

## VP Performance Report for 2022

Looking back at the 2022 Ontario performance rally schedule it couldn't have been accomplished without the tremendous support from the clubs organizing the events, the volunteers working the events, competitors entering the events, and numerous event sponsors.

The Ontario Performance Rally Championship had the support of three title sponsors: Clarington Hyundai, Enercare and Ontario Motor Sales Chevrolet Cadillac. Their contributions allowed us to award \$15,000 in prizes and perhaps helped to fuel the 95 entries across the 6 rallies that made up the championship. Thank you Matthew Ballinger and Martin Donnelly for your support.

The championship started with a double header at Rallye Perce Neige de Maniwaki which was moved to the beginning of April. The winter weather didn't hold up that late in the year and the stages were a bit muddy. The roads had deteriorated by the second half of the day forcing the latter half of the double header to be cut short. This resulted in the shortest OPRC event in recent memory, but that's rally.

Black Bear Rally was the one stand-alone regional event on the calendar and the entries seemed to reflect that with 10 teams entering. The roads were definitely not the issue in 2022 as the fire access was great and Loom Lake Rd. was in the best condition I have ever seen.

Rallye Defi Petite Nation's there were 19 RSO entries; one of the largest entry lists of the year. As the name suggests, it was also a challenge this year with 5 DNFs, the most of any event this year. It was really great to see two novice drivers, Mark Toufanov and Roderik Jones, compete in their first rally a month earlier and then come back to take on a very challenging rally.

The championship ended with a successful day in Bancroft Ontario where The Rally of the Tall Pines was separated into 2 regional events for our second double header of the season. The planned route for the rally was well received by the competitors for both recce and race day. The Small Pines rally had 17 entries vs the Pine Cone rally with 15, the main difference being 2 novice teams deciding not to enter the second event.

Congratulations to our championship winners. Olivier Martel & Vincent Hubert are the 2022 Overall Champions, Kurtis Duddy & Matthieu Toupin claimed the 2WD title, and Gabriel Monette the Novice Crown.

After having a championship featuring 2 double headers, I recommend double headers to only be used in a "state of emergency" as they are not in the spirit of regional rally competition. The aim is to provide an entry level to performance rally where the demands both financially and physically are visibly less than that required in a National performance event.

The 2023 Championship started with Rally Perce Neige de Maniwaki in February, which saw a healthy entry of 22 teams. There are four more championship events on the calendar with Shannonville Stages & Sprint, Black Bear Rally, Rally Defi Petite Nation and Rally of the Tall Pines. Unlike 2022, there is no planned double headed rally on the 2023 calendar.

Many thanks to our clubs, organizers, marshals, competitors and sponsors. See you in 2023.

Brandon Pace