

In 2023, the RallySport Ontario performance schedule was packed with events at both the entry and advanced levels. With continuous support from rally club members across the region, there were 15 rallycross events held as part of the new Ontario Rallycross Championship.

Additionally, five rallies were included in the Ontario Performance Rally Championship, with three held in Ontario and two just over the border in Quebec.

In the OPRC, competitors had more at stake than just the honour of being champion. Thanks to the continued sponsorship from Clarington Hyundai, Ontario Motor Sales Chevrolet and Cadillac, along with new sponsorship from Marigold Ford Lincoln, Clarington Kia, and Durham Harley-Davidson, eligible drivers were able to compete for a prize fund of \$16,500.

Year End Prize Fund Winners:

- Emmanuel Cecchet - \$2000 (Overall)
- Sebastien Clark - \$1500 (Overall)
- Jeremy Drake - \$750 (Overall)
- Mark Toufanov - \$2000 (2wd)
- Grant Rawcliffe - \$1500 (2wd)
- Jim Morton - \$750 (2wd)
- Michel Drapeau - \$2000 (Novice)

Following tradition, the OPRC kicked off with a winter event, Rallye Perce Neige, returning to its usual slot on the calendar in early February. With the event back in winter conditions, the roads in and around Maniwaki, QC attracted 22 starters, with 20 of them completing the rally.

The second event of the OPRC marked the return of the Shannonville Stages rally, primarily a tarmac event. Held at the Shannonville Motorsports Park facility in Shannonville, ON, the rally highlighted both advantages and disadvantages for drivers and organizers. Despite attracting only 7 starters, with the majority classified as 2WD, the overall benefits outweighed the drawbacks, securing Shannonville Stages' place on the OPRC schedule for 2024.

Event 3 on the calendar, Black Bear Rally, saw double the participation of the second event, with 14 starters. The stage roads were in exceptional condition, accommodating a diverse range of teams and cars with various goals, from testing new builds and attempting performance rallies for the first time to preparing for national events.

Rallye Defi Petite Nation, the fourth OPRC event, drew a strong number of entries from both Quebec and Ontario, totaling 16 starters.

The fifth and final event in the OPRC was the challenging Rally of the Tall Pines in Bancroft, ON, paired with a national event. Like its predecessors, Tall Pines attracted a significant number of entries from both Quebec and Ontario, with a total of 19 starters.

Despite strong competition, the 2023 OPRC Overall Champion was not from Quebec or even Canada. American Emmanuel Cecchet claimed the title after completing all five rallies on the

calendar, demonstrating his support for rally events north of the border. I'm delighted to announce that the OPRC will continue to receive support from our five title sponsors in 2024 and beyond: Clarington Hyundai, Ontario Motor Sales Chevrolet and Cadillac, Marigold Ford Lincoln, Clarington Kia, and Durham Harley-Davidson. Furthermore, the prize fund has been increased to a total of \$25,000 to be awarded to drivers throughout 2024.

At the entry level of performance rally, four clubs—MCO, MLRC, PMSC, and KWRC—hosted a combined total of 15 club championship events. These events were utilized for the first time to establish an overlay championship, the Ontario Rallycross Champion (ORXC). Congratulations to the class winners: Dan Demers (4wdF), Billy Last (4wdN), and Tyler Thompson (2wd). While 2023 experienced some initial challenges as the first year, minor rule changes and additions have been implemented for the 2024 championship.

I extend my gratitude to the volunteers, entrants, organizers, and sponsors. 2023 witnessed the emergence of many new competitors at entry level events and the transition of several once-entry level competitors to OPRC rallies, underscoring the importance of all levels of rallying and the supportive community behind it. See you in 2024!

VP Performance
Brandon Pace