

2023 RallySport Ontario President's Report

For rallysport in general, 2023 was a pretty good year. For the first time in three years none of our events were delayed or canceled by Covid and all our scheduled events ran except for some rallycrosses that were canceled by wet weather.

The inaugural year of the ORCX RallyCross series started to gain some traction and is poised to be bigger in 2024. Unfortunately, MCO couldn't put on its popular winter series in 2024 but hopes to have it back in 2025. KWRC and PMSC plan a full schedule over the summer and MLRC should have two events as well. There is no cost to have your event scores counted in the ORXC, you just need to fill out the simple entry form at <https://forms.gle/PdFhMUHLjwoLy4ac9>. You only get to count events after you fill out the form so do that early. 2024 rules and standings will be posted at <https://rallysport.on.ca/rally-cross/>. RallyCross has turned out to be the most popular form of rally; low cost and fun.

Unfortunately we didn't run any Rally Sprints in 2023 and there are none scheduled for 2024. That's partly due to a lack of organizers and the complexities of organizing the events. There is a small hope that one or two will happen in 2024 but I'm not that optimistic.

As you will read in other reports, there is still a dedicated core group organizing and competing in navigational rallies. TAC and KWRC have cooperated in sharing the Saturday Night at the Rallies series with Discover Ontario and that will continue for 2024 with January Jaunt and Discover Ontario. Navigational rally is a great way to tune your communication skills in-car and brush up on timing; plus it's fun.

The Ontario Performance Rally Championship (OPRC) did quite well in 2023, in no small part due to the significant \$15,000 prize fund sponsored by Clarington Hyundai, Clarington Kia, Marigold Ford, Ontario Motor Sales and Durham Harley-Davidson. That fund will continue in 2024 and the combined dealers have increased the sponsorship to an amazing \$25k. You can see the prize fund distribution and eligibility requirements at <https://www.oprc.online/>. The prize fund did help boost entry levels for the OPRC significantly and should do even more for 2024.

From an RSO perspective our job is to administer our championships and help clubs mount and promote events. Sanctioning, licensing and insurance is provided by the Canadian Association of RallySport (CARS). Personally, I helped in some measure with all the 2023 Ontario-based performance rallies, all the ORRC navigational rallies, and many of the rallycrosses. It's been a pleasure to work with so many dedicated organizers and competitors.

I'd like to thank the RSO executive for all their hard work in 2023 and for their continuing commitment in 2024.

Martin Loveridge
President, RallySport Ontario