

For Immediate Release

Solar Car Set to Break Record in Victoria Thursday

“The Power of One” will set another first Thursday at 10am, at Mile 0 near Beacon Hill Park in Victoria for the longest distance ever driven by a 100% solar powered electric vehicle.



Marcelo Da Luz and the Power of One

Photo: John Stonier, VEVA

Vancouver, BC October 30, 2008 After already creating a string of “firsts” with his 100% solar PV powered electric car, Marcelo Da Luz is set to create another at 10am Thursday morning. His sleek vehicle will break the World Record for the longest distance driven by a solar powered vehicle driving past the current record of 15,070 km as he arrives at Mile 0 of the Trans Canada Highway in Victoria’s Beacon Hill Park.

Starting with an idea in Toronto, Marcelo Da Luz the driver behind Power of One, known as “Xof1” has faced many challenges to set the world distance record for driving on sunshine instead of oil. But he has already set a string of firsts. The first solar powered car to make its way north of the arctic circle on its own power. The first solar powered car to drive in freezing conditions. The first solar powered car to drive on ice roads.

Driving the top of the world highway to the arctic circle was discouraged by truckers who refuse to take the rough highway, but the Xof1 cruised it in bright sunshine this summer.



The challenges have been more regulatory than technical. In fact the support vehicle has had more problems than the solar car.

The first challenge was being allowed to drive on Canadian roads. The province of Ontario has a moratorium specifically banning solar cars. After endless discussions with the government Mr. Da Luz of Toronto moved to Barbados where he registered and insured the futuristic vehicle. Guided by a 1949 Geneva Convention allowing him to drive back to Canada to cross the country, he still had to skirt Ontario by driving back through the USA. In contrast BC has recently passed regulations allowing electric vehicles like the Xof1 back on the road with limited speeds. The City of Vancouver showed it's leadership recently by passing a by-law to permit Neighborhood Zero Emission Vehicles to drive on city streets posted up to 50 Km/Hr. Oak Bay has, and neighbouring cities, Esquimalt and Victoria are considering the same by-law changes.

Similar challenges were faced by Louis Palmer's Solar Taxi back in July when it arrived in Vancouver on a round the world trip. After traversing 26 countries and 33,000km Louis Palmer required the special graces of safety conscious ICBC to get insurance to travel on our highways. BC in particular and Canada boast some of the safest roads in the world. This is due to the stringent safety requirements set out by Transport Canada. "You are many times more likely to die from what comes out the exhaust pipe than from a vehicle crash. Although crash statistics show that speed and alcohol are the biggest factors in vehicular deaths" says Don Chandler, President of the Vancouver Electric Vehicle Association. He points out that the higher risk is the environmental devastation and air pollution caused by the internal combustion automobiles. More government regulation is placed on high speed crash testing and the dramatic safety concerns resulting from high impact collisions than the much broader health impacts and costs to lung damage and deaths caused by noxious tailpipe emissions.

The Xof1 is demonstrating the viability of energy friendly technology. It's hard to compare energy consumption with gas guzzling SUVs that still rate performance in litres per hundred Km. NZEVs use *zero* litres of fuel and are *zero* emission. The Xof1 drives on solar power that shines on its' roof. Electricity is measured in Watt Hrs. A vehicle that gets about 10 litres per 100 Km burning gas, would consume about 250 watt hours per km were it converted to electric. The Xof1 Solar Car consumes less than 20 Watt Hrs per km.

Recently approved in Vancouver Neighborhood Zero Emission Vehicles are smaller and lighter than conventional cars and consume about 100 Watt Hrs per km. Even the emerging heavy weight from GM, the high tech Chevy VOLT that tips the scales at over 3500 lbs, is likely to consume about 200 Watt Hrs per Km. The Xof1 is a featherweight in comparison and weighs in at less than 600 lbs. The construction technology used was borrowed from NASA.

When Marcelo is asked when you will be able to buy a solar car, he answers: 1960. That's when the first solar car was produced for sale. But the electric vehicle resurgence of the 1960s and 1970s died out only to be revived and killed again in the 1990s. A recent resurgence in electric cars is all the rage in Vancouver and the local Vancouver Electric Vehicle Association is experiencing a surge in membership.



While Canada is stuck with the internal combustion engine, other countries are moving ahead with electric cars as new companies sprout up building full speed electric vehicles meeting the crash testing requirements that the large auto companies comply with. London England has created a revival in electric cars through exemptions to the inner city congestion tax, and setting up charging stations in parking meters to charge electric cars built in India. Berlin has just announced a 500 point charging system for electric cars of which Daimler Is building all-electric versions of its Smart Car to sell into that market. Europe has had electric vehicles for many years and they are gaining popularity. California has a handful of electric car companies making vehicles that residents there can purchase, but they are not available here in Canada. Canada has fallen embarrassingly behind the rest of the world in electric car adoption.

Consumers are demanding performance, environmental sustainability and energy efficiency. The Xof1 demonstrates the viability of electric and solar technology.

About the Vancouver Electric Vehicle Association

VEVA is a non-profit society formed by a number of British Columbia electric vehicle enthusiasts in 1988. VEVA advocates the use of electric motors as the primary motive power source for all forms of human transportation from trains, trucks, buses, cars to bicycles and skateboards for a clean, green and sustainable future. Membership is open to the public. For more information go to www.veva.ca or www.Xof1.com

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**VEVA is a chapter of
Electric Auto Association**