

Last rally of the season this weekend ...

Antoine L'Estage Eyeing a Perfect Record at the Rally of the Tall Pines

Montréal (Québec), November 26, 2014.- Quebec driver Antoine L'Estage (of St-Jean-sur-Richelieu) and his Torontonion co-driver, Alan Ockwell, will participate in this weekend's Rally of the Tall Pines, in Bancroft, Ontario. This will be the last round of the season in the Canadian Rally Championship and another victory will give Antoine and the Yokohama Rally Team the chance to end the season with a perfect record, which would be his sixth in six starts in 2014 !



Having already clinched the 2014 Canadian and North American drivers' titles, Antoine L'Estage, who has won the last 5 rallies in Canada, has a double goal for this weekend in Bancroft : if he wins, he'll become the first driver in the history of the Canadian Rally Championship to win all the events in a single season; but he's also eyeing to simply finish the rally in order to give his co-driver enough points necessary to win the co-drivers' title. « I'm torn between this two goals. I'd obviously like to earn yet another record by winning the rally » confides Antoine, who, earlier this month became the first driver in history to win seven Canadian championship titles, « but I also think about the co-drivers' title that Alan could clinch and in order to do that, we just need to finish the event, regardless of position, even if our main rivals win the rally » adds the Yokohama Rally Team driver.

Antoine L'Estage has won the Tall Pines rally four times; in 2004 (his very first national win), in 2006 (the year he won his first title), in 2007 and in 2010. « It's a tough rally and you have to remain concentrated right up until the very last kilometre. I really like the roads around Bancroft but you can't take them for granted because they are very tricky » explains Antoine L'Estage.

If we rely on the weather predictions, we can expect icy stage roads in the morning and night, which doesn't worry Antoine L'Estage : « tire choice is always a toss-up at Tall Pines. Luckily, we have the best options available with Yokohama, regardless of what we choose. I want to win but seeing as I'm already the champion, we don't have a lot of pressure on us » adds the Quebec driver.

The Yokohama Rally Team Lancer Evo X was not tested leading up to this event but as usual, it was carefully re-prepped by John Buffum and his team of mechanics. « We'll do some adjustments during Friday night's shakedown in Bancroft » concludes Antoine... The start of the Rally of the Tall Pines will take place on Saturday morning at 8am in Bancroft. The finish will be the same day, around 10pm.

Antoine L'Estage currently holds seven North American titles (2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014), seven Canadian (2006, 2007, 2010 to 2014), one American (2010) and forty-seven overall victories in Canada and the United States.

He is contesting the 2014 Canadian Rally Championship with the support of Yokohama Tires, Drenth Motorsport Gearboxes, Énergie Cardio, Method Race Wheels, VP Racing Fuels, Alpinestars, Exe-Tc Suspensions, Driver's Edge Autosport, and Libra Racing. For more information on the team or rally in general, please visit the antoinelestage.com site.

Source : Coyote Rallye Media Services, (514) 825 - 4332

2014 Canadian Rally Championship Calendar

Date	Event	Location	
February 8	RALLYE PERCE-NEIGE	Maniwaki, Québec	1 st
June 27 - 28	RALLYE BAIE-DES-CHALEURS	New Richmond, Québec	1 st
September 5 – 6	RALLYE DÉFI	Ste-Agathe, Québec	1 st
October 3 - 4	PACIFIC FOREST RALLY	Merritt, British Columbia	1 st
October 31 – Nov 1	ROCKY MOUNTAIN RALLY	Invermere, British Columbia	1 st
November 29	RALLY OF THE TALL PINES	Bancroft, Ontario	

Photo : Antoine L'Estage and Alan Ockwell in action.



Credit : Peter MacDonald . Higher resolution available upon request.

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