

1016 NORMANDY CRESCENT, OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA K2C 0L4

25 SEPTEMBER 1993

G'day eh:

FROM THE EDITOR... First our apologies for the late publication of the September Newsletter. A number of issues were before the Executive that required resolution before this Newsletter could be published.

An undetermined number of OVL R members, Land Rover parts suppliers and Land Rover clubs on the OVL R mailing list have received a letter from Robin Craig which contained a copy of Robin's August "General Service" article. As you may recall, Robin's "General Service" article was not published in OVL R's August Newsletter.

The OVL R Executive has since decided to suspend publication of "General Service" until guide lines can be established for articles such as "General Service". The article that follows is OVL R's response to the position put forward by Robin Craig in his recent mailing of "General Service".

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT...Last month, member Robin Craig chose to send his regular newsletter column "General Service" to club members at his own expense. This was done following a decision by editor David Meadows to delete Robin's column from the August edition on grounds that it contained numerous errors, was unfairly critical of members and club activities and painted OVL R in an unsavoury light without justification. As president, I support the editor's position...

It is not my intention to change our newsletter from an informative and entertaining bulletin on Land Rover activities to a platform for petty politics. However, I feel it necessary, in light of Robin's actions in sending his column out, to respond in like form with the reasons behind our decision.

All of us are trying to operate according to the objectives set by the constitution which are to promote, support and protect the interests of Land Rovers and their owners in the Ottawa Valley. It can be noted from the constitution that the elected president has the overall responsibility for the club, its activities, finances, administration and image. Final responsibility for operational guidelines, rules and regulations also rest with the president.

An editor is appointed by the executive and has functional control of the newsletter. The editor's responsibility ranges from spelling and grammar, to ensuring articles reflect goals set out by the constitution: That is to promote, support and protect the interests of club members. That does not mean avoiding real issues but rather presenting them in a rational, balanced

and accurate form to promote discussion and solutions. The newsletter is not a personal platform for misinformation and rhetoric, regardless of any good intentions that may be involved. Having said that, let me deal with some specifics in Robin's column to set the record straight: (The bold type reflects Robin's statements.)

a) *The club is going through growing pains once again...* There is no "again". OVLRL is a vibrant, active organization where imagination and energy are reflected constantly in our activities and projects, from the kitchen trailer to incorporation.

b) *...the executive is responsible legally for what happens at club events.* Half right. Our recent meeting with lawyers explained that we're all in this together. All members share the same responsibility...and benefits.

c) *As a result (of liability) the executive have been loathed to organize any real trips off road.* Not true. The reason for the lack of off-road trips recently is the lack of requests from the membership. Club activities reflect demand and the one-day affair at Mike Dolan's in July was the first we've had this year.

d) *This club has been extremely lucky as far as ever having an accident, we have come very close a number of times.* Not true. A check of records, newsletter articles and veteran members turned up only three accidents in the last ten years that resulted in even minor injuries. Two members were struck by tree branches during off-road trips—not unusual in a forest—and another suffered injuries to his pride when his Land Rover skidded in the mud and rear-ended another. It's interesting to note that a contributing factor in the accident was that the lead vehicle had come to a full stop in the interests of safety before crossing another road.

e) *The question of alcohol has to be brought into the open and the issue has never been addressed by OVLRL.* The first statement suggests the club has an alcohol problem and is trying to hide it. That's irresponsible on a grand scale. The second statement is simply wrong. While some members consume alcohol at club social events and outdoor activities, its use is governed by liquor laws and social standards. The club does not promote alcohol. In fact, several years ago, in support of a public campaign to reduce impaired driving during the holiday season, OVLRL ended its practice of including wine in the ticket price of Christmas dinner. The club does not include liquor in any of its activities.

f) *A lot of club members complain about being asked to perform jobs at club events...* Wrong. The problem is not that they complain when asked, the problem is that they have to be asked in the first place. It's a problem in all organizations—a few of the members do most of the work. However, when the club does ask, most members are glad to pitch in.

Most of the material offered by Robin Craig in his **General Service** column is informative, up-to-date and interesting and we thank him for it. He offered his column several years ago to provide insight into the workings of Land Rover's overseas operations, military and model news and general industry gossip and titbits. But that's not what the August column was about. The

place for bringing up issues is the monthly meetings. The date, time and location are published every month. Everyone is welcome—members, friends and strangers, so long as they love Land Rovers. Anything is open for discussion and discussions are not always quiet affairs. We've had some dandies. Results are printed in the newsletter for all to read. Then, with all members acquainted with all sides of an issue, informed decisions can be made. It's a slow and cumbersome process, but there's a lot a stake.

OVLRL is the oldest and largest Land Rover organization in Canada. Its activities and events are copied by other four-wheel-drive clubs, its constitution used as a model by other organizations, its newsletter read by Land Rover enthusiasts across the country with articles re-published in other newsletters in the US and overseas. Through the hard work and commitment of many people, we have created something of real value. We'll always have issues—it's the nature of an active organization—but let's talk about them face to face.

YVES FORTIN, PRESIDENT, OTTAWA VALLEY LAND ROVERS.....(613) 237-9719

THE SEPTEMBER EXECUTIVE MEETING...The Club has realized \$15.00 in tow-bar rentals to Tom Hammond, Joel Harris and Michel Bertrand....Robert Bertrand, Michel's father, has offered to help OVLRL with the process of incorporation. David Meadows with the help of Robert Bertrand expects to have a package ready for the December Executive Meeting and the Annual General Meeting...Treasurer Tom Mayor reports although we are not flush, we do have sufficient funds to the year-end.

NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING ELECTION OF OFFICERS...The Executive wishes to inform the full members (those within the Ottawa Valley as defined in the Club by-laws) of OVLRL that an election of officers for the positions of **PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, TREASURER AND SECRETARY** will be held at the Annual General Meeting on the 5 January 1994.

NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING...Belamy's Restaurant, 150 Robertson Road, Nepean (Bells Corners), Wednesday, 6 October 1993, 7:30 pm, (613) 596-6281. All members and guests are welcome.

CLUB EVENTS...

OCTOBER...Frame Oiler, organized by Roy Bailie, (613) 523-5740, 23 October, 8:00 am, details in the October Newsletter.

DECEMBER...Christmas Party, RCN Mess, Saturday 4 December 1993

JANUARY... Annual General Meeting, 5 January 1994.

NEWS...FOR SALE...EVENTS... ETC...

FRED BARRETT AND NANCY FULLER are being married 22 October 1993. Fred and Nancy invite OVLRL members to a barbecue reception, phone the Groom for details (613) 731-9214.

JERRY DOWELL...has just become the current leader in the "LUG NUT AWARD" race. Jerry is constructing a new garage using log type construction. A number of his friends were putting the logs in place before securing them from the bonnet of Jerry's Land Rover. Jerry went to move the Land Rover and was confused between gears that make the Land Rover go forward and those that make it go backward. Jerry chose a forward gear in preference to reverse. In one quick lunge forward, the wall came a tumbling down. Good work, I hear the boys did a better job putting it up the second time.

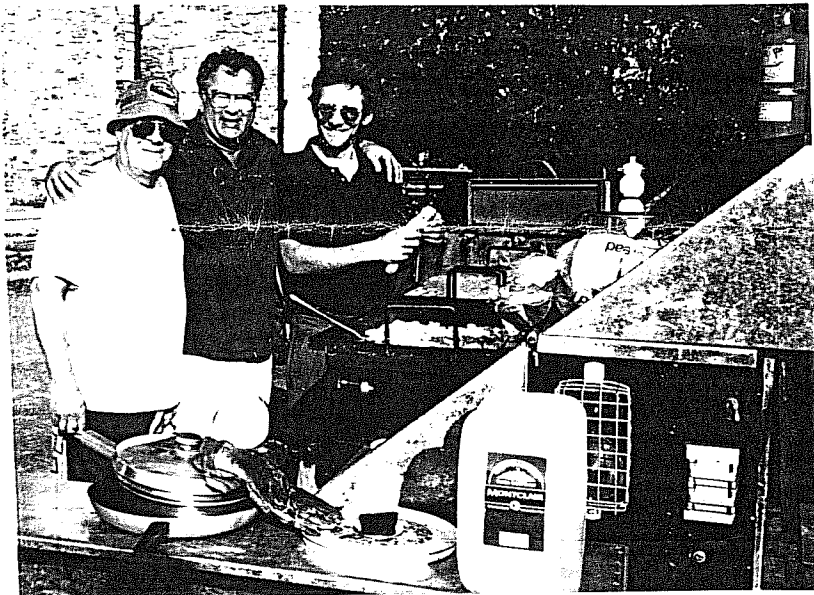
FOR SALE - M-Benz 220 diesel with Land Rover conversion kit \$500 / Ser. IIA, 109 pick-up complete with M-Benz diesel (above), Offers / Don Watson RR-2, Wingham, Ontario (519) 357-2148.

FOR SALE - 1960, Ser. II, 109 Station Wagon, Ser. IIB engine, Warn Hubs, Needs work on brakes, rear X-Member and front Outriggers. Lic. in Quebec, \$1,500 / OBO. Walt Saveland (819) 770-4993.

FOR SALE - 88" Land Rover \$5,000, Yvan Gagné, (514) 725-4144.

FOR SALE - Ser. III Bulkhead \$125, Tinted Windscreen (2 pieces) \$80, Joel Harris, Res. (613) 830-4750, Bus. (613) 993-0648.

AUGUST CLUB BREAKFAST...It was a bright sunny Saturday morning on Victoria Island with the Club Trailer in full view. Jerry Dowell was collecting money, Al Pilgrim (Bates) and sous-chef Yves were behind the trailer cooking what turned out to be a super breakfast. This was the first time we have used the new gas cookers (the propane gas installation has been inspected and approved by an authorized Canadian Gas Association Dealer). In all twenty-nine people had breakfast and OVL R is \$44.50 richer. Our thanks to event coordinator Bates, sous-chef (President) Yves, and Jerry Dowell for calling the members and collecting their money.



From left to right, short order cook Bates, Dave Smith Ottawa's best known outdoor cook and President Yves Fortin.

CHEERS FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR.....DAVID MEADOWS (613) 599-8746