

Don't really want to own? Join club with exotic tastes

Toronto picks up on American-style clubs that provide chances for auto sharing with luxury and dream cars

Time sharing of cars has arrived. For really expensive cars anyway.

A major club has been operating in the United States and the idea is spreading to Toronto, with two local businesses that give members access to high-end sports cars. This is a new wrinkle on a program in California, home to a car collection worth \$8 million (U.S.). It's like visiting a museum, but the cars are driven by members of the car-sharing group called Club Sportiva.

Founded by Torbin Fuller in San Francisco in 2002, this club is housed in an indoor garage in that city. But along with access to the fleet, club members are also encouraged to come out to social events, art exhibits and wine and cheese get-togethers in the "paddock," a fancy word for the garage. The yearly membership ranges from \$3,195 to upwards of \$25,000 depending on the type of cars you want to drive and for how long. While the idea of a Toronto location for Club Sportiva is still only on paper, two local clubs are offering their own take on high-end car-sharing.

The first to open its doors, just last year, was DreamFleet Automobile Club. President Edmond Helstab describes his club as a place where like-minded people can lease vehicles (typically high-end) that they can swap with other members on an annual basis. The sharing concept lets members drive several different cars over a typical lease period. Membership costs are under \$1,000 (Canadian). The key benefit to the club seems to be this personalized lease service and help with locating and purchasing the vehicles members are interested in.

The second local club, due to open next month, is The Private Collection. Eric Siebert, president of this fractional ownership club, says it will offer car lovers the opportunity to drive some of the most exciting vehicles in the world without the hassles associated with ownership. Much like Club Sportiva, it will use a point system for booking the cars. With 1,000 points, members can expect 40 to 60 driving days per year, says Siebert. The Private Collection is accepting membership applications now. These are to be accompanied with an initiation fee of \$4,995. If you're accepted, yearly fee is \$30,995.