



As all of you know the last year has been rather chaotic. It has however, given me much time to think and plan. I have over the past 20 odd years since this event came to being, worked hard and diligently to uphold the goals we set way back in 2002. I have copied them below just so we can all refresh ourselves as to why we are doing this and why we have created this fabulous and challenging event.

Objectives and Goals of the Targa Newfoundland Events:

- To organize and conduct a unique, world standard and seriously challenging international motor sport competition on the paved roads of the island of Newfoundland.
- To bring together an exclusive field of Sports, Grand Touring, Classic, Historic and other vehicles that represent the evolution of the sporting automobile to the present.
- To use the competition as a focal point for a festival of community functions, entertainment and associated activities, and to create an overall event attractive to all audiences.
- To develop the event into a prestigious occasion recognized throughout the world of automotive competition as an essential annual activity for owners and serious collectors of sporting automobiles.
- To ensure the continuing enthusiasm and support for the event from the eastern and central Newfoundland communities.
- To generate sufficient revenue to meet the expenditure needed to stage the event in accordance with these principles, and a sufficient accumulated surplus to secure its long term financial viability.
- To ensure that the revenue generated by the event accrues, to the greatest extent possible, into the communities through which it is run.
- To ensure that all involved in the staging of the event derive optimum satisfaction and enjoyment.

We have succeeded in achieving some of the goals while others still need work. However they are there, and they reflect our best intentions. But it is now time to turn the page and open an entirely new chapter in the life of Newfoundland International Motorsports Limited. This is why I am writing you today.

Attached you will find a press release which does two major things; it announces my resignation from the position of President and it appoints Joe Dowden into that position. I will remain as Chairman of the Board of Governors (and do some course setting) while Joe will run the events. Since January 2020 Joe Dowden, Chris Langdon and myself have been considering this move. COVID stepped in and as with everything it touches, put a wrench into the works. Then, after some consideration, we decided what better time to get this done. So effective with this memorandum and the release, we begin a new chapter.

I wish Joe and Chris and all who are doing such fabulous work with Targa a wonderful and fulfilling future in the event. I offer much thanks to all of you for your support and for your loyalty. It is very much appreciated. Be proud of what we have created, I know I am, just as I am proud of each and every one of you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, each of you is wonderful and each of you has become a part of this most marvelous adventure, and part of my life. Lastly, and above all, I thank my incredible and all understanding spouse May, who has supported me through thick and thin in my love affair with these two marvelous events, and then joined me in the adventure of creating and running them. We will share more new and wonderful adventures in days to come.

Yours Truly

**Robert Giannou**  
President



## **Newfoundland International Motorsports Limited announces a New President.**

**St. John's (August 12, 2020)** After nearly 20 years of staging one of Canada's most iconic and challenging motorsport events, there is a change in management at Targa Newfoundland.

Effective August 10, Joe Dowden will move from Clerk of the Course to assume the role of President of Newfoundland International Motorsports Limited. He will take over the day-to-day planning of Targa Newfoundland and Targa Bambina, the two annual events staged on the roads of eastern and southern Newfoundland. Dowden will shoulder the responsibilities currently held by Robert Giannou who created and has organized the events since the inaugural Targa Newfoundland in September, 2002.

Dowden, who started with the event as a volunteer in 2003 as a Safety Marshal and who has held progressively more responsible positions through the years, will lead a volunteer group to handle the event. Such duties will include route planning, community liaison, volunteer management, registration, safety, scoring and the many other aspects of the complex, multi-day motorsport events.

Giannou will stay with the organization and assume the role of Chairman of the Board concentrating on securing the long-term future of Targa Newfoundland through new ownership.

"Joe knows and understands both events inside-out. He has handled just about every job: from marshalling to dragging cars out of ditches, to working with communities to dealing with competitor issues", said Giannou. "He has been Clerk of the Course of both events for the past three years and has a proven record that he can lead these events into this new era. Most importantly, he has my total confidence and trust. Joe is the right guy to take the reins at this important time in the history of Targa Newfoundland."

Dowden's first duty will be to reconfirm the organization of the event management group. Then he will focus on the presentation of the Super Bambina event scheduled for Friday September 11 through Monday September 14 in the lower Burin. The event will be operated under strict COVID-19 Rules and Regulations. "Operating this event under the present conditions will bring it's challenges. However, we and all who participate in the event will keep the communities and the volunteers who help run the event, safe and healthy," Dowden added.

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