

2024 RSO President's Report

2024 was a pretty good year for rally in Ontario with the Novus Auto Group \$25k prize fund for the OPRC leading the way. To the best of my knowledge that is the largest single year prize fund ever in the country. A huge thank you to Matt Ballinger and Novus for their support.

Brandon will elaborate but the OPRC consisted of five events, three of which were in Ontario. Entry numbers have bounced back in the last couple of years, due in part to the sponsorship. One of the priorities going forward is easier registration and licencing for performance rally cars. Alberta and BC have accomplished this but it's hard to get attention from government for something as relatively small as rally, then get regulations exempted from what is viewed as road safety items. RSO Treasurer David Maynard was making some progress getting to people who can make the changes, but the provincial election has put that on hold. Hopefully we can resume the process once we have the election over.

We were all unhappy with the sudden rollout of the new production / prepared class rules and the short timeline for implementation. In Ontario we can still run a production class under the old rules if competitors want.

The Ontario Road Rally Championship suffered from low entries and a lack of organizers. For 2025 we have fewer events so there is less organizer burnout. As Louis can tell you, there is a huge amount of work even putting on a "simple" rally like Snowy Safari. Louis had weeks of time scouting, measuring and timing that rally. Beginner series, like KWRC's SNATR, have a pretty good turnout of beginners. As a sport we just have to turn them into ORRC regulars.

The Ontario RallyCross Championship suffered a bit by bad weather hitting the FreeFlow track near Belleville. We still managed to have enough events to have championship winners. For 2025 we hope to have three clubs participating – PMSC, MCO and KWRC. PMSC and MCO will run at FreeFlow, KWRC in Brantford.

MLRC is planning on reviving the sprint series and has two dates scheduled.

RSO doesn't organize events directly but most of the extended board are deeply involved in the events that do happen. Really, RSO's job is administering the various provincial championships and aiding events that need help.

The job of RSO president is easy and the board and the extended board members do much of the heavy lifting. Kelly, as secretary, is the glue that holds the board together. Brandon as VP performance keeps the series scores updated and makes sure things keep on track. Louis not only administers the ORRC but also organizes events like Spring Runoff and President's Prize, and in 2025 has already organized a successful Snowy Safari. It's great to have a treasurer like Dave. He is good at keeping track of the invoicing and keeping up on budget, plus he does a great job managing the investments. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.

In 2024 Warren Haywood stepped back as the Ontario representative on the CARS board and the technical director job for Ontario. He has served in both roles for many years and we all thank him for his efforts. In the interim, Dave Cote took on the CARS board role and was subsequently elected

to a two-year term at the CARS AGM in January 2025. We look forward to working with Dave through the next two years.

Thank you to the extended board members and the club representatives who attend our meetings and give valuable input on the events and club happenings.

Respectfully submitted:

Martin Loveridge, President