

CANADA 5000 RALLY

CANADIAN PAIR REVISITING SHELL 4000 RALLY ROUTE

By Jeremy Sale

Who would be crazy enough to fancy driving across Canada in an almost 50-year-old car? And we're not talking about using the Trans-Canada Highway! Dave Clark and Dave Myers have restored a 1967 Volvo 122 S and are retracing the original Shell 4,000 Rally route right across Canada, with a stop at the Canadian Historic Grand Prix at Mosport, which was a "Special Stage" in the rally years ago.

The "Canada 5000" is part history project - recounting the famous Shell 4000 Rally that ran across Canada in the 1960s. It's part road trip - following various routes of the original Shell 4000 Rally, but stretching it out to 5,000 miles across eight Canadian provinces. And it's part car rebuild - their vehicle is a 1967 Volvo 122S, a 48-year-old Swedish sedan which they brought back to life just to make this journey.

Dave Clark will be documenting the whole experience and interviewing some of the drivers and co-drivers who ran the original rally, people like Diana Carter, winner in a Volvo of the coveted Coupe des Dames in 1963, 1964 and 1965. Says Clark, "I've interviewed people like Carter, Reg Hillary, the winner of the very first rally, who is now well into his 90s, and Paddy Hopkirk, the famed British driver who

was the source of controversy in the '68 rally and who was ultimately disqualified, but not until after being threatened by a gun-toting Ontario farmer who thought the rallyists were driving too fast!"

Of the Shell 4000 Rally Clark says "It's a rally that caught my attention as a writer and car enthusiast. For the Canada 5000, I will experience what the rally drivers of the 1960s experienced, by following the routes of several of the original rallies from coast to coast - Vancouver to Halifax. I got the idea when I was reading the history of the Shell 4000 Rally. For nine years, Canada's rural and backcountry roads played host to one of the longest and most challenging rallies of the 1960s. Professional drivers and manufacturer-sponsored teams navigated 4,000 miles across Canada every spring from 1961 to 1968 and again in 1971."

Clark notes that Marcel Chichak has done an amazing job collecting and documenting the history of the rallies on the Shell 4000 History website (<http://www.shell-4000-rally.org>)

And there's a very special component to the Canada 5000 says Clark, "My co-driver Dave Myers and I will also be teaming up with provincial Alzheimer's Societies across Canada so that a great cause will benefit from this adventure as well."

The team will be making a very special ap-



Diana Carter won the CRDA Touring championship in 1963 and also rallied her Volvo 122S in the 1963, 1964 and 1965 Shell 4000s to finish as three-time winner of the Coupe des Dames.

pearance at the 2015 Canadian Historic Grand Prix, June 19/21, honouring the Special Stage at Mosport which was once a part of the original rally. For more on the CHGP, visit www.canadianhistoricgrandprix.com.

"Since the Canada 5000 is a drive across Canada, the car also needed to have a strong connection to our country," says Clark. "The 122 was the first car Volvo made outside of Sweden and was assembled in the company's first Halifax factory. The very first one to roll off the assembly line is still on display in the Museum of Industry in Nova Scotia."

Volvos had incredible success in the original grueling rallies. A total of 43 entered and the Volvo 122 won the overall rally twice, in 1964 and 1965, with three class wins, a second overall finish, a third overall finish, two fourth overall finishes, also winning two Coupe des Dames.

You can follow the Canada 5000 at <http://canada5000.ca>.

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