

Spectator Guide



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SERIES PRESENTER



Rally of the Tall Pines
Bancroft, Ontario

2025

Come for the Rally - Embrace the experience!

Message from Paul Jenkins, Mayor, Town of Bancroft – 2025

On behalf of the Town of Bancroft, it is my pleasure to once again welcome you to the Novus Rally of the Tall Pines — a rally truly unlike any other in North America. Your continued enthusiasm, dedication, and support as participants, volunteers, and organizers are what make this event such a resounding success year after year. We are proud to host and sponsor this remarkable rally once again in 2025. Please enjoy your time here, stay safe, and take in all that Bancroft has to offer!

Discover Bancroft's Natural and Cultural Riches.

Bancroft is a place that continually inspires. Nestled among breathtaking vistas and rich in geological and mineral history, our town has been home to the Rally of the Tall Pines since 1997. The rally's 200 km of stages wind through terrain shaped by the ancient Grenville mountain range. Beneath our feet lies a treasure trove of fossils, metamorphic specimens, semi-precious gems, and even gold — the same gold that sparked Ontario's historic gold rush in the 1860s.

A Region for Every Explorer.

North Hastings boasts the highest water-to-land ratio in Ontario, offering countless lakes, rivers, and streams for paddling, white-water rafting, and peaceful exploration. The Madawaska and York Rivers provide uninterrupted waterways for adventurers of all skill levels, while our diverse ecosystems support a wide array of waterfowl, fish, and wildlife.

Beyond nature, Bancroft is home to charming restaurants, shops, artist studios, galleries and a brewery. The Bancroft Village Playhouse — once our town hall — remains a cultural gem, and the restored Old Railway Station now houses the internationally known fascinating Gem and Mineral Museum. Beside the station is a historic CN rail caboose that serves as a tourism launchpad to welcome you to the area.

Snowmobile & ATV Adventures.

Bancroft is a premier destination for motorized trail enthusiasts. The region is home to hundreds of miles of groomed snowmobile trails offering some of the most extensive and scenic snowmobiling in Ontario. These trails connect riders to nearby towns, lodges, and natural attractions, with plenty of snowmobile-friendly lodging and dining options available.

For ATV riders, Bancroft is a gateway to the Eastern Ontario Trail Alliance (EOTA) network, which includes over 700 km of multi-use trails. The Hastings Heritage Trail, a 156-km corridor following an old railway line, offers a mix of terrain — from muddy wetlands and forests to lakes and farmland.

A Living Celebration of Nature and Culture.

The Town of Bancroft is situated on the traditional lands of the Kijicho Manito Madaouskarini peoples. It is an Algonquin community rooted in ancestral territory, leading cultural renewal, environmental stewardship, governance, and partnerships to strengthen Indigenous rights and economic self-determination. Eagles Nest Park continues to be one of Bancroft's most beloved destinations. In partnership with Kijicho Manito Madaouskarini we've enhanced the visitor experience with new low-impact solar lighting for improved safety and accessibility — especially for those catching the golden hour sunset views.

Updated wayfinding signage is helping guests navigate the trails with ease. Eagles Nest is more than a scenic lookout — it's a living celebration of Algonquin culture, where language reclamation and cultural stewardship are actively taking place. Celebrate With Us.

Join us next summer for Canada Day festivities in Riverside Park, and don't miss the Bancroft Farmers' Market every Saturday from June to October. Pack a picnic or enjoy a local meal before heading to Eagles Nest Park, or one of our other many parks where accessible trails lead to a stunning lookout over the York River and the town below.

If you're drawn to gems and minerals, the Bancroft Rockhound Gemboree — Canada's largest gem and mineral show — returns over the Civic Holiday weekend every August. With gold panning, workshops, and unique finds, it's a must-see event. For cycling enthusiasts, the Hilly Hundred Bike Races continue to grow as a beloved community tradition.

And don't miss the Annual Bancroft Fly-In Breakfast, hosted by the Bancroft Flying Club at the Bancroft Community Airport. This beloved summer tradition brings together aviation enthusiasts and community members.

Looking ahead, we're excited to support the Indigenous Expo 2026, a celebration of Indigenous culture, craftsmanship, and entrepreneurship. This event features artisans, storytellers, wellness providers, and performers — a vibrant showcase of Indigenous excellence.

Whether you're here for the rally, the scenery, or the spirit of discovery, Bancroft offers unforgettable experiences. We invite you to explore, wander, and make lasting memories in our vibrant town.

Welcome to the 2025 Novus Automotive Rally of the Tall Pines. Bancroft, Ontario

This will be the 54th edition of Tall Pines, and the 28th time that the rally has run based in Bancroft. Maple Leaf Rally Club are very pleased that the Town of Bancroft is our host sponsor once again, and we always enjoy the friendly hospitality and wide range of services that Bancroft has to offer. We encourage all our visitors to enjoy the facilities available in town, not only during the rally, but also during the many other events Bancroft hosts throughout the year. We very much appreciate the support and enthusiasm Bancroft provides to the rally; it is a major part of the success of the Rally of the Tall Pines.

In addition to the Town, we have Novus Automotive as our title sponsor. Novus is not your standard dealership group – With six dealerships and seven brands [Ontario Motor Sales, Clarington Hyundai, Clarington Kia, Durham Harley-Davidson, Ontario Hyundai and Marigold Ford Lincoln], they're a collective of forward-thinking, community-driven people that thrive on innovation and creating amazing experiences, both for customers and employees.

We are truly appreciative of the support we receive from our local sponsors. Vance Motors, Subway, Cottage Rentals and M&M Esso have been with the rally for many years. New to the rally this year is CW Homesales.

The organisers have worked extensively with RallySport Ontario, the Town of Bancroft, the five local municipalities, and the Ministry of Natural Resources, to obtain access to the best roads in Ontario. As always in Ontario, the weather in November can be unpredictable, so tire choice will be a major contributor to success. For many years, "Winter roads, summer ditches" has been the go-to warning about Tall Pines.

THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Rally is a part of four Rally Championships: the Canadian National Rally Championship, the North American Rally Championship, the Ontario Regional Rally Championship and the Eastern Canadian Rally Championship.

With one event to go in the Canadian Rally Championship after Tall Pines, just a few points separate the top three drivers in the Overall Driver championship. Simon Vicent, who won the event in 2015, co-driving for his father; Ricardo Cordero, from Mexico, driving a Citroen and Jean-Sebastien Besner in a Ford Fiesta, looking to repeat last year's victory.

With 22 points awarded for a win, any of these drivers could emerge at the top of the standings after this rally. Anything can happen in a rally and usually does.

We are grateful to: the Town of Bancroft, the Townships of Wollaston, Limerick, Faraday, and Tudor & Cashel; the Municipality of Marmora & Lake; and the Ministry of Natural Resources for granting us permission to use their roads.

Many thanks to the Watters and Tait families for allowing us to use a portion of their properties for viewing; please respect all the areas where you are spectating.

Of course, we couldn't put on this event without our sponsors and the 200+ volunteers who make the Tall Pines the special event that it has become. Thanks to them, and to you, the spectators.

Bruce Leonard, Coordinator.



RALLY SAFETY

Here are some simple rules and suggestions to keep in mind during the event:

NEVER walk in a live stage – Please check with marshals and officials before changing location in a stage. ALWAYS wait for Car « 999 » before moving within a stage, or leaving the stage, or crossing a stage road.

Visualize – Try to foresee how the drivers will arrive at your location and where problems could occur. For example, most accidents happen when a vehicle tries to turn at crossroads. Usually, the car will go off to the outside of the curve. If you choose to spectate in that location, you expose yourself to potentially dangerous situations. Think of the worst and try to visualize a quick escape route should the worst happen. Your own safety should always be your first concern.

Always be ready – Should a vehicle go off near your location, make sure you know what you will do and where you will be safe. Remember where the marshals and the safety officials are. In case of an accident, remember that the stage is still running and that the next competitor should be there within the minute.

Beware of flying objects – Rally cars spray up all sorts of things. Whether it is rocks, branches, sand or dust, competing vehicles will throw things as they go by. Think about it when you choose your location for taking photos or simply watching. Be ready to protect yourself from spewed gravel. If the roads are dry, the air will rapidly fill with dust and you should not only think to protect your equipment, but yourself as well. If it rains, the same rule applies. Safety goggles could prove handy.

Listen to officials – Marshals will be assigned to all the spectator locations. If they deem that you may be in a really dangerous position, they will tell you, so please work with them **FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY**.

Ask questions – Motor Sport is dangerous. If you have doubts about the safety of your location, don't hesitate to consult with the officials on hand. Better to be safe than sorry.

2024 winners
Jean-Sebastien Besner/Yvan Joyal

Photo – Rob Sztuka



2025 NOVUS AUTOMOTIVE RALLY OF THE TALL PINES

SPECTATOR SCHEDULE

WHEN ¹	WHERE ²	WHAT GOES ON
7:45am	Dungannon Rec. Centre / Rally HQ	Parc Exposé Check out the competition vehicles, up close and personal, while they are still shiny and ready for action! Walk among the cars and talk to the crews before they start the rally. A good autograph and photo opportunity!
8:31am	Dungannon Rec. Centre / Rally HQ	Ceremonial Start of the Rally – First Car Away All the competitors are introduced as they depart from the Start Ramp. Another great photo opportunity!
9:06am	Detlor Crossing Spectator Area	Stage A2 / Old Detlor North 1 The Detlor Crossing is a left onto tarmac and through the community and a right back on the forest road.
9.06am	Iron Bridge Spectator Area & Tait Farm Spectator Area	Stage A2 / Old Detlor North 1 Don't miss the first pass of the cars (northbound) at this prominent spectator points
10:21am	Dungannon Rec. Centre / Rally HQ	Service #1 The competitors return to the Rec. Centre for their first Service opportunity. They will have 30 minutes to work on their cars.
11:21am	Detlor Crossing Spectator Area	Stage A4 / Old Detlor North 2 Catch the second pass of the cars at this spot.
11.21am	Iron Bridge Spectator Area & Tait Farm Spectator Area	Stage A4 / Old Detlor North 2 Going northbound again, the teams now have a better idea of the road conditions.
12.56pm	Iron Bridge Spectator Area	Stage A6 Iron Bridge The competitors head southbound past the spectator area.
12.56pm	Tait Farm Spectator Area	Stage A6 Iron Bridge Just a couple of minutes from the start of the stage, the teams make a sharp left turn to head east on to Landon Rd.

1.16pm	Dungannon Rec. Centre / Rally HQ	Service #2 After doing stages to the south of town, the teams return for their second service. What will they have to repair? Can they do it in 30 minutes?
2.21pm	Iron Bridge Spectator Area	Stage B7 Iron Bridge The competitors head southbound past the spectator area.
2.21pm	Tait Farm Spectator Area	Stage B7 Iron Bridge Just a couple of minutes from the start of the stage, the teams make a sharp left turn to head east onto Landon.
4.53pm	Dungannon Rec. Centre / Rally HQ	Regional-only rally finish For those competitors doing just the Regional portion of Tall Pines, this is the end and a chance to finally take a breather. The cars go into Parc Fermé while those teams competing in the National rally continue.
5.15pm & 6.41pm	Lower Turriff Triangle Spectator Area	Stage C11 & C13 Lower Turriff This stage, which is run twice, is short and fast! See who is really pushing for the win! But you will need to get there early , before 4.45 before the road is closed!
8.50pm	Dungannon Rec. Centre / Rally HQ	Finish of the Rally The cars start to roll into the Finish. Check out the amazing machines and crews that made it to the end!
9:30pm	Dungannon Rec. Centre / Rally HQ	Victory Podium About half an hour after the last car reaches the Finish, the scoring team usually has enough information to decide on the top three competitors. Celebrate with the National and Regional winners. Watch out for the champagne spray!

DIRECTIONS TO SPECTATOR AREAS
NOVUS AUTOMOTIVE RALLY OF THE TALL PINES, BANCROFT 2025

Please respect the private property in the area. Do not litter or damage any property, do not set fires and please, always, follow the marshal's instructions.

Do dress for the weather! Do bring your own food and water (there will be a food truck at the main spectator area of Iron Bridge). Do bring your camera and capture the action. Do respect others around you and respect the property that we are privileged to use. Do patronize the businesses in Bancroft; their support is essential to the rally.

HOW TO GET TO THE IRON BRIDGE SPECTATOR AREA FROM RALLY HEADQUARTERS:

- Allow at least 20 minutes to travel to the IRON BRIDGE Spectator Area.
- From Rally HQ (GPS Co-ordinates: N 45 00.877 W 077 47.177), turn right onto Hwy #62 Northbound.
- Travel 7.4 km north until you meet Hwy #28 in Bancroft.
- At this junction of Hwy # 28 and Hwy # 62, tee right to follow Hwy #28 Eastbound.
- Travel straight ahead through the traffic signals and continue east out of town, along Hwy #28 approximately 6.4 km then turn right (south) onto Bronson Road.
- Travel approximately 1.3 km until you come to the junction with Watters Dr.
- Keep right turning onto Watters Dr. and follow the directions of the parking marshals.
- We will be charging \$10.00 per car for parking at the Iron Bridge spectator area. Monies raised will be used to support local causes. We would like to thank the Watters family for allowing us to do this.
- The land owners (The Watters Family) have generously allowed us to use their property for parking, please respect their property
- See the IRON BRIDGE Spectator Area detail map for safe areas to spectate from,

HOW TO GET TO THE DETLOR CROSSING SPECTATOR AREA FROM RALLY

HEADQUARTERS:

- Allow at least 15 minutes to travel to the DETLOR CROSSING Spectator Area.
- turn left onto Hwy #62 Southbound.
- Travel 0.4 km and turn left (east) onto Detlor Rd.
- Travel 4.9 km along Detlor Rd. where the spectator area will be at the junction with Landon Rd. You will need to park along the side of the road before you can get to this intersection and then walk. Follow the directions of the parking marshals.
- See the DETLOR CROSSING Spectator Area detail map for safe areas to spectate.

HOW TO GET TO THE TAIT FARM SPECTATOR AREA FROM RALLY HEADQUARTERS:

- Allow at least 15 minutes to travel to the TAIT FARM Spectator Area.
- From Rally HQ (GPS Co-ordinates: N 45 00.877 W 077 47.177), turn right onto Hwy #62 Northbound, then turn immediately right onto L'Amable Rd.
- Turn right onto Bronson Rd (1.94kms). and continue to the junction with Landon Rd which is the spectator area.
- You will need to park along the side of the road before you can get to this intersection and then walk. Follow the

directions of the parking marshals. • Please note: you will not be able to access this corner from the south. • See the TAIT FARM Spectator Area detail map for safe areas to spectate.

HOW TO GET TO THE LOWER TURRIFF TRIANGLE SPECTATOR AREA FROM RALLY

HEADQUARTERS: • NOTE: This spectating location is in the middle of a stage, with no outside access. If you choose to spectate here, you will need to get to this location before 4.45 p.m before the road is closed. You will not be able to leave until all the competitors, sweep and car 999 have run the stage and the road reopens. Be sure you will be able to stay that long before you enter! • From Rally HQ, turn left onto Hwy #62 Southbound. • Travel 5.0 km and turn left (east) onto Lower Turriff Rd. • Travel 2.1 km where you will encounter marshals controlling the road.

You should advise the marshals that you are just going to the Triangle to spectate and they will let you through, if the road is not yet closed. • Travel 2.3 km to where the spectator area will be, at the junction with Colbourne Rd. on the right. There will be parking along Colbourne Rd. and then you will need to walk back to this intersection. Follow the directions of the parking marshals. • See the LOWER TURRIFF TRIANGLE Spectator Area detail map for safe areas to spectate from and follow all the marshal's instructions.





