

Acton's Andy Browning and company set to meet nation's best

Rally crew looking to Canadians



RALLY TEAM-Andy Browning and crew stand beside the 1986 Toyota Corolla rally car the team hopes will carry the squad to high levels in the national rally circuit. From left are: service crew member Brian Sharp, co-driver Ross Wood, Browning and service crew member Ted Lee.

By DAN RALPH
In less than a month Andy Browning and his team will be out to prove they can compete with the top rally driving squads in Canada.

Browning, co-driver Ross Wood and service crew Ted Lee and Brian Sharp are busy fine-tuning Browning's 1986 Toyota Corolla GTS rally car in preparation for their first race of the year. The national season gets underway with the first rally race of the year the first weekend of February in Quebec, with Browning and crew anxious to get started.

"If everything goes well we should be competitive," Browning said from his Acton residence last week. "I know we're looking forward to it."

The national rally slate consists of eight races held throughout the country. Browning would love nothing better than to compete in all eight, but there isn't enough money available to allow for that. So, the foursome will compete in five races and hope their efforts are enough to compete with teams who will take part in all eight.

Last year Browning and crew capped their season off with an Ontario Production A crown. The team won

three races and clinched the title in November, finishing second in Peterborough. It was the second Ontario championship for driver Browning and co-driver Ross as in 1987 the twosome claimed the Ontario Open class.

A performance or stage rally is a race between competitors to see which twosome can navigate a car through a set course the fastest. The driver (Browning) must drive his machine at speeds as high as 200 KMH to quickly get through an unfamiliar course while still trying to keep the car on bumpy but sometimes barely noticeable roads. The co-driver (Wood) relays detailed information about the course to the driver as well as how far ahead or behind they are to the other competitors so the driver can thus adjust his driving habits. The rally is a two-part affair, with a section (called stage) being run on Ministry of Natural Resources roads which are closed to the public during competitions. However competitors also take to public roads, which link stage events.

Up to last year rally drivers could compete in three classes (open, Production A, Production B). The open class is just that, open to cars with any engine size. Production A is for cars with engines up to 100 cubic inches while the B class is for engines 100 cubic inches and over. But this year the Production class will be for machines with engines up to 2350 cc while the Production GT series is for engines 2350 cc and up. Browning's Corolla will compete in the Production series.

Browning has been involved in rally racing the past six years, shortly after he became an officially licensed driver. He and Ross have been teamed together the past five years with the service crew being part of the team for the last three years. As for Wood, the Bramalea secondary school guidance counsellor had in excess of 20 years rallying experience behind him. It was Wood who first exposed Browning to the sport and the 22-year-old driver remembers the scenario very vividly.

"In high school I was with the Outdoor Education group and we were invited to a rally," Browning said. "I was to take pictures of the rally and so I figured I'd position myself at hill. Well this car came at a high speed, almost hit me but got stuck and the

driver yelled at me to help pull him out, which I did. The guy couldn't get out so we started talking and I must've talked to him for an hour and enjoyed it so much I figured I wanted to try it someday."

The rally car itself is a modified machine. Inside there's a roll cage to protect the occupants in case of a roll-over. The seat belts are much like those in an airplane while the underplating is strengthened to deal with rocks which may bang along the bottom during the course of a race. If the rally is held through the night the lights used are as strong as those used by airplanes.

In a rally event it isn't uncommon for 50 or more cars to take part with keen competition throughout. Both Browning and Wood said having a tight-knit team makes a lot of difference in a close competition.

"The better the driver and co-driver know each other the better the chance for a win," Wood said. "When I say he has to go left he has to trust I know what I'm talking about. On my part I have to trust the driver's ability to drive because it is up to him to get us through as quickly as possible."

"The driver also has to be sensitive to the car and listen for any different sounds," Wood continued. "It's important if he hears something wrong with the car that we radio the service crew so at the next service area they can check the problem out and fix it before it becomes major."

"A lot of times the driver gets the credit but it's a complete team effort," Browning said. "The service crew is a very important element to our team. If anything goes wrong with the car they improvise and do whatever they can to get it back on to the road without the benefit of air-pressure equipment, often just using their bare hands. I don't trust just anyone when it comes to the rally car but the service crew spends a lot of time working on it and they know what has to be done when something isn't working well."

Presently the crew has three sponsors (Thruway Muffler-Milton, Attrell Toyota-Brampton and General Tire Motor Sports), but is on the lookout for any other interested individuals. In fact if anyone is interested in learning more about rally driving Browning would be available for further details. He can be reached at 853-4744.

Major atoms continue winning ways

Recent tri-county hockey action saw the Century 21 Major Atoms continue their winning ways after their successful Newmarket tournament.

On Monday Georgetown defeated Chinguacousy 3-1 in a spirited contest which featured close checking and fine playmaking by the local team. While they controlled the play the Century 21 club was unable to take advantage of the numerous opportunities made available to them. Chinguacousy was also assisted by some outstanding goaltending which closed the door on the Georgetown attackers.

Marc Boucher continued his scoring ways with a goal early in the second period assisted by David Kotsos and Andrew Trant. With the score 1-0, David Kalbarski increased the local team's lead to two goals on a flip shot assisted by Marc Boucher and Paul Sandifer. Chinguacousy battled back in the third period with a goal but Kotsos ended the rally with a goal at the 6:20 mark. He was assisted by Kevin Lamb on this fine effort.

Tuesday night saw Georgetown take on Burlington at the Memorial Arena. To date the Century 21 club had tied and lost to the visiting team. The first period saw both teams battle to a scoreless tie with only six stoppages in play during the 10-minute period. Close checking and end-to-end rushes kept fans on the edge of their seats.

Scott Truman broke the game open early in the second period when he banged in a goal assisted by Brad Spears. Less than a minute later, Kot-

sos shocked the Burlington players with another goal to give the Century 21 club a 2-0 lead. Sandifer assisted on the play.

Burlington battled back in the third period to narrow the Georgetown lead to one. A goal by Sandifer a minute later put a damper on the Burlington rally. Sandifer's goal was set up by Kotsos and Boucher. With less than two minutes remaining, Boucher added a final insurance goal to give Georgetown a 4-1 lead. Spears and Lumb assisted on Boucher's goal.

Novice, Atom House League Results

A&S ENGRAVING: Goals: Jonathan Howell (2), Dirk McKee, Chad Gemmill, Adam McDonald; Assists: Adam McDonald, Jason Waterworth, Shane Copland, Jonathan Howell.
KINSMEN: Goals: Matthew Alexa (5); Assists: Shirley Grant.
LIONS CLUB: Goals: David Dapadopoulos, Bryan Foster, Calvin Simmie; Assists: David Dapadopoulos.
HOCKEY MOMS: Goals: Daniel Smith (2); Assists: Brendan Alexa (2).
MOM SPORTS: Goals: Steve Koloff (4), Sam Southworth (4), Shamus McGuire; Assists: Steve Koloff.
YOUNGS PHARMACY: Goals: Jason Thompson.

HALTON HILLS TIRE: Goals: Derek Legere (4), Greg Homer (2), Andy Jackman, Donny MacLeod, Corey Young (1 each); Assists: Greg Horner (2), John T. Beckon (2), Derek Legere (2), Corey Young, Donny MacLeod, Steven Sheppard (1 each).
VARIAN: Goals: Mike Olson (2), Andrew Elinesty (2), Gary McNeilly (1); Assists: Mike Walanga (2), Wes Burke (2).
ROCKWELL: Goals: Dave Doole (3), Sean Peasgood (3), Gary MacLean (1); Assists: Dave Doole (2), Sean Peasgood (2), Jamie Bottomley, Jeff McKee, Tara Toyne, Sean Snow (1 each).
DAVIE'S SERVICE CENTRE: Goals: Chris Howell; Assists: Rob Topping.

Halton Hills Blue Fins busy with swim events

The Halton Hills Blue Fins hosted Orangeville, Ancaster and Oakville this Sunday at the club's annual Novice Swim Meet. Organizers would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make this meet a success. Following are the final results.

FIRST PLACE		
Name	Age	Event
Alison Duby	8	25 Free
		25 Back
		25 Fly
		25 Breast
Andrew Terrell	9	50 Free
		50 Breast
		50 Fly
Leigh Shillington	10	50 Free
		50 Breast
Melissa Watts	11	50 Fly
Michelle Mason	11	50 Back
Cameron Charles	11	50 Free
Mandy Bull	12	50 Free
SECOND PLACE		
Name	Age	Event
Branwen Williams	8	25 Back
		25 Fly
		25 Free
Andrew Terrell	9	50 Back
Ben Swanson	9	50 Breast

Leigh Shillington	10	50 Back
Melissa Watts	11	50 Breast
		50 Free
Aaron Williams	11	50 Free
		50 Back
Mandy Bull	12	50 Back
THIRD PLACE		
Name	Age	Event
Branwen Williams	8	25 Breast
Michael Carter	9	50 Breast
Jennifer Atkinson	9	50 Breast
Ben Swanson	9	50 Free
Faydra Goodlet	10	50 Back
		50 Fly
Michelle Mason	11	50 Free
		50 Fly
Melissa Watts	11	50 Back
Cameron Charles	11	50 Back
Letisha Lowther	12	50 Breast
James Carter	13	100 Free
		100 Breast
FOURTH PLACE		
Name	Age	Event
Brad Gastle	9	50 Breast
Faydra Goodlet	10	50 Free
Tracie Henning	11	50 Breast
Marcia Roy	11	50 Free
Aaron Williams	11	50 Breast
		50 Fly

Mandy Bull	12	50 Fly
Trevor Charles	13	50 Fly
FIFTH PLACE		
Name	Age	Event
Ben Swanson	9	50 Back
Brad Gastle	9	50 Free
Laurie Ann Crocker	9	50 Breast
		50 Fly
Sara Walker	10	50 Free
Letisha Lowther	12	50 Fly
		50 Back
James Carter	13	100 Back
		50 Fly
SIXTH PLACE		
Name	Age	Event
Heather Lee	7	25 Breast
Laurie Ann Crocker	9	50 Back
Sara Walker	9	50 Fly
Michael Carter	9	50 Free
Brad Gastle	9	50 Back
Marcia Roy	11	50 Back
Michelle Mason	11	50 Breast
Letisha Lowther	12	50 Free

Trevor Charles 13, who all worked very hard.
The Blue Fins level one team also competed in a meet recently in Oakville. The competition at this meet was very intense as the Blue Fins competed against national level swimmers. Nine swimmers attended this meet with six placing in the top 15 in one or more of their events. (There were over 300 swimmers.)

Name	Age	Placing	Event
Tracey Tabuchi	10	8th	50 Back
		9th	100 Breast

* 28.10 New Club Record

Waterloo Midgets netted a goal with 2:57 remaining in the third period to claim a 3-3 tie with Acton Ed's In & Out Midgets in Hub League Action Wednesday night in Waterloo.

The tie lifted the Acton squad to a 12-7-4 record on the year. Acton has two games remaining in their regular season.

Marc Jarbeau led the Acton attack with a pair of goals and an assist. Teammate Paul Westaway chipped in with the other goal and added a pair of assists.
Acton returns to league action today, travelling to Kitchener. Their final game of the season will be a make-up contest with Woolwich. No date has yet been set for that game.