



Grand Touring returns to Targa Newfoundland 2025

Time, speed, and distance competition rewards precision and teamwork

(March 4, 2025, St. John's, NL) ... The Grand Touring division returns to Targa Newfoundland this fall after a one-year hiatus.

“We're bringing Grand Touring back due to popular demand from competitors who want to prove their skills in a time, speed, and distance rally,” says Targa owner Robert Giannou.

Grand Touring or GT for short follows the same stages as the other competitive divisions, Targa 1 and Targa 2, but focuses more on precision driving and navigating skills than all out speed.

In a time, speed and distance (TSD) rally, also known as a navigational rally, competitors are given a set of instructions describing the route, including the expected speed. The goal is to follow the instructions as closely as possible and arrive at the checkpoints as close as possible to the target time.

“It's the most challenging event in Targa,” says Wayne Lorenzen, Targa registrar. “If you have four minutes to get through a stage you have to cross the finish at exactly four minutes to avoid penalties. It takes teamwork to succeed. The driver must be precise and the co-driver has a tremendous amount of work to keep track of the time and speed.”

The team of Satish Gopalkrishnan and Savera D'Souza from New Jersey claimed the title in 2023. They competed in Targa 1 last year. This year, two-time GT champions Marinus and Renee Damm from Oregon return for another run at the podium.

The 2025 rally runs Sept. 11-18, 2025. Twenty-five teams from across Canada and United States are already registered for the rally in Grand Touring, Targa 1, Targa 2 and Targa Tour. Competitors will cover over 2000 km (about 1240 miles) across the island of Newfoundland including hundreds of kilometres of stages on closed public roads.

Owned and operated by Newfoundland International Motorsports Limited, Targa Newfoundland is one of only three internationally recognized Targa motorsports events in the world. Since 2002, Targa Newfoundland, the ultimate tarmac rally in North America, has attracted hundreds of professional and amateur racers from around the globe.

Visit the Targa website targanfld.com for more information.

Past winners of GT:

- 2023 – Satish Gopalkrishnan/Savera D'Souza – 2023 Mercedes-Benz AMG GLA 45
- 2018 – Darren Brake/Herb Johnson – 2017 Subaru WRX STI
- 2017 – John Hume Sr./Cristina Kroner – 2013 Mini GT
- 2016 – Marinus Damm/Renee Damm – 2011 Porsche 911 Carrera 4
- 2015 – Marinus Damm/Renee Damm – 2012 BMW 328 xiT Wagon
- 2014 – John Hume Sr./Craig MacMullen – 2013 MINI GP
- 2013 – Jon Riddell/Briar DeLange – 2008 BMW 135i
- 2012 – John Hume Sr./Craig MacMullen – 2011 BMW 335is
- 2011 – Justin Crant/Justin Russell – 1997 VW Golf Trek
- 2010 – Alan Townsley/David Fuhrmann – 2003 Acura RSX
- 2009 – Ferdinand Trauttmansdorff/Christoph Trauttmansdorff – 1990 BMW 325i
- 2008 – John Vandemierden/Stu Lehmann – 2008 Lotus Elise
- 2007 – Alan Kearley/Greg Martin – 2004 Mazda 3 Sport GT
- 2006 – Bruce Terris/Andy Proudfoot – 1991 Subaru Legacy Turbo
- 2005 – Brian Crockatt/Gail Walker – 1987 BMW 535i
- 2004 – Jean-Francois Drolet/Rejean Beaulieu – 2004 Infiniti G35 Coupe
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- 2002 – Alan Ryall/Carolyn Ryall – 2002 Subaru Impreza WRX

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Photos and videos:

Available on request or download here:

<https://ralphsaulnier.smugmug.com/Targa-NFLD/Targa-2024>

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