

Rally Sport Racing – the Quebec Edition

A pit crew view – story and pictures from **Doug Field** at the Baie-Des-Chaleurs International Auto Rally.

I have once again been on the road to work as one of the service crew for a trio of Rally Cars from Alberta. This time we have a contender for the Open Four Wheel Drive Class and two for the Open Two Wheel Drive Class in the Canadian Rally Championship Series. This is my second trip to the Baie for this purpose, (I missed last year unfortunately), but I am still amazed with the beauty of the setting, and the scenic trip around the Gaspé Peninsula to get to the eastern shore on the Gulf of St Lawrence. (This is the long way around, but well worth the trip). New Richmond PQ is our headquarters for the two day rally, and just like Maniwaki, PQ they bring out a good portion of the population for the festivities leading up to the start, the spectator opportunities, and the finish of the rally. One of the things which make's New Richmond different is that there is a **red carpet** running down the main street, not for the drivers, but for the CARS, which are what the crowd are there to see. I like it!

The vehicles we are servicing this time around are **Wim Van Der Poel's** 2003 Mitsubishi Evo, **Graham Bruce's** 1968 Porsche 911, and **John Munroe's** 1973 Toyota Corolla. All three are competitive and fast as blazes when it counts. The line-up for the vehicles entered is different this year as there are two very competitive entries from Mexico running in the FIA NACAM Rally Championship series.

Below: Head-on photo of John's car jumping .. which can lead to a broken tie rod. Photo by Danny Bujold.





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Pre-Race Preparations

Like the other times I have done this, the prep work is important, and also so is making myself familiar with the location of the other service crews in the pit area with whom we have developed a good working relationship over the years. This year I was glad we took the time to re-establish those ties, because as things turned out, we needed to call on them for a couple of reasons. While the drivers and co-drivers are out scrutinizing the special stages for the purpose of making their all-important route notes, (driving rental cars by the way), those of us working in the pits are going over the rally cars. We are gathering the foodstuffs to keep the drivers fed and hydrated, setting up the shelter under which we will working for the next few days, and sorting out the tools and spare parts so that they are readily available when they are needed as some no doubt will be.