

## 2025 RSO President's Report

2025 was a reasonably good year for rally in Ontario with a lot of good people stepping up to improve events and make rally more visible to the public. We had three performance rallies, a rallysprint, about a dozen rallycross events and ten navigational rallies if you include KWRC's SNATR series.

It was a year where we had several good promotional videos most of which made it to RevTV. That includes the series produced by Murat featuring Voyageurs, Black Bear and Tall Pines plus the three episode "Stage Life" series produced by Bowes Media and sponsored by the Novus Auto Group.

We had a rally car display in September at Toronto Motorsport Park – part of CSCS's Drivefest and it was Can-Jam who invited us. A few weeks later we had another at Grand Bend which included a bit of track time. Thank you to Ian Wright who headed up the organizing of the events and all the people who brought rally cars and took the time to chat to interested people.

Eric Vanderwal headed up an initiative to make some progress on easing the burden of licencing a rally car in Ontario. With a lot of work, he persuaded Mr. Ric Bresee, the local MPP for Bancroft and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation, to attend Tall Pines. Mr. Bresee was impressed by the excellent organization and the number of spectators. He suggested several ways we could tap into tourism promotion and how to talk to the government about special exemptions for rally cars. Eric has followed up with the MOT and hopefully we hear back soon. It's the most progress we've had in several years of trying and big thanks to Eric & Ian Wright for all their efforts so far.

Andrew Miller did some paid promotion via Meta and got a great response collecting emails from people who were interested in rally at rallyontario.ca. The OPRC.online site has closed but we really need to collect all the efforts under one site and banner. While the rallysport.on.ca site has rules and standings we need to see if we can step up the content and then keep the content fresh. That is a lot of work, but it will be worth it.

There have been lots of events already this year, but March is a bit of a breather as we wait for the roads and tracks to dry up. There is a good schedule of events over the rest of the year including Rallycrosses from KWRC, PMSC and possibly one from MLRC. We'll get the championship page updated soon. You can read more details in Brandon's performance rally report and Louis's navigational report.

Part of our role at RSO is to support clubs and events as best we can, and we did forgo some levies to help events that had losses. These were one-time adjustments so the events can remain viable; to grow the sport we need to have enough events and keep them as affordable as possible. We have so many talented people within the rally community. They give countless hours to organizing, working, promoting, and competing in the various events. It is really a privilege to be working with everyone.

Respectfully submitted

Martin Loveridge - President, RallySport Ontario.