

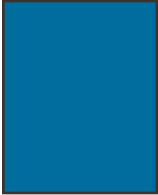


The Trillium

October 2025
Volume 53 Issue 5



Events Calendar	2	Labrador Adventure 2026	25
President's Message	4	True North Caravan 2027	27
Region 2 President's Message	7	Base Camp 6	28
New Members	9	Volthium Batteries	29
Windezvous East	10	Airstream Life Hacks	32
Region 2 Rally	11	Sunshine Report	33
Pennsylvania Rally	13	Community Services Update	34
Editorial	14		
Event Roundup	16		
Nova Scotia Rally Recap	21		
Ontario Fall Frolic Pictures	24		



Events Calendar

Oct. 3-5	Winedezvous East Smuggler's Cove RV Resort Picton, ON 613-476-4125	Hosts: Helene T. & Roch G. Theresa B. Contact the park for camp reservations
May 8-10 2026	Eastern Shakedown Richmond Ontario	Registration TBA
May 2026	Western Shakedown Location TBA	Registration TBA
May 14-17 2026	Region 2 Rally Pocono Raceway Infield, Long Pond, PA, USA	Registration is open Note: Collides with OCAC Spring Rally
May 15-18 2026	Spring Rally Drayton Agricultural Fairgrounds Drayton, ON	Registration TBA
June 25-28 2026	Pennsylvania State Rally Rose Point Park Campground, PA, USA	Hosted by Al-Mon-O PA Airstream Club Registration is open
Sept 11-14 2026	Fall Rally and AGM Quinte Isle Campground	Registration TBA
2026	69th International Rally Minot, ND	Registration TBA
2027	70th International Rally Rock Springs, WY	Registration TBA

Shakedown – is a very informal gathering in the spring and gives us an opportunity to get together, renew friendships and make new ones, dust the cobwebs off our rigs and make sure everything is in good working order for the upcoming camping season. The weekend does not have club business meetings and will likely involve a potluck and casual get-togethers.

Make your own fun.

Rendezvous – another opportunity to get together and a little more structured than a Shakedown but again, it does not include club business meetings. Subject to the Hosts' planning, it may include a potluck meal and other activities or events.

Another make your own fun.

Winedezvous – much like a Rendezvous but takes place in wine country and includes excursions, tours of wineries and tastings.

Rally – as well as getting together, a Rally goes one step further and includes some organized meals, entertainment and may also include training seminars and other activities. Our Club holds a yearly Spring and Fall Rally which involve a business meeting, and the Fall event is our Annual General Meeting.





President's Message

David H.

WOW, Ontario Fun Frolic (OFF), a.k.a, Chicken Coup Chaos

OFF certainly was a memorable event in more ways than one.

On day two of our event, we received information from a reliable source that there was an invasion planned for Sunday of chickens and other assorted aviary draftees and winged warriors. The heads up gave our members time to plan and prepare, and we were prepared. When the invasion began the trusty OCAC 124 troupes were ready and able to successfully fend off the feathered foes and the coup quietly dissipated. Our successful repel was celebrated by taking time to go on a picnic.



What a fantastic weekend making lemonade out of lemons, but it was fun. Hats off to the hosts, Kerry & Betty M. and Larry & June M. for putting together such a memorable time. Also thank you to all the volunteers who pitched in to help, we couldn't do it without you.



Wally Byam's Creed

Have you ever really read the message in Wally Byam's creed? Try again and let them resonate.

In the heart of these words is an entire life's dream. To those of you who find in the promise of these words your promise, I bequeath this creed... my dream belongs to you.

To place the great wide world at your doorstep for you who yearn to travel with all the comforts of home.

To provide a more satisfying, meaningful way of travel that offers complete travel independence, wherever and whenever you choose to go or stay. To keep alive and make real an enduring promise of high adventure and faraway lands... of rediscovering old places and new interests.

To open a whole world of new experiences, a new dimension in enjoyment where travel adventure and good fellowship are your constant companions. To encourage clubs and rallies that provide an endless source of friendships, travel fun and personal expressions.

To lead caravans wherever the four winds blow... over twinkling boulevards, across trackless deserts... to the traveled and untraveled corners of the earth.

To play some part in promoting international goodwill and understanding among the peoples of the world through person-to-person contact.

To refine and perfect our product by continuous travel-testing over the highways and byways of the world.

To strive endlessly to stir the venturesome spirit that moves you to follow a rainbow to its end... and thus make your travel dreams come true.

- Wally Byam

A question that is often asked is “where does our membership money go?” I was in the ACI site recently and found the answer for every dollar:

\$0.27 - General Admin, Supplies and Facilities

\$0.26 - Membership Join/Renew and General Support

\$0.04 – Support of Membership Discounts Programs

\$0.17 – Communications and Blue Beret

\$0.12 – Region, Club and Officer Support

\$0.11 – International Rally Support

\$0.02 – Caravan Support

I know this only adds up to \$0.99 but I don’t know where that missing penny fits. Our ACI annual dues cover a wide range of essential items and services that are crucial for the smooth functioning of our Club. These include banking fees, event insurance, software, labour costs, printing, and postage. Additionally, the dues fund the production and distribution of the Blue Beret magazine, new member packets, and provide support for the membership and local clubs. It’s also important to remember that the cost to join our local club is only \$20.00 per rig and although we are volunteer run, we still have expenses and do not receive any compensation from ACI.

My term as your President is nearing its end and the new executive assumes office November 15, I congratulate and wish them the best of luck.

I must admit, I had fun during the past year and met a lot of wonderful happy campers. Hats off to my amazing executive team for making my job easier and the year a huge success.

A special thank you goes out to my First Lady Carol for her support and suggestions throughout the year. Thank you also to all the tireless volunteers who stepped up to make each event successful. As I step back from my presidency I assure you that Lesley and her Executive will serve us well.

First Lady Carol, first pup Chloe and I look forward to meeting everyone again soon, stay safe and see you down the road.

David H.
President

Ontario Canada Airstream Club
Making Every Mile Memorable Since 1964

Region 2 President's Message

PattiG.

Where is fall? I'm sitting here in my home state of Jersey hanging with my high school buddies in the usual uniform of shorts and a tee. It still feels like summer!

The R2 Team has been hard at work with both "boots on the ground" activities and Zooming away while working on some internal policy projects. Of course, the rite of passage that is known as the Region Rally is well underway with finalizing our budget. More on that later!

Matt, Cody and I, as well as a couple of volunteers from the Central Penn Airstream Club, manned the Airstream booth at the Hershey RV Show. EC Council member Bill Hamblin organized the volunteer effort and set up the membership booth to include an informational video about the Explorer Program and brochures from Region 2 and Jackson Center explaining the program. We enthusiastically signed up several new members after their purchase of a new rig. It is a wonderful partnership between corporate and our club!

We're working together with R2 Membership Chair Colleen A. to expand our outreach to the Members-at-Large (MALs) in our region. One of our developmental projects is creating our own version of a campfire chat to communicate directly with the MALs. This will complement the great job that Colleen



does in sending them important information about our region and educating them on local clubs in their geographic area. We will also direct email them our brand new R2 Newsletter in the future.

Speaking of that, we'll announce the winner of the R2 Newsletter name in November!

We've finalized the budget for the 2026 R2 Rally at Pocono Raceway! (May 14-17) Registration is now open! Here's the link for the JotForm - <https://pci.iotform.com/form/252582870185060>. Stay tuned for the rolling build up. We'll be announcing several outside activities involving third-party vendors. And, of course, I won't be able to help myself so there will be a dance party on Saturday night!

We're aware that we are in the middle of installation rally season! Club Presidents, please let us know who your new officers are. I sent an email out to you guys a week

or so ago talking about this as well as announcing the Region 2 and Region 1 Sampson Rally next summer (July 30th-August 3rd, 2026). Check your inbox or spam folders for details. We like to get a jump on who the new officers are before Jackson Center sends out the forms.

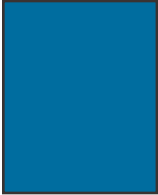
As the leaves begin to turn and the temperatures drop, enjoy your rigs and the camaraderie that this club affords each of us!

Travel safe!



I'm Just Waiting on a Train

Photo: John & Karen R.



New Members

Please welcome our newest OCAC members.

Mike Ulmer & Agnes B.
2018 Flying Cloud 19

Mary & Brian A.
2018 Classic 33

Rolf M. & Helga N.
2006 Bambi 16

Tammy J.
2019 International Serenity 23

Patrick T. & Ivana T.
2004 International CCD 28

Aaron & Susan N.
2023 Flying Cloud 25
Referred by David H.

Timothy D. & Catherine L.
2025 Flying Cloud 25

New members are reminded to send in
headshots (together with partner, if applicable)
to the [directory editor, Steve A.](#)



Thanks Can-Am
for all your
support!

The Towing Specialists

Winedezvous East



[Registration is open now!](#)

October 3 - 5

Smugglers Cove RV Resort and
Campground

3187 County Road 13

RR#3 Picton K0K 2T0

Phone 613-476-4125

Website – smugglerscove.ca

Email – smugglerscoverv@outlook.com

This weekend is all about the local wines and cheeses so plan for an exciting and relaxing weekend in the heart of Prince Edward County where you'll have a challenge deciding what to do and which wineries, microbreweries and cheese factories you'd like to explore. Don't forget you're also in Apple Country and it's fall; the apples will be ripe for the picking.

Friday, we arrive and get settled. At 7pm we'll gather in the hall to receive your comprehensive list of local attractions and places of interest for you to explore and experience on your own or with friends. While perusing your list you will be able to

sample some local wines, complementary. Following the meet and greet we'll gather for a campfire.

Saturday – light breakfast in the hall then you're on your own for the day. The self-guided tours begin right from the campground gate.

Return to the campground for a complementary charcuterie of wines, cheeses and more. Followed by a campfire.

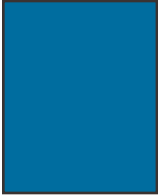
Sunday you are free again to explore places you missed the day before or sit and relax by the water. Returning to the campground in time for Happy Hour and sharing your gathered treasures.

Book your campsite now by calling Smugglers Cove at 613-476-4125 and tell them you are with the Airstream group. Camping fees range from \$53.00 - \$63.00 depending upon the services you want.

The Winedezvous weekend OCAC price is only \$50.00 per trailer. No better way to wind up the season with fall colours, food, great local wine and friends. P.S. Don't forget your corkscrew.

Your Hosts: Helene T. & Roch G. and
Theresa B.

Questions: Contact [David H.](#)



Region 2 Rally

The 2026 Region 2 Rally will be held from May 14-17 at Pocono Raceway, offering a mix of motorsport action and local attractions. The Infield Campground offers full hookup sites for convenience. The event begins with a catered breakfast buffet on Friday morning, providing a variety of morning dishes to prepare attendees for the day's events. As the weekend unfolds, a taco bar on Saturday night will serve beef and fish tacos. On Sunday morning, participants can enjoy coffee and donuts.

In addition to the food, the rally features activities that showcase the Pocono region's appeal. Attendees can take racetrack tours to learn about Pocono Raceway's history. For adventure seekers, the Pocono Outdoor Adventures Tours offer a chance to explore the surrounding landscapes. Motorsport fans might also have the option to book a Stock Car Racing Experience, depending on the 2026 schedule, for a chance to drive on the famous track. The 2026 Region 2 Rally combines racing excitement with the charm of the Pocono Mountains.

Use the included link to JotForm to sign up.

<https://pci.jotform.com/form/252582870185060>

A promotional poster for a rally event. The background is a textured purple. At the top, a yellow banner with a black border contains the text 'Pit Stop in Pocono 2026' in stylized fonts. Below the banner, the text 'Region 2 Rally' is written in red. The central text 'REGISTRATION OPEN!!' is in large, bold, black letters with a red and blue 3D effect. Below this, the dates '14-17 MAY' are shown in white and yellow. To the right, the location 'POCONO RACEWAY INFIELD' is in yellow, followed by the address '1234 Long Pond Road' and 'Long Pond, PA 18334' in white. The bottom of the poster features a yellow torn-paper edge with two crossed checkered flags on each side.

*Pit
Stop in
Pocono 2026*

Region 2 Rally

**REGISTRATION
OPEN!!**

**14-17
MAY**

POCONO RACEWAY INFIELD
1234 Long Pond Road
Long Pond, PA 18334

Pennsylvania Rally



2026 Pennsylvania Rally
June 25-28, 2026

Rose Point Park
Campground
8775 Old US 422
New Castle, PA 16101
724-924-2415



Scan or Click the
QR code to
Register today!



Rose Point Park Campground – New Castle, PA

Nestled along Slippery Rock Creek, Rose Point Park Campground offers a relaxing getaway with modern amenities. From full-hookup RV sites, cabins, and yurts to a heated pool, playgrounds, fishing, hiking trails, and a dog park, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Families can also take part in seasonal events and activities right at the campground.

Just minutes from McConnell's Mill and Moraine State Parks, outdoor adventure is right around the corner. Shopping, dining, and attractions in New Castle, Grove City, and Volant are also nearby. With Interstate 79 close by, Pittsburgh is an easy day trip away—making Rose Point the perfect spot to enjoy both nature and city life.






Editorial

Steve A.

Airstream misadventure #11

When planning a road trip, we like to scope out potential gas stations. There's nothing worse than running on fumes and the only gas station for miles around is just too darn small for your rig. Google Maps is great for this; the satellite view lets you zoom right in and look at the layout of the pumps. The best stations align the pumps so that you can drive straight through without having to turn. Stations that "will do in a pinch" force you to turn but have a nice big space around the pumps. The Circle K on highway 12 in Orillia is one of the latter.

The day of the trip came and we found ourselves a bit low on fuel coming through Orillia. The Circle K looked busy, but not overly so. We pulled in. After a short wait, we ended up at the pump at the far end. Fueling proceeded without incident.

One thing we forgot to take into account, while scoping out the place, was that the Circle K shared a parking lot with a McDonald's. Under normal circumstances, this would not be a problem.

Unfortunately, it was just after 12:00 noon and the McDonald's was extremely busy. Getting *in* for fuel was not an issue. Getting *out* turned out to be a bit of a nightmare.

The only exit funnelled the traffic from the Circle K and McDonald's to one narrow road, which itself was busy as it led to a nearby Walmart. A least three unofficial

lanes of traffic tried to merge around some silly twit who had taken an Airstream through the gas station.

Patience was the rule of the day as we squiggled and inched our rig into the streams. Everyone was very well-mannered and we slowly made our way to the exit.

Karen pointed out that a couple of folks appeared to be shouting and waving and pointing to our back end. Odd, I thought. I hopped out and went around the back.

While manoeuvring the front end of the car, I had neglected to pay much attention to the back end of the trailer. You know those concrete-filled metal pipes they put out to protect the gas pumps? Well, the left corner of the Airstream's bumper had snagged one and popped that end of bumper right off. The bumper was swinging in the breeze supported only by the right end. We hadn't felt a thing.

I uttered a few choice words to the sky and, not-so-gently, kicked the bumper back into position. More or less.

After some more squiggling and inching we got out to the street and gingerly made our way to the Walmart. We found a nice big empty spot to make *ad hoc* repairs. It turned out that the damage wasn't as bad as one might think. The trailer frame was undamaged. The bumper, being aluminum, had just busted out around the two bolts

that held it to the frame. I took my trusty hammer and whacked the metal so that the bolt holes looked more-or-less like circles again. (I learned that wailing on an eight-foot length of aluminum with a steel hammer within inches of your ear is *really loud!*) A few quick flicks with the socket wrench and the bumper was back in place. The clips that secured the rear compartment were sheared off so we bodged up something with bungee cords and a prayer.

Midway through the repairs a couple of young girls drove up and shouted out, “We love your Airstream!” I was less than my usual jolly self and shouted back, “I loved it a lot more a few minutes ago!”

We carried on our merry way without incident and we once again love our Airstream. It’s worth noting that the repair has held to this day!



The Trillium



Event Roundup

Patrick S.

Rideau Rendezvous — Rideau Acres, Kingston

Once again, this year, the summer rally was held at the Rideau Acres Campground in Kingston. Nice commercial campground with all the expected amenities.

Out of 32 trailers, we were the early birds this time around and had a couple of days to sample the many different attractions Kingston has to offer.

We visited the old Kingston Penitentiary. We suggest the extended tour if you ever do so; it was well worth it with commentaries from retired staff and a few extra sections. We also visited the beautiful Fort Henry. Having visited many of them in the past, I'd say that is the nicest one in

Ontario and compares to the Quebec and Halifax citadels. Our good friends invited us to have dinner on Wolfe Island at the hotel's Summer Dock Cafe with a nice view of the St Lawrence River, and then attend an open mic session with local artists. It was great fun and something unique to do in the region!

The rally started with a bang on Friday night's potluck where everyone brought their favourite appetizers dish making dinner a variety of finger foods, with this extreme hot weather I think this was a good idea!

Afterwards, where we had an informal friendship circle forming up on our site. I'd





say we were over 30 people! As this was all done in a very respectful manner, nobody complained and all was happy! I propose that this becomes a regular thing for every shakedown, rallies, and Rendez/"Winedez"-Vous, I think it allows everyone to have a chance to meet everyone rapidly and opens the gate for more conversations amongst newer members.

Saturday breakfast was a bit later than usual, thank God for that as I'm not an early bird! The day was free of planned activities, and I know some people biked the Wolfe Island, others went for lunch and shopping downtown.

Pizza dinner on Saturday was held outside, and it was great! I have to say, since we're

originally from Montreal, the pizza was the best one we ever had in Ontario, as it was very close to how they do it in Montreal! Pepperoni under the cheese!! We had a chance to take some good drone shots of everyone, even after a malfunction delay, then we had a few serious Trivia rounds and somehow the winners are always cheaters, and I always end up on the losing team! Maybe I need to up my game on the cheating gimmicks or tune my ears better and listen more to the nearby teams! But seriously, congrats to the winning team, we were all very close to each other and had a great time.

If you ever have the chance to meet Marc L., ask him about Scotch! He's a top gun expert on the subject and I had the privilege to have him demonstrate how to taste and savour Scotch! I'm a complete newbie on that topic and found it very interesting and it was very tasty! Thanks for sharing, it was really appreciated!

Sunday breakfast, then open day for everyone, closing with Mystic River movie night! And with that, the extreme heat we've experienced for the last 4 weeks finally tapered off!





As a member, if you have not yet attended a Rally, put that in your agenda. We've been at it for the last two years and truly enjoyed the camaraderie, all the tricks and tips and making new friends!

A big thank you to the Hosts Roch/Helene and Theresa B! It was very well organized! Thanks as well to all who helped setting up, cleaning up and serving us! Particularly Marc/Shanna.

Mini Caravan — Kingston to York

As many Canadians decided to cancel their reservation, we ended up with three Canadians (Suzanne/Bill, Tricia/Brian, Caroline/Patrick all from Ontario) and 1 US (Kathy/Jack from Nevada) trailers leaving the Summer Rally to York.

From the get-go, I created a WhatsApp group to help us getting connected rapidly while on the road. That worked out very

well and I would like to suggest for future meetups to get that as a standard on top of the paper schedule.

The three nights mini caravan itinerary was originally created by Jeannie E. and even after it was officially cancelled, we stuck to the plan and did the planned route and overnight stays.

I'll be honest, all of us were worried about crossing the border with all the scary stories and the what-if scenarios. Fortunately, everything turned up very nicely and all four of us got through and it was just a regular crossing with normal questions (Food, Drugs, Firearms, Where, how long, and cash over 10k).

Our 1st stop was at a Wal-Mart near Syracuse to stock up on food and drinks, then driving the beautiful Finger Lakes region along Seneca Lake, quite a beautiful destination and loaded with wineries and

breweries. Arriving at our 1st destination before diner time at the Sunflower Acres in Addison, NY. Off the beaten path, the sites were new, a bit short and with a slope, but we managed to make it work. As we were staying at that location for two nights, I ordered \$10 worth of wood and was really astonished at the amount of wood \$10 got us! It was the size of an oversized, overloaded wheelbarrow of Oak outside cuts! Great smell and it was dry! The two campfires we did allowed us getting acquainted very rapidly! Next day was open, the Canadians went to the Corning Museum of Glass, and our new American Friends went to Watkins Glen Gorge for a hike. Everyone really appreciated their day, and we wrapped it by burning all that remaining wood!

Next stop, we headed over for a one night stop at Penn Avon Campground, nice easy location, close to the route, everyone had a nice dinner, then we called it off early to be ready for a 9AM departure loaded with fresh water and empty grey and black tanks! The idea was to be at the International around 10:30 – 11:00 and beat the arrival rush. Along the way and nearer to York, another Airstream tagged along and once in York, the Airstreams were everywhere! To the point of being overloaded!

Overall, it was a nice little caravan, and I think everyone enjoyed travelling together!

Airstream International Rally — York, PA, USA

Arrival was amazingly well organized, got in, got a welcome package, line up behind a

Golf cart bringing us to our camp site location, helpers were around to situate us with Water and Power and, within 30 minutes, we were having a drink and started meeting people from all over. I made sure to raise our flag and many came over welcoming us and being happy we elected to go. We six Canadians were parked next to each other as we are all Grapes and Grains Intra-Club members.

On the first night as there were no planned activities, we gathered around our trailers having a nice little Solo Stove (Mesa XL) fire going on and some people tagged along, and all had a good time. During the day, some of us went biking to York and did a small portion of the Heritage Rail Trail. We also found some good local stores to replenish our stocks!

Saturday was the big day with the Opening Ceremony, our Canadian Flag was present, Bill was our club flag bearer and Denny Kennedy did a great job singing our Canadian Anthem, and surprisingly a lot of people were singing along! Someone commented that they knew it due to watching hockey and I replied that we also knew theirs for the same reason!

Sunday, vendor hall opened, and tons of good stuff was around, Airstream Swag, Actual Airstreams 2025 models were on site, even the new Frank Lloyd Wright edition, which is a very beautiful trailer but not sure how practical it would be to go camping with it! Andy Thomson presented his Towing/Hitch Seminar material with a full hall and had to make a second presentation due to the popularity! It was very well received and of course you had to

have a skeptic in the audience, and he left the room saying he loved his Duramax.

We attended the “All you need to know about Caravans” session, which was well done giving the highlights and setting expectations, but unfortunately there were many questions about the waiting list and how to make it better.

Overall, all of us attended the many different seminars and I’m sure we all learned a ton of new things and we all left our wallet on site with the many upgrades, fixes and gadgets we bought!

The band concert was very well done with older songs reminiscing the Wally Byam’s era.

On the last day Grapes & Grains held a

luncheon which was a pretty good catered BBQ and finally the closing ceremony was pretty much a big thank you to all the volunteers and the regional parting and incoming Presidents.

In summary, as it was so big, it could be overwhelming at times but we kind of stuck to our little fire circle every night and wound down the day with our preferred beverages and friends.

One thing for sure, we made new friends and learned many things!



The Trillium



Nova Scotia 70th Anniversary Rally Recap

Karen R.

2025 Nova Scotia 70th Anniversary ACI Rally Recap

On the weekend after Labour Day, John and I attended an Airstream rally in Nova Scotia. This four-day event was hosted by Region 1 to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Wally Byam Airstream Club (now known as Airstream Club International).

On our way east from the Kingston Rendezvous, we stopped for three nights at Montreal, five nights at Quebec City, three nights at Grand Falls, NB, and three nights at St. Andrews, NB. There, we caught up with fellow Ontario club members Jeannie and Kim E. and Melanie and Murray C. Together we had a delightful visit with John and Susan K. at their new home. Excitement built over the next four days, as

we made our way towards the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia. We saw ever-increasing numbers of Airstreams on the highways and in campgrounds.

The rally site, which was a small fairground in Lawrencetown, was jam packed with 140 Airstreams of all sizes and vintages, squeezed cozily together like an aluminum Tetris puzzle. Roughly one third were Canadian and two thirds American, and everybody was super friendly. The rally hosts were from Quebec, and they did a wonderful job of putting on a party with regional flair.



Highlights of the 70th Anniversary ACI Rally:

1. Catching up with old friends we met during previous rallies and caravans was wonderful. Isn't it amazing how we Airstreamers form such enduring bonds? Rally organizers did a good job of making our American friends feel especially welcome, and there was a solid sense of international camaraderie all weekend.
2. Visiting the site in Kentville to see The Plaque that was erected in 2005, marking the 50th anniversary of the first meeting of the Wally Byam Caravan Club, was very moving. Having Dale (Peewee) Schwamborn there, to reminisce about being there in 1955, was icing on the cake. Dale also gave two fascinating slide presentations at the rally about his mother Helen Byam Schwamborn (Wally's cousin) and about Wally Byam himself.



3. Sailing on Bluenose II on a sunny, breezy day, out of Lunenburg harbour was totally thrilling and a huge privilege. She hoisted four sails and heeled over nicely. Bluenose II was built in 1963, rebuilt in 2012, and is an exact replica of the original Bluenose (a wooden-hulled commercial fishing schooner built in 1921). For the next 17 consecutive years Bluenose won the annual International Fishermen's Trophy which made her the fastest sailing ship in the world. In 1938 she was named Queen of the North Atlantic Fishing Fleet. Bluenose has been pictured on the Canadian dime since 1937.

4. Finally, the team of volunteers who organized the rally were amazing. When we arrived at the fairgrounds, someone in an eight-foot-tall blow-up red lobster costume waved us in. The food at the rally was delicious and most of it was prepared by the cooking team. Meals included fish and chips (from a chip truck), a pork tenderloin BBQ with all the trimmings, a home-style seafood chowder dinner, and a full hot breakfast on the final day.

After the rally wrapped up, we reluctantly said 'until we meet again' farewells to friends from distant places and, over the course of four days, made a beeline for Lombardy to meet up with more Airstream friends at our fall gathering.

Karen R.



The Trillium

Ontario Fall Frolic (a.k.a. Lombardy Fall Rally)





Labrador Adventure 2026

Pat L.

OCAC exclusive

Interested in a cutting edge adventure?
OCAC caravan to Labrador is in the works.

The inland passage from Quebec to Labrador is a rugged challenge including pristine, undeveloped northern lands. Our intent is to follow the gorgeous north shore of the St Lawrence to Baie Comeau and then head inland through Quebec with stops including an Innu based station, Churchill Falls and other massive hydro electric facilities, locations highlighting the indigenous culture as well as early European and modern influences. Once along the Atlantic coast we plan a stay at a living museum as well as visiting historic

and cultural sites reflecting the life of Labrador people over the past 400 years.

This early season will mean cooler, but do not expect freezing weather. Some tourism sites will not be open yet so we will focus on the land and people around us. Overnight stays will include community parking lots - and an abandoned air strip! Some sections - various reports suggest about 100 km split in 2 sections - are unpaved and rough. Long stretches of uninhabited land so you and your trailer/ vehicle need to be stocked up, fuelled up (some travel with spare fuel containers), with spare tires and other maintenance equipment on hand. Wildlife in abundance.



Most importantly, this time of year will be just prior to the black fly and mosquito season. We hope.

The caravan end location will let you decide whether to explore the Labrador coast further on your own - dip down into coastal Quebec, cross into Newfoundland on the ferry, or return inland and take in tourist attractions that will have opened.

- ▶ Approximate dates: after May long weekend - June 12, 2026
- ▶ Start: May long weekend OCAC rally
- ▶ End: Red Bay, Labrador

▶ Caravan size: small - exact numbers TBD

▶ Cost: TBD

Interested? Email Pat L.

For those who have already requested to join, expect an email confirming your registration early November.



The Trillium



True North Caravan 2027

Pat L.

True North Caravan - OCAC exclusive

June 6 - July 20, 2027

Come see the great Canadian North - Northwest Territories, the Yukon and northern provinces in between. Truly a bucket list caravan.

Meeting in northern Alberta, we head north towards Great Slave Lake. Adventures really begin in Hay River, Yellowknife and Dene communities. Camp on the beach. Catch fish for supper. Experience the culture to see the land. Celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day with the community in Fort Simpson. Enjoy the solstice in a land where the sun barely sets.

Dipping down to northern BC for an afternoon at the Hot Springs, wander through the Sign Forest before arriving in the Yukon. Celebrate Canada Day in Whitehorse. Relive the Gold Rush in Dawson City. See glaciers from the air, experience tundra, Tlingit traditions.

This caravan brings you to unspoiled nature, stunning views, wildlife everywhere. Roads can be rough and not always paved. There will be boondocking at times. Your cell phone may not have a signal. Fuel and groceries need to be planned.

Interested? Make sure your rig and vehicle are in good shape and ready for lots of miles. Dings and dents could happen. Dust

is guaranteed. Bring spare parts. Bear Aware for everyone. For those interested: golf and fishing gear.

We would love to have you join us!

- ▶ Number of rigs: 10
- ▶ Leader: Pat Leggatt
- ▶ Email: leggattocaccaravan@gmail.com
- ▶ Expected start/stop location: Edmonton.
- ▶ Optional pay on your own caravan from Ontario to Edmonton
- ▶ Getting on the caravan: contact Pat at if you are interested. A group email will go out in the fall with details on applying and registering.
- ▶ Wait list will be kept.
- ▶ Caravan cost (kitty fee): \$3000 currently, and expect increases as we add some activities.
- ▶ There will be optional excursions you may choose which must be covered by the leader. Your individualized payments will reflect those optional excursion fees.
- ▶ Deposit: \$500 to confirm registration
- ▶ Cancellation fee: \$50 plus any non-recoverable costs

For those who have already requested to join, expect an email confirming your registration early November.



Base Camp 6 - 2027

John S.

Fellow OCAC members,

Interested in a 2027 rally at New York City?

Per Hamnqvist approached me at the Region 1 rally asking if there might be interest from OCAC members to participate in early June 2027 in "Base Camp 6". This event would be located at the New Jersey Marina/camping location that is directly across from downtown Manhattan and was used for the previous "Base Camps" 1 through 5. This location provides easy access to Manhattan via a short passenger ferry ride.

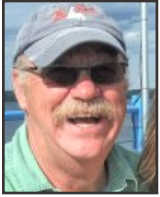
Per has previously organized multiple rallies here, the last of which was in 2019. The site and event have been very popular in the past for the fantastic location and the multitude of things available to do in New York City.

Per is very conscious of Canadian concerns over travel to the US, however he also explained there is a substantial lead time to organize this event and he is thus trying to determine the level of interest before going further. No commitment is required, only an expression of interest, bearing in mind that the rally would be almost two years from now and lots can change in that time.

If you believe you might be interested, please drop me a note before the end of October and I will share the responses with Per so he can gauge interest and plan accordingly.



The Trillium



What fuel does your silver spaceship run on?

JohnR.

In the Star Trek series, the Enterprise, or NC-1701, used dilithium crystals to regulate the matter–antimatter reaction in the warp drives. I can hear Scotty now saying, “I canny do it Captain, we need more dilithium crystals!”.

We do not run on the fictional dilithium crystals, but we do run our silver spaceships on electrons produced by shore power hookups or from out onboard batteries. The closest we get to the fictional dilithium crystals is the power produced from lithium batteries. It is well established that lithium batteries have more usable energy than lead acid or AGM batteries for the same amp hour size battery, thereby allowing you to go without power hookups longer. I recently changed my batteries from the AGMs that came with the Airstream to lithium batteries. This was a planned upgrade as I had changed out the converter last year to a lithium compatible one when the original equipment converter one failed. We found that we were doing more boondocking nights on our travels taking advantage of our Harvest Host membership and the old AGM batteries were not giving us the comfort level we wanted. This year, we made the decision to replace the AMG batteries with lithium ones.

Looking at all the lithium batteries on the market, the things I wanted were good quality and ones with Canadian content.

Since almost all lithium batters are made in Asia, I was looking for a Canadian company that engineered lithium batteries and understood the Canadian climate and market. I was quite pleased when I found Volthium a Canadian company out of Quebec that did all the engineering and designing of lithium batteries for the Canadian market. You can read more about them and their products at www.volthium.com. I bought two of their 12 Volt 130-amp hour, self-heating batteries and installed them in my Airstream. In the month since I installed the lithium batteries from Volthium we have boondocked for six nights and four of those nights were sequential, with a much higher confidence level in the comfort level we wanted, especially when it came to keeping us warm at night.

After installing the lithium batteries, we set out on a six-week tour and part of our tour was to take us past the Volthium facilities just outside Montreal, so I contacted them by email to see if we could get a tour of their facilities. The people at Volthium were very happy to give us a tour, so we were set up to tour their facilities four days after our trip began.

While there, the people at Volthium showed us a new lithium battery they are just about to bring out to the market and for those of you without solar panels on the roof you might be very interested in this one. It is a group 27 battery; the group number just refers to the physical dimensions of the battery and quite often the batteries that come with the Airstream are group 27. This is a 12 V DC, 100-amp hour battery that is self-heated with a battery management system (BMS) that protects against cold charging and high temperatures, overload and undervoltage as well as short circuit protection. The battery comes with an on-off switch so you can switch off the battery for storage and can be connected to a Victron display system. The batteries are also resistant to vibration which makes them great for RV use.



What makes this battery stand out is the fact that you do not need a \$500 DC to DC charger, extra wiring and connection to your tow vehicle so that the battery can be charged while driving down the road to your next campsite. This battery can be charged from the power supplied by your 7-way connector with the addition of a \$130 black box that connects directly to the battery, so no need for an extra connection between the tow vehicle and Airstream. Here is a link to the Pro 2 battery for more explanation: [12V 100Ah](#)

Battery – PRO 2.

While at Volthium they offered to switch out the 130 amp hour batteries I had for the new and not yet on the market but since I have solar and the best solar charging usually takes place while driving down the road, I opted to keep the batteries I had. Here is a link to the batteries I bought and if you have solar they may work for you: 12V 130Ah self-heating battery - Volthium.

The new batteries are on the market now, Volthium batteries come with a 10-year warranty, and they told me that the batteries should last 15 years and for me that most likely means the last batteries I buy for the Airstream. So, who needs

dilithium crystals when you have Volthium batteries on board.

Speaking of batteries on board, if you own a Classic with the Alde system installed there are two AA batteries that maintain the memory when disconnected from the main batteries. I have not found any reference to these AA batteries in the owner's manual, but you should check and replace as required. To remove the face plate of the Alde control panel just pry from the bottom and lift up, then there will be four screws holding on the panel, remove them and lift the panel out of the wall and you will see the two AA batteries connected to a wire from the back of the unit. When replacing the screws on the control panel do not overtighten as it will break the plastic tabs on the controller body.

Warp speed Mr. Sulu.





Airstream Life Hacks

Lesley S.

Small upgrade to solve a problem

Have you ever looked under your bathroom sink in the cabinet? Ours had a piece of wood half way up as a backstop but it did not enclose the whole area underneath.

Well as luck would have it, we lost something that should have been on the shelf underneath. We searched all over. Conclusion it must have gone over the top and was now somewhere between the vanity and the outside wall of the trailer where the pipes come in.

After pulling everything out of the cabinet and using a flashlight and a small mirror to look behind, still nothing. I reached down as far as I could twisting myself into a

pretzel, it opens at the bottom to go under the vanity.

Could it have gone under there? How am I going to get under there?

I decided to push something under the cabinet to attempt to push anything out to the back wall of the trailer.

There it was, with a set of tongs I retrieved it.

When I thought about how to stop it ever happening again. I decided to take window screening and staple it in the back to close in the area. Window screening can be moulded to go around pipes. Haven't lost anything since.



The Trillium



Sunshine Report

Lynn B.

The end of August a Thinking of You card was sent to John & Susan K. to wish them well in their next chapter without an Airstream.

We all had a great time at the Lombardy Rally and four Thank You cards were given to Kerry & Betty M. and Larry & June D. for hosting a great rally. A Thank You card was given to June for the chair yoga classes she ran. Another Thank You card was given to David H. for the great job he did as President. I mentioned in his card that he made everything he ran for us look very easy.

A Get Well card was sent to John F. for his time in the hospital.

Here is a picture taken during the Lombardy Rally when we all went for a picnic at the lock.



The Trillium

Community Services Update

Project Linus - Julie Reid

Many thanks to those members and members' families who created and donated an impressive 43 blankets to Project Linus at the Fall Rally in Lombardy. I would like to thank Arlene C. for delivering the blankets to the Ottawa Project Linus coordinator (see photo). When possible, it is nice to contribute to the same community that hosts us for our rallies.

Among other organizations, some of the blankets will find a home with patients from the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO). Before the Fall Rally, I left a couple of blankets with the Project Linus coordinator in Lawrencetown NS when we



were there for the Region 1 Rally. The coordinator assured me that the blankets would go to children affected by the local wildfires. As always, our hope is that every blanket provides a child with some sense of safety and security.

Fall and winter are blanket knitting/crocheting season! I encourage you to keep those needles active in advance of the Spring Rally where we will accept your generous donations.

If you would like more information about Project Linus, please see the February 2025 Trillium or visit projectlinuscanada.org.