



CPJC
Alberta Saskatchewan
Jaguar Car Club

Founded 2021

www.cpjc.ca

Spring 2024

Cats On The Prairies

Newsletter Issue #9

CPJC Mission Statement & Club Motto

To provide fellowship for Jaguar marque enthusiasts by providing social opportunities for members to share their enjoyment and gain knowledge of Jaguar motorcars.

Club Website (www.cpjc.ca)

About The CPJC

The Canadian Prairies Jaguar Club is an automobile club whose purpose is to provide fellowship for Jaguar marque / auto enthusiasts. Members will have opportunity to share their interest in Jaguar cars through club events, social occasions, a dedicated website and more.

The CPJC is an affiliate member of (JCNA) Jaguar Clubs of North America. JCNA is dedicated to the promotion and preservation of Jaguar automobiles among it's enthusiasts in America, Canada and Mexico.

All Jaguar enthusiasts are welcomed as are fans of any and all makes of planes, trains, motorcycles and automobiles. We love pedal cars, collectibles, memorabilia, motoring fashion, cruising tunes and more!

Owning a Jaguar car is not an essential requirement for club membership. Members are encouraged to invite family and friends to any and all CPJC events.

2024 Directors

President: Doug Uffen - cpjcpresident@jcna.com

Past President - (Vacant)

Vice President: Sarah Mae Amde - cpjcvp@jcna.com

Secretary / Membership: Chris Hay - cpjcsecretary@jcna.com

Treasurer: Ed Southgate - cpjctreasurer@jcna.com

Website Director: CJ Wallace - cpjcwebmaster@jcna.com

Newsletter Editor: Frank Moscaccpjcnewsletter@jcna.com

Area Champions: Regional Event Coordination

Edmonton Area - Pro Venkatraman

Saskatchewan - Bob Burnyeat

Calgary Area - (Vacant)



Meetings

CPJC meetings will take place on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm Mountain Standard / Daylight Time excepting Statutory Holidays and long weekends.

General meetings will be held via ZOOM

Members are encouraged to submit agenda items, topic recommendations and ideas to president@cpjc.ca

Membership

Welcome Canadian Prairies Jaguar Club members! We are the newest Jaguar Car Clubs of North America affiliate club. (Officially sanctioned on December 20th, 2021)

NW69 - Northwest Division Club # 69

A car club can only be as good as its membership allows. Your excellent taste in automobiles is an indicator the CPJC is off and running after an excellent start. Beyond your appreciation and interest in Jaguar automobiles we thank you for stepping up to the plate with your formal application to JCNA and payment of your annual membership dues. We (CPJC) are a new but maturing club and we are thrilled to have you as a member !

For the Canadian Prairies Jaguar Club the rubber has officially hit the road! Our first two years have been exciting and eventful years for our club. We are well on our way and looking forward to an ever promising future.

Membership benefits entitle participation in all CPJC meetings and events, free classified ads on our website at www.cpjic.ca and in our club newsletter. An opportunity to share a common interesting all things “Jaguar” with other Jaguar auto enthusiasts. CPJC membership also includes all JCNA benefits such as participation in all sanctioned events, the “Jaguar Journal’ magazine, the Tool Loan Program and access to the Jaguar Forums on the JCNA website www.jcna.com

CPJC Membership:

General Membership: \$97.00 (\$40 CPJC, \$ 57 JCNA)

Affiliate Membership: \$40 (CPJC portion only)

For full membership details and club By-laws please check the website - www.cpjic.ca

Inquiries through Membership Secretary Chris Hay- cpjcsecretary@jcna.com

Recognitions - Please Notify Us

If you know of any member who is ill, in the hospital, has a special anniversary, is celebrating a milestone event or you would like to recognize in some way, please contact:

Website Director (C.J. Wallace) - cpjcwebmaster@jcna.com

Newsletter Editor (Frank Mosca) - cpjcnewsletter@jcna.com

Message from the Club President:

We recently held our AGM in January and the newly elected CPJC Board has already started to make plans for 2024. Doug Uffen will remain President for one more year and hopes to graduate to the Past President's role in 2025, hence the Past President role on the Board remains vacant for this calendar year. Sarah-Mae Amde is your new Vice-President, C.J. Wallace has become your Website Director and Ed Southgate is stepping into the Treasurer position. Returning to the Board is Frank Mosca as Newsletter Editor and Chris Hay, who was the Website Director, is now your Secretary / Membership Director for 2025. I look forward to working with this Board and the additional skills and expertise that they bring to the club.

I am also pleased to announce that Pro Venkatraman of Edmonton and Bob Burnyeat of Saskatchewan have volunteered to be our CPJC Champions for these regions. Albeit the club is Calgary centric at present, we are trying to address that. We are hoping that our Regional Champions can help us grow our membership base in these locales and help to identify opportunities for our members to get together locally. At our CPJC Board meeting in late January, we decided to look for a volunteer to be our Calgary Region Champion. While increasing membership is always a desire, the main focus of this new Calgary Champion position is to make arrangements for our future Calgary Jags & Java get togethers and Pub Nights that we are scheduling for 2024 / 2025. If you are interested in this volunteer role, please contact Doug Uffen (403) 669-9238 or doug@reflectionpeak.com. Spouses and significant others are also eligible volunteers.

Our current 2024 Events Calendar is drafted and forever evolving. A preview of our proposed activities is provided elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter. I encourage all members to review the Events Calendar and take note of the events of greatest interest to them and place those events in your personal calendars. It is by attending these events, that we are able to get to know each other and share our interests. Not just in these fine motorcars but in whatever else might be of interest to fellow members.

While our monthly ZOOM meeting provide an opportunity to learn about the cars and meet each other virtually, meeting each other in person at an event is so much better. Driving to that event in a Jaguar is even more special! We encourage members to meet outside of the official club activities as well. Remember that club member contact information is available in the members protected section of our website.

The JCNA website is a resource available to our members. Various Blog groups can assist you with diagnosing a problem or finding someone to assist you with a restoration project. Hard to find parts, maintenance tips and general inquiries are at your disposal.

The Canadian Prairies Jaguar Club is what we all make of it. I encourage all of you to participate in some club events this coming year.

Doug Uffen, CPJC President



Join an affiliate club for local fun.

JLR/Dealer Events



Photo by Tommy Cross, OJOA-BC

Family Fun



Photo from ED-Metro NY

Elegant Activities



Photo from JDCA51-KY

Participation/Awards



Photo from MRJC-CO

Join JCNA Today!

Camaraderie • Participation • Competition

It's easy to take advantage of all that JCNA has to offer you and your family.

Here's how to join:

1. Visit www.jcna.com, and click on "JOIN."
 2. Click on "CLUB LIST." Choose a local club near you. Or, fill in a Club Locator form.
- If you're not near a club you may join as a Member at Large to keep abreast of club concourses, rallies, etc.,

For more information or assistance, contact:

Jaguar Clubs of North America
 500 Westover Dr. #8354
 Sanford NC 27330
 888-CLUBJAG (888-258-2524)
 OR

Join an affiliate club -- and get JCNA too!



Driving Into The Future



Photo by David Weaver

Join Today!

Jaguar Clubs of North America Inc.

Membership has it's privileges.

Join a community of Jaguar car enthusiasts. Where you can Participate in local club events, competitions, as well as, excitement and elegance at our annual International Jaguar Festival! Whether your Jaguar is a classic, the latest model, or you're still dreaming of owning a Jaguar, JCNA has something for you.

Enhance Your Jaguar Experience

www.jcna.com

Jaguar Clubs of North America is an independent organization and not part of Jaguar Land Rover NA

www.jcna.com



Canadian Prairies Jaguar Club

Membership Form - New & Renewal, and Contact Info Change

New Member Renewal Information Change only

Date:

JCNA Membership No.:

First Name:

Last Name:

Spouse / Partner (/ Children) Name(s):

Street Address:

City:

Province:

Postal Code:

Mailing Address (if different):

City:

Province:

Postal Code:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

E-Mail:

Jaguars Owned (Year / Make / Model):

1)

2)

3)

Interests (check box if interested):

JCNA Events

Concours

Slalom

Rally

Club Events

Social Events

Driving Tours

Show & Shine

Other suggestions?? ...

DUES PAYMENT ONLY

By submitting this form, I make formal application to the Board of the Canadian Prairies Jaguar Club (CPJC) for membership. I will abide by the By-laws of the CPJC if my application is accepted.

Signed:

Date:

Please make payment as follows:

General membership: \$97 (\$40 CPJC portion, \$57 JCNA portion)

Associate membership: \$40 (For members of other JCNA clubs, CPJC portion only)

Make cheque payable to: Canadian Prairies Jaguar Club

Mail application form and cheque to: Canadian Prairies Jaguar Club
c/o Chris Hay (CPJC Secretary), 3120 Signal Hill Drive SW, Calgary, Alberta T3H 3T2

CLUB USE ONLY

Date Received:

via Mail Digitally

By:

Amount paid: \$

e-Transfer Cheque

Date Processed:

2024 CPJC Events Calendar

Calgary Pub Night (Season Kick Off Meeting) April 4th, time & location TBD

Jags & Java (Calgary) Thursday April 25th Location and time TBD

Drive - Wednesday May 8th - to be announced

Calgary Pot Luck Picnic & Rendezvous, Wednesday May 15th (for ABFM Vancouver)

MAY
15



**POTLUCK PICNIC & BYOB
RENDEZ-VOUS 5pm- 9pm**

**The Mosca's Acreage (Calgary)
5pm - 9pm May 15th, 2024**

Come join the fun as we gather for a pot luck picnic & BBQ. Let's meet up, chow down and get the (ABFM Vancouver) Road Warriors off to a great trip.

It's a picnic style event so please bring a food favourite you can share with friends. Pizza, fried chicken, perogies, salad, cookies, whatever! Grill, fire pit, plates & cutlery will be provided. Food confirmation & directions will be provided with RSVP. CPJC members, family and Jags welcome.

Please RSVP - frankmosca@mac.com

CPJC Potluck Picnic (The Mosca's Acreage, Calgary) May 15th, 2024 5 - 9 pm
Rendezvous point for the ABFM Vancouver Road Trip
Contact Frank Mosca for information, directions and potluck sign up
RSVP: frankmosca@mac.com

Jags & Java Calgary (Thursday May 30th) Location TBD

Drive Wednesday June 5th (cancellation date June 12th)

Pub Night June 13th

Jags & Java Calgary (Thursday June 27th) location TBD

Drive Wednesday July 3rd (cancellation date July 10th)

Pub Night Calgary (July 11th)

Jaguar Saskatoon Show & Shine Saturday July 13th (Saskatoon)
Contact: Bob Burnyeat, bob.burnyeat@gmail.com

ABFM Brits By The Bess Show & Shine Sunday July 14th (Saskatoon)
<https://www.sbcc.ca/saskatoon-events>
Contact: Bob Burnyeat, bob.burnyeat@gmail.com

Jags & Java Calgary (Thursday July 25th) location TBD

Drive Wednesday August 7th (cancellation date August 14th)

Jaguar Land Rover Royal Oak Show & Shine - Calgary (Saturday August 10th)
Contact: Ian Laird, ian_laird@hotmail.com Participant & Judge's Training Event

Pub Night Calgary (August 10th) after JLRRO event

Traffic Jam, Sunday August 18th, Calgary

Jags & Java Calgary (Thursday August 29th) location TBD

2024 CPJC Events Continued

Drive Wednesday September 4th (cancellation date September 10th)

Pub Night Calgary September 12th

Jags & Java Calgary (Thursday September 26th)

Drive Wednesday October 2nd (cancellation date October 9th)

Pub Night Calgary October 9th (season wrap up)

Weekly Show & Shine events for Calgary area (Grey Eagle Casino, Chestermere Dock Side Grill, International Mall Rocky View, 11 Street S.E. Lordco)

Contact - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/canadianprairiesjaguarclub>



2024 JCNA - CPJC Events & Car Shows

If you are planning to attend any of these events, remember that we have 4 club flag standards that can be borrowed by CPJC members so you can literally fly the clubs banner.



“Road Warrior’s” Road Trip to the ABFM in Vancouver B.C. & back (May 16th - 20th) ABFM Van Dusen Gardens May 18th (Vancouver)

<https://vancouverbestplaces.com/all-british-field-meet/>

ABFM Alberta British Car Club in Edmonton (Saturday June 8th)

<https://www.albertaallbritishmotoringociety.ca/alberta-british-motor-meet-edmonton>

2024 JCNA - CPJC Events & Car Shows Continued

2024 Ultimate Car Show

Reynolds Car Museum Show & Shine Saturday July 13th (Wetaskiwin)

<https://www.reynoldsmuseum.ca/events/ultimite-car-show>

A JCNA Event: Forest Grove Concours d'Elegance, July 21st (Portland Oregon)

<http://forestgroveconcours.org/>.

A JCNA Event: Jaguars On The Island (JOTI), July 19th - 21st, (Victoria, B.C.)

<https://clubexpress.com/content.aspx?>

European Classic Saturday July 22nd (Calgary)

<https://vsccc.ca/events?EventViewMode=1&EventListViewMode=1>

A JCNA Event; Jaguars On The Green, August 2nd - 4th, Anacortes, Washington

<https://www.seattlejagclub.org/upcoming-events>

Rock'N August, August 6th - 10th (St. Albert)

<https://www.rocknaugust.com>

Okotoks Show & Shine, Sunday August 24th (Okotoks, Alberta)

<https://okotoksshowandshine.ca/>

A JCNA Event: Heritage Classic - August 23rd - 25th (Langley B.C.)

<https://www.jaguarmg.com/heritage.shtml>

Nelson Car Show, September 8th - 9th (Nelson B.C.)

<https://nelsonroadkings.com/>

Radium Fall Classic - September 21st (Radium B.C.)

<https://columbiavalley.com/events-calendar/radium-hot-springs-events/>

River City Classic - Sunday September 26th (High River, Alberta)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100052386322285>



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The Messy Business of Estate Planning ***Transferring Vehicle Ownership After Owner Passes Away***

What the heck is estate planning anyways? For one, it's much more involved than just making out a will.

You might be surprised to know that the vast majority of Canadians do not have a will or any kind of estate plan in place. This is especially true for younger Canadians. Shockingly nearly 70% of those aged 18 - 54 have no formal plan in place. Many Canadians that do have a will have the most basic document as opposed to a truly comprehensive estate plan. It's understandable really as no one, especially car enthusiasts like to think about "the end of the road" no matter the certain inevitability. Regardless of age or financial standing proper estate planning will help ensure that all of your final wishes are carried out, in the most efficient way possible, and that your estate's value is maximized.

Making a comprehensive will is an essential cornerstone for proper estate planning. This is the document that takes your final wishes into account. At it's most basic it is, *A list of your valuable assets and belongings*: this would include properties, financial accounts, valuables, investments and any other belongings you intend to pass on to someone (your beneficiaries). An estate planner or lawyer will help you make sure to get things right. After all it's important to be careful when naming those who will receive your gifts and property.

What about the cars? Lets face it automobiles are expensive items these days. Any newer vehicle or collector car is likely to be considered a valuable asset, even if it's not mentioned in a persons will or estate plan. And that's where things can get a bit messy.

Believe it or not vehicles can indeed be owned by dead people. Typically in Canada there's a "right of survivorship". In a nutshell it means that jointly owned assets will become the property of the other joint owner. This means no will, no probate and no settlement process. The asset just automatically becomes the full property of the surviving joint owner or owners. That's a pretty big deal as it includes everyone that has a vehicle in joint ownership with a spouse, son, daughter, partner, associate whatever. In such cases the survivor would only need present a death certificate to register the vehicle as owner.

Where this gets complicated is it is not uncommon these days for a spouse or partner to be solely registered as the vehicle owner. While Registry offices are entitled to exercise discretion, they may transfer ownership of a deceased's vehicle with proof of death, it is probable in such cases the transfer of vehicle ownership would be held up by the probate process. This could be problematic should a spouse need the vehicle for personal use or for liquidation immediately following death of the registered owner.

With your motor vehicle / vehicles it may be advisable to add a second registered owner to the shared asset, however, there can also potential downsides to that as well. For instance, if the car has a certain value, it could potentially be financed by one owner, therefore requiring the other owner refinance or clear the lien in order to update the vehicle registration. All registered owners become equal owners of the vehicle which means a judgement creditor, divorcing spouse or other third party could potentially make a claim against your vehicle.

Probate or not? A well thought out Estate plan offers valuable piece of mind and assurance your wishes are carried out. Your beneficiaries will be grateful. It doesn't need to be messy. TCB

Newsletter Submissions

This is your club newsletter so all CPJC Members are welcomed and encouraged to submit articles, photos, special interests, custom projects, restorations, road trip stories, photos, technical, mechanical inquiries, maintenance tips or anything Jaguar related that members wish to share or see included in the newsletter.

This newsletter is and will continue to be a work in progress. Our goal is to publish quarterly.

As we gain traction as a functioning car club we'll be able to report on and share our clubs activities, events and stories with our fellow CPJC club members as well as our JCNA community of Jaguar enthusiasts.

Your feedback is important to our success. Please offer recommendations, suggestions and even constructive criticism and send them to cpjcnnewsletter@jcna.com for consideration. Thanks!

Newsletter Links JCNA Clubs NW Region

<https://www.seattlejagclub.org/jagmag>

<https://www.jaguarmg.com/newsletter.shtml>

<https://cpjc.ca/newsletters.html>

<https://jaguarclubvictoria.ca>



Members Classified Ads

Car for Sale: 1969 E Type

Very early Series 2 2+2 (11th left hand drive Series 2ii E-Type 2+2 built)

British Racing Green in colour, new leather seats, new white wall tyres, new spoked rims and Jaguar knock offs.

Appraised at \$55,000 in 2021. Respectable offers only please.

Contact Morgan Govender at (306) 536-0881 or kgovender@sasktel.net

More photos available on request.



1989 V12 Vanden Plas. Very rare (Canada-only model; fewer than 70 built for 1989) in special-order Jaguar Racing Green with Buckskin leather in concours-winning original condition. Low kilometres, always garaged, absolutely corrosion free, accident-free, perfect paint and chrome. Excellent walnut and leather interior. Silky smooth performance. Always properly maintained; located in North Vancouver. A unique opportunity to own a premium example of this classic model. Must go to a good home. \$23,000

For information; Gregory Andrachuk, email: v12.vdp@gmail.com or 250 595 7453.



For completion, a 1951 Jaguar Mark V that has been the subject of a multi-year restoration process. Last items to do are completion of the interior and installation of a new correct interior kit in red from BAS (with a value of \$8,000.00 US) that comes with the car. Also requires a finishing and installing the wood trim, new battery, and the purchase of new tires. My time and other projects do not permit me to complete this car which belonged to a dear friend of mine almost since new. No rust, engine rebuild some years ago. Starts and runs well. Virtually all mileage in this car recorded prior to commencement of the restoration process. Repainted some years ago and remains excellent overall condition. A nearly complete tool kit (restored) is available at current market rates.

For more information contact Geoff Moyse - (gsmoy@telus.net)





The CPJC is encouraging all its members to join in the fun and participate in the club in some way. Now entering our third year of operation we have been able to put a few successful club events in our rear view mirror and we look forward to the road ahead.

We are looking for volunteers in any capacity.....This could be event support, participating in a club drive, show n shine, a pub night or a Jag's n Java meet up. We would love to feature your stories, favourite drives, car photos or ideas in our newsletter, website or Facebook page. Please consider sponsoring or helping out with any club event.

Please attend a club meeting (3rd Tuesday each month). We've had terrific guest speakers and some really good presentations. Beyond the interesting topics they have been a good way to introduce ourselves and get to know each other a bit. We would love to hear from you and any proposed meeting agenda topics you would like to see added to a meeting.

The Club Executive has been in place for two plus years now and has very recently transitioned some positions and gained some new Board members. This is good news as we are always looking for our members to consider participation in the club at the executive level. This is not as daunting a commitment as it might seem. Rather it's an opportunity to support the club and help out with some of the committee tasks. No executive experience necessary, we're in it together!



2024 JCNA Annual General Meeting March 14-17 Charlotte, North Carolina



Please join us for the JCNA AGM which will be held at the Embassy Suites - Charlotte Uptown. The hotel is near the center of the city and is walking distance to museums, restaurants, parks, and sports venues.



Embassy Suites Hotel – Charlotte Uptown

In the early afternoon the shuttle will return you to Charlotte for a visit to the NASCAR Hall of Fame across the street from the hotel, where you can experience the rich history of stock car racing in the U.S. or choose to explore Uptown Charlotte. We will gather back at the Hall of Fame for a cocktail hour at 5:30 PM, followed by dinner at 6:30 in the Hall of Honor.



Hall of Honor - NASCAR Hall of Fame

Activities begin on Friday the 15th at 9:30 AM with shuttle transportation from the hotel to RK Motorsports just 35 minutes north of the city. In addition to enjoying an incredible assortment of classic and performance automobiles, we will be treated to Rob Kaufman's private museum which encompasses an array of notable cars, including the GT 40 that won Le Mans in 1966. The tour includes a catered lunch on premises.



Rob Kaufman's Private Museum

On Saturday the 16th, the general meeting will begin at 8 AM. After a lunch break, business meetings will continue until mid-afternoon, followed by breakout sessions.

There will be a cash-bar cocktail hour starting at 6:00 PM, leading up to the banquet dinner, guest speaker and the JCNA annual awards to be held at the hotel.

For more information and to register, visit: agm2024.com

AGM registration deadline is Thursday, February 15th, 2024

Hotel reservations must be made by February 21st, 2024, to get the discounted rate of \$179.

Discounted rate is available for 3 days before and after the event if you wish to lengthen your stay.

Embassy Suites – Charlotte Uptown

401 East Martin Luther King Jr., Charlotte, NC, 28202

Reservation Number: 800-774-1500

Event name: Jaguar Club of North America Annual General Meeting, Event Code: JCN

See Registration Flysheet enclosed with this issue of the Jaguar Journal for additional information.



Canadian Prairies Jaguar Club

Steps to subscribe to the electronic Jaguar Journal

1. There are two steps to subscribe to the electronic Jaguar Journal. These steps are:

1. Create an account on the Zinio electronic delivery system; and
2. Register on JCNA.COM for an electronic subscription.

2. Create an account on Zinio:

- Zinio uses e-mails to deliver content notifications and access to the Zinio system;
- On your browser visit <https://www.zinio.com>;
- On the Zinio home screen click on the icon in the upper right of the panel;
- Register your Zinio account on the pop-up panel. The USERID will be the e-mail address to which you will be notified for new journal editions.

3. Register for an electronic subscription on JCNA.COM:

- Visit JCNA.COM using a browser and click on LOGIN (must be a club or JCNA member);
- Log into JCNA.COM using your JCNA Member number and your JCNA.COM password (if you have forgotten your password, use the Password Recovery option);
- Once logged into JCNA.COM, click on the 'MEMBERS ONLY SECTION' icon on the left;
- Click on the 'JJ SUBSCRIPTION' button;
- Use the 'SUBSCRIPTION TYPE' pull-down menu to select 'ELECTRONIC JAG JOURNAL';
- Enter your Zinio account e-mail address in the 'SUBSCRIPTION EMAIL' text box and enter this a second time in the 'CONFIRM EMAIL' text box (note that JCNA does NOT need the Zinio Account Password);
- Click 'SAVE' to update this information on the JCNA.COM web site.

4. Reading the Electronic Jaguar Journal:

- When each Jaguar Journal edition is published on Zinio, subscribed members will receive an e-mail notification to their Zinio registered e-mail account. A click on the link in the message will take you to the WWW.ZINIO.COM web site;
- Shortly after the Zinio notification, a second e-mail will be sent from the JCNA with your current Member card and any white JJ flysheet content;
- Members can access Zinio from their browser and/or phone, and can access all subscribed editions.

5. Unsubscribing from Electronic Jaguar Journal:

- Visit JCNA.COM and, using the above procedure (Point 3), set 'SUBSCRIPTION TYPE' to 'HARDCOPY'.



2024 Calendar

Hello JCNA members. The 2024 Calendar of events is under development. Please bring forward or submit to your Executive any proposed activities or ideas you may have or would like to see included in the 2024 events line up. All submissions or recommendations will be considered. It's your club. Please let the your executive know of your interests.

A Member Initiated Event Form has been drafted and is in development for use by members wanting to organize a CPJC event for our members. It should be up on our CPJC website soon. The intent is to make it easier for members to organize an event.

Constructive critiques of last year's events line up also welcomed. Which events did you participate in and how would you rate your experience? What improvements could be made ?

We look forward to a full slate of both local and regional *Jaguar* appreciation events. JCNA sanctioned events can be found on the JCNA website and are posted in the Jaguar Journal Magazine.

With Winter on the wane Spring's the Thing Spring Driving Safety Tips



Winter on the Canadian Prairies is not without its charms. We are indeed a winter nation and a hardy people at that. Skiing, snowstorms, curling, ice skating, ice hockey, ice fishing and a multitude of other outdoor activities are enjoyed by so many. Indoor types can be found huddled around fireplaces, enjoying hot beverages and cuddled under blankets all across the land.

For many car enthusiasts winter is but a long hard cold fact of life. Come March we start to get a bit antsy. Enough is enough. The longer days and warmer weather beckons and we find ourselves longing for the road. Trips to the garage become more frequent and for those with a heated car park the tinkering begins. We love Spring and are eager to get rolling. Of course we know that there is no on off switch where the weather is concerned. The seasons take time to transition and nowhere is this more evident than on the Canadian Prairies. A bit more patience is required.

March and April can see the roads clearing up and become mostly free from snow and ice. May and June temperatures warm up nicely but road hazards abound. Road gravels and potholes are everywhere as road maintenance crews get to work on cleaning up winters footprints. ***Incredibly nearly 30% of all fatal collisions in Alberta occur between April and June.*** It's a shocking number that be reduced with good driver diligence and a safety first attitude when operating your motor vehicle.

Road Safety starts before you get behind the wheel.

Safety Tips:

Prepare Your Vehicle

- Clean your car inside and out. Windshields and glass should be in good condition and clean. Good Visibility is essential at all times. Winter / Spring sun is often lower in the sky and can be a hazard.
- To ensure visibility in poor weather, keep all lights and signals clean and functioning. Turn headlights on when driving.
- Check your tires. Winter tires should be left on until average temperatures remain above 7 degrees Celsius. Tires should have ample tread, 3mm, and be properly inflated.

Look Out For Pedestrians

- Warmer weather means more people outside, be looking for them.
- Be extra cautious in pedestrian corridors, playground and school zones.
- Be wary of pedestrians that may be fixated on their electronic devices and not paying attention to traffic, especially kids. Distracted walking is a thing.
- In low light conditions watch for pedestrians in dark clothing. They can be difficult to see.

Beware of Flooded Roads

- Spring rain can cause localized flooding. Avoid driving through large puddles or flooded intersections. Deep water can cause your vehicle to stall, impede your brakes, impair your vision and cause your vehicle to hydroplane.
- If conditions are wet or slushy, drive at a speed where you can easily control your vehicle, Increase your following distance to improve reaction times.
- Never use cruise control on wet or slippery roads.
- Reduce risk of hydroplaning by lowering your speed, avoid turning sharply or hard braking and ensure tires have good treads.

Share The Road

- Spring brings road maintenance crews, cyclists and motorcyclists to the road.
- Maintenance crews require space to work and often have flag persons present. In construction zones be aware of reduced speeds and be prepared to slow down or stop when required.
- Check mirrors and blind spots often especially before lane changes or any horizontal movement of your vehicle.
- When turning left, always be scanning for oncoming cyclists or motorcycles. They can often be difficult to see in heavy traffic or at night. They can move quickly and appear from nowhere.

Watch For Wildlife

- Animals are becoming more active, especially at dawn and dusk.
- Watch for animal crossing signs and be wary near wooded areas. Reduce your speed, look well ahead and scan ditches and roadsides aggressively.
- Animals often move in groups. If you see or pass one animal, slow down because there may be more.
- If it looks like you are going to hit a large animal, try to strike it on an angle which may reduce the chance it could come through the windshield. Let up on the brakes just before hitting the animal
- Statistically most crashes on rural highways involve an animal. Increase your vigilance in rural roads.
- In urban areas animals may be near parks, rivers, green spaces or wooded areas.

More Safety Tips

Other reminders for spring driving:

- Keep windshield washer fluid topped up. On extended drives keep some spare fluid in the trunk.
- Use low-beam headlights in fog or rain.
- Replace your wipers.
- Obey speed limits and adjust speed for road conditions.
- In rural areas scan at least 20 seconds ahead of your vehicle. Watch for hidden driveways and road crossings.
- Be wary of potholes and broken asphalt. If you cannot avoid a large pothole brake before impact.
- Carry an emergency and first aid kit in your vehicle.

