



The 2017 overall Targa Newfoundland event winner will earn a free spot in a ChumpCar event in either 2017 or 2018. PHOTO BY MEGAN BEST

## CHUMPCAR, TARGA RENEW PARTNERSHIP OVERALL CHUMPCAR WINNER TO EARN ENTRY IN 2018 TARGA NEWFOUNDLAND

Stories by J. Wally Nesbitt

Renewing a cross-marketing partnership that proved mutually beneficial last year, ChumpCar Canada and Targa Newfoundland will again provide marketing exposure for each other's respective entities.

Promoting on their partner's websites and at public functions, both Targa and ChumpCar logos will appear on banners at promotional events and in their racing paddocks, and logos will be placed on all competitor's vehicles.

Rewards for the intertwined arrangement will also be extended to the participants.

The overall ChumpCar Canada winner will receive an entry to the 2018 Targa Newfoundland, while the overall victor in this year's Targa Newfoundland who accrues the least penalty time will be invited to race in a ChumpCar Canada event late this year or in 2018.

"The agreement last year worked out well, seeing our decals on the ChumpCar Canada vehicles and at the tracks, gave Targa promotion that we never had before," said Robert Giannou, Targa Newfoundland president.

"Racing is alive and well in Canada and we hope that promoting each other's events and series will enlighten and educate even more Canadians about Targa Newfoundland and ChumpCar Canada," added Wendy Edwards, executive director of ChumpCar Canada.

**LUCAS OIL RETURNS TO SUPPORT TARGA NEWFOUNDLAND:** Lucas Oil Products will continue an eight year tradition as it has renewed its Gold Level sponsorship support for the 2017 Targa Newfoundland.

The Official Motor Oil and Lubricant Provider of the Targa event, Lucas Oil not only provides financial and product support for the Rally 'Round the Rock, but also uses the contest as a testing platform to continue its innovative product research. The various demands of the multi-day rally, the extremes of weather, the strain placed on the powerplants of the vehicles, the differing types and sizes of the motors, all combine to provide the company a unique opportunity to observe their products under varying conditions.

"The fact that Lucas Oil continues to support our exciting and unique motorsports event speaks volumes to the commitment and hard work [that] both Lucas and Targa put into continuing this partnership on a yearly basis," said Giannou.

**TARGA TEAMS WITH ACS FOR THREE YEARS:** One of the most strictly enforced regulations in the Targa Newfoundland rulebook is the zero tolerance for alcohol use amongst its competitors. Each Targa participant must pass a daily breathalyzer test, this task made

easier for the next three seasons due to a sponsorship agreement signed with Alcohol Countermeasure Systems.

ACS is an international group of companies with over 40 years of experience in developing technologies to prevent impaired driving.

The new sponsorship arrangement will see ACS provide both alcohol and drug testing equipment to Targa organizers while simultaneously working to conduct research and expand education both to the competitors and the public on responsible driving habits.

"Safety is everything with Targa Newfoundland and ACS has always been focused on developing life-saving innovations that keep our roads and communities safe," stated Felix JE Comeau, ACS Chairman and CEO. "We look forward to working with the Targa Newfoundland team to ensure a safe event."

Targa Newfoundland will utilize the ACS Alert J5 Portable Breath Alcohol Tester to detect alcohol usage, while the DrugWipe® Oral Screening Tester will be used for both random and specific drug tests.

"Having a three-year agreement with Alcohol Countermeasure Systems is going to open so many doors for them and for us, to co-promote and get the word out about keeping our roads safe and having a safe motorsports event," concluded Giannou. •

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Ian Pearce piloted his Subaru to a runner-up finish in the 2017 standings in the Bluenose Autosport RallyCross Prepared class.

### BUSY RALLYCROSS SEASON WRAPS UP IN ATLANTIC CANADA:

The dust has settled on the winter Bluenose Autosport RallyCross season, which saw some new winners, favourite venues and consistently high numbers of competitors. The round originally scheduled for February 26 was cancelled due to poor surface conditions at Scotia Speedworld near the Halifax Airport. However, competitors were raring to go on March 5 for the last event of the season at that venue.

Veteran competitor Brian Partridge took the Overall victory in a 2004 Subaru WRX. He also grabbed top spot in the highly competitive Prepared Class.

The 'little yellow Sentra that could' was once again the winner in Front-Wheel-Drive, piloted by Ryan Zinck, the top Novice competitor of the event. In All-Wheel-Drive, Michael Guy took top spot in a 1995 Subaru STi. In Rear-Wheel-

Drive, Dustin Chute grabbed another class win in the 2000 Ford Mustang, adding to his class points for the year. This year's hottest class, Spec Yaris, saw Greg Sweet earn top marks.

The grand finale was held in the Conrad Brothers' Quarry, capping off a great season with the most anticipated event of the year. A long one-and-a-half-minute course with challenging water and gravel conditions challenged the field of 58 competitors.

Wayne Pitts was the ultimate winner – taking the Overall and Prepared class wins in the 2004 Subaru WRX, hitting only one cone in his four runs.

The yellow Sentra took second overall and first place in Front-Wheel-Drive, with Zinck once again behind the wheel. He was less than two seconds off the top spot once final times were tabulated. Brian Partridge was behind the wheel of the 1991 Eagle Talon this time,

rounding out the podium in third place.

In All-Wheel-Drive, Sasha Brideau was back in the "Saabaru" Saab 9-2X, taking a class win. Chute was back in the Ford Mustang in Rear-Wheel-Drive, claiming another class win too. •

STORY AND PHOTO BY JENN EARLE

### FINAL STANDINGS

**OVERALL:** 1. Ben Easson (2003 Nissan Sentra Spec V); 2. Wayne Pitts (2004 Subaru WRX); 3. Brian Partridge (various vehicles, mainly Subaru)

**PREPARED:** 1. Wayne Pitts (2004 Subaru WRX); 2. Ian Pearce (2003 Subaru Impreza TS); 3. Brian Partridge (various Vehicles, mainly Subaru)

**ALL-WHEEL-DRIVE:** 1. Michael Guy (1995 Subaru Impreza STi); 2. Chris Martin (2006 Saab 9-2X); 3. Sasha Brideau (2006 Saab 9-2X)

**FRONT-WHEEL-DRIVE:** 1. Ben Easson (2003 Nissan Sentra Spec V); 2. Ryan Zinck (2003 Nissan Sentra Spec V); 3. Nick Roussakov (2003 Nissan Sentra Spec V)

**REAR-WHEEL-DRIVE:** 1. Dustin Chute (2000 Ford Mustang); 2. Brian Jeffcock (1998 BMW 540); 3. Jeremy Simmons (Nissan Xterra)

**SPEC YARIS:** 1. Greg Sweet; 2. Vince Wilson; 3. Bob Wilson

**NOVICE:** 1. Ryan Zinck (2003 Nissan Sentra Spec V); 2. Jamie Cote (2008 Honda Civic); 3. Nigel Mathew (2001 VW Jetta)

### DE ANGELIS TO RACE IN CANADIAN PORSCHE GT3 CUP:

Coming off of a runner-up points finish in the Toyo Tires F1600 Championship that garnered him the 2016 Rookie of the Year title, 16-year-old Roman De Angelis will expand his racing involvement this season and has signed to compete in the Ultra 94 Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge Canada by Yokohama series in a car prepared by Ottawa's Mark Motors.

"We've been watching Roman's progress over the past few years and have been impressed with his commitment and success," said Mark Motors' Liza Mrak. "We are excited to have him as part of our Mark Motors family, joining Marco Cirone and Zach Robi-

chon, who have been a part of Roman's progression over the past few years."

Mark Motors is a three-time Platinum Masters champion in the Canadian GT3 Cup Challenge series and plans to campaign the full six-weekend Canadian schedule this year while competing in selected dates in the US GT3 Cup series. De Angelis will be doing double duty in 2017, as he will also return to the seat of the BGR Piper-Honda in the Ontario-based Formula 1600 series.

**CTCC SCHEDULE FINALIZED:** The Canadian Touring Car Championship presented by Pirelli Tires recently finalized their 2017 schedule to an interprovincial tour that will

feature 14 races over a six-event calendar staged at four different venues.

The season for the GT Sport, Super Touring and Touring class competitors will begin with doubleheader dates at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, Calabogie Motorsports Park and on the ICAR Mirabel airport circuit.

The following two dates – at the Grand Prix Trois-Rivières and Canadian Tire Motorsport Park's Grand Prix facility – will each showcase the touring cars in a trio of races before the season-ending doubleheader at ICAR. The contests will be 40 minutes in duration for the events with two races, while race lengths will vary between 30 and 40 minutes at the tripleheader dates. • STORIES BY J. WALLY NESBITT