

2016

The year seems to have gone by pretty quickly – we must be having fun.

The past year saw some changes and some continued challenges in rallysport in Ontario. Some of the issues are expanded upon in the reports from the other RallySport Ontario Directors.



In no particular order:

The RallySport Ontario website was updated, many thanks to Darin Mayes.

Participation in performance rally events continues to be lower than it should be, though the addition of the Eastern Canadian Rally Championship has brought in more entries (mainly from Quebec).

Another rallysprint event was run, this time by MLRC with modest success.

The Growth Committee had some growing pains (sorry), but is plugging away at promotion of the sport, including sharing a booth with Rally of the Tall Pines at the Motorama Show.

Navigational rally seems to be seeing modest growth in numbers. Darin is implementing some different initiatives to make sure that continues.

A continuing challenge is writing this report.

The RSO Board of Directors continues to function well. With the addition of Darin Mayes as VP Nav and Kelly Mathew's re-election to the position of Secretary at last year's AGM, and the election in December of Darryl Malone as Region Rally Director (and CARS Regional Director), along with Warren Haywood as VP Performance and Pete Gulliver as Treasurer, we have a strong, competent and dedicated Board. Following in the footsteps of Peter Watt, Darryl has taken on the biggest role, juggling both the RSO and CARS directorships. Peter served three years as Region Rally Director, giving input and acting as a liaison between the two boards. We thank him for his time and effort well spent in the position.

At the national level, there is still much discussion over the two vehicle tracking systems, RallySafe and EZTrak. Eastern Canadian events have had good results with EZTrak, while western events have opted for RallySafe. Each system has its pros and cons, and it may be that no agreement is reached. Discussions need to continue with nothing being forced onto organizers.

An item of concern for all the rallysport disciplines is the increasing difficulty that clubs have finding suitable venues for our sport. Private facilities (e.g. for rallycross) can be expensive; municipalities are becoming more restrictive in allowing use of their roads; and populated areas are expanding and speed limits are being dumbed-down. We did have an inquiry from New Liskeard (or someplace up north) about bringing a rally up there; maybe that's where we'll have to go soon.

Somehow, the Car Zero Report newsletter continues, with 14 issues sent to over 600 subscribers in 2016, with an average Open rate of over 40%.

I thank the RSO Board and the club presidents for their hard work, and their support and input over the past year

Bruce Leonard

President, RallySport Ontario