were a nice touch.

Entertainment was top notch. Friday night, folk singer and TV producer Denny Kennedy stepped up as a worthy substitute when the original act fell through. Saturday night was a double-bill with Frankie & The Fairlanes and Canadian fiddle champion Scott Woods. Another of Michael Lambert's bands, The Florida Barn Katz, will be headlining opening night at the International in Sedalia.



Andy and the staff at Can-Am RV deserve a huge round of thanks! Ana, in particular, did a fantastic job of coordinating the whole shebang. Kudos to the crew who cleaned out the two service bays for the event. And I mean cleaned. I wish my home shop could ever be as polished.

Finally, we should not let this season end without a huge vote of thanks to our President, Melanie C., and all of the members of the Executive. Without their tireless work, this season would not have been the success that it was.



# Caravan Corner

Kerry M.

As we write this report, we are in the final days of our Meandering the Maritimes Caravan. A great time is being had by all as you can see if you follow us on our Facebook page "Meandering the Maritimes Airstream Caravan". The 20 rigs that assembled at Arm of Gold Campground on Cape Breton Island on August 19 were the first to sign up when registration opened last October. Not one rig dropped out, which is pretty unusual for registrations that far in advance. Over the past weeks, we have toured fortresses, underground mines, museums, scenic drives, gone out on a lobster boat, toured historic villages and gone whale watching, to name just a few activities. In between, members have found time to go hiking, biking and golfing. We also ate quite a lot of seafood, pizza and pancakes. The photos try to tell the story.



I'm really glad to announce that the caravan will continue. In 2025, Dianne & Jeff L. of Nova Scotia will lead Meandering and in 2026 Janet & Steve N. of OCAC will take it over as an International ACI caravan. It is gratifying to see the caravan in good hands.

The 2025 ACI International Rally will be in York PA next August and we are looking forward to a lot of participation by OCAC members. York is on the edge of Amish country in Pennsylvania and will be a great rally location. We will be working with President David to get our members together for a grand entrance to the rally. We paraded into the Fryeburg rally with flags flying making quite an entrance. Let's do it again and show what a great club we have in Ontario. Stay tuned for more information.

Our biggest challenge in our Ontario club is finding the next group of caravan leaders for our program. Several members have taken the caravan leaders course at International and it is now being offered by the International Caravan Committee as an online/zoom course. Local club caravans are a lot of fun, can be short enough for working families and very informal. There are lots of opportunities, we just need the new caravan leaders to come forward, bite the bullet and get going! We have a big club; we know we can do it.

Meandering marks the 20th caravan that Betty and I have led over the past 18 years and we are stepping back from leadership to take some personal journeys with our Airstream. It has been both fun and rewarding. I will continue as Caravan Chair with the support of the Executive and an active Caravan Committee that is being formed. All will be well!

Safe travels everyone.





# Tech Bites

Don M.

## SKUNKY WATER?

Even if you drain the water heater, if you do not flush it out with a flush wand or other type of pressure hose, about 2" of water will sit in the bottom as the drain hole is not at the very bottom. This water sitting in the bottom can turn black and typically "skunky" with a rotten egg smell.



## GREAT CLEANER

Looking for a good cleaner for the 'mouse wall fur', or curtains or carpet or upholstery? One of the best cleaners is FOLEX INSTANT CARPET CLEANER. It is available at Canadian Tire.

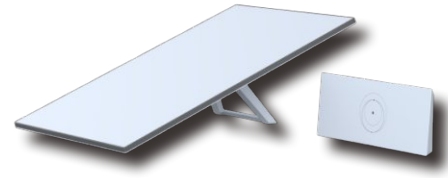


# Staying Connected

John R.

After having Starlink for over a year I thought I would share my thoughts and experiences using it to keep connected while on the road.

First off, let me say the cost of setting up Starlink was a bit on the pricey side. Currently it is C\$499 for the equipment and C\$189 plus tax per month for a roaming plan. Starlink is currently on generation three of their system; I have a generation two system. Sometimes Starlink puts on sales of their equipment so you maybe able to buy it cheaper. There is no contract with Starlink and you pay for your subscription on a monthly basis. You can suspend and restart the service when ever you like. Last year, I had service from April till October and I suspended the service from November till April of this year. Rationalizing it out in my mind, this made the monthly payments while using Starlink less expensive since it was not a yearly contract.



Starlink Generation 3

As of this September, the roaming plan now also includes in-motion use, coastal use (good if you own a boat) and use worldwide. The subscription has unlimited data use and no restrictions on the number of devices connected. Currently, we are on the Polar Bears and Northern Lights Caravan. In northern and rural Manitoba, there are very limited cell signals, if at all. We are sharing our Starlink signal with other caravaners who cannot get any WiFi through their cell phones.

Last summer, we were out in our Airstream for 20 weeks, so staying connected was important. We could pay bills and do banking, as well as keep family and friends up to date on where we were. During our travel, we only had about two days where we could not get connected to the internet due to tree cover at the campground. We found that most campgrounds know which sites are good for Starlink reception, and if you mention at time of booking, you can get a site that is less tree covered. At one campsite we had a good signal till a big class A came and set up next door, blocking our signal. The solution was to move the dish to a spot where it could see the sky.

Last year, we just had the dish on its stand on the ground. This year, I installed the dish on a collapsible flag pole from Harbor Freight, mounted to the tongue jack of the Airstream. If there are trees in the way, I can extend the pole so that the dish is above the trailer. I can still use the stand that came with the dish, and, having about 70 feet of cord, I can place the dish where it can see the sky if needed. So far this year, we have not had any place where we could not use Starlink using either the pole or ground mount.

The big question, is it worth it? For us, it is an outstanding yes! We travel for long periods of time to areas where cell service can be spotty; for you it may be a different story. Internet has come a long way since we started RVing 20 years ago. I remember having to hook up a laptop to a pay phone with painfully slow speeds while trying not to look too suspicious as the pay phone was outside the women's washroom. With Starlink there is no more hanging around the campground office or bathrooms just to get internet.

Enjoy the journey!



# Community Services Update

## Pop Tabs - Rick A.

Thanks once again to all the great Airstream folks for their help in saving aluminum tabs for our "Tabs 4 Kids Wheels" project.

In the two get-togethers we had this fall, we are contributing about 30 lbs of tabs to the cause. (I did not have time to count the number of tabs!). The Airstream input more than doubles for the year if we add the spring amount to that. Thanks again to all who help, the kids really appreciate our efforts.

[Editor's note: I did the math. With the 150 lbs from the spring events, that's about 221,650 tabs. That's a lot of tabs.]

## Project Linus - Joan G.

A huge thanks go out to all our "blanketeers" and their friends and family.

We collected 26 cozy, handmade blankets at our fall rally at Can-Am! So many warm hugs for children who are sick or experiencing trauma.

Thanks goes to Julie R., who has volunteered to be our Project Linus blanket coordinator going forward.



# Airstream Ads

## For Sale: 1997 Excella 1000

Length 34 feet - 3 Axles - Hensley Hitch - Awnings all around

Changes made: laminate floors, extra storage over beds

**\$40,000 for trailer, all extra equipment free**

Contact Roger Wilson at 613-400-1176 or [randawilson@gmail.com](mailto:randawilson@gmail.com)

Will email or discuss all trailer details

