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A SPECIAL THANK-YOU

To many competitors and fans, his was the voice from the early television documentaries that first lured them to Targa Newfoundland. Others know him from the colourful opinions he delivers from the podium that bears his name on TSN's televised auto magazine, Motoring. Still others recognize him as a syndicated columnist and the chief auto writer for the Toronto Star's widely-read Wheels section.

To the rest of us, he's just the driver of that brilliant red MINI Cooper S. Oh, and yes, he's the co-founder of Targa Newfoundland.



Jim Kenzie and Brian Bourbonniere - 2009 MINI Cooper S/JCW

However you've come to know Jim Kenzie, however brief your experience, you probably count him among your friends. His ready smile, honest handshake and clear delight in everything to do with cars is a winning formula that's not only helped Jim create an enviable career, it has earned him real friends and fans on just about every continent.

He, in turn, is a friend and fan of Targa and a relentless promoter of the event as he travels the globe as part of what surely must be the world's best job.

Jim's paternal responsibility for Targa is now well known. He was the first to identify the magic combination needed to create the event – "an island with exciting roads, a welcoming population and a tourism industry that could see the potential for promotion away from the high season," to use his words – and the first to recognize

Newfoundland as the only place in North America where all those stars aligned. But rather than just hand over the idea and move on, he lent his name, his extensive list of contacts and a big slice of his considerable credibility to the venture. Certainly he wrote about the event in its formative stages, giving it immediate prominence with the enthusiasts and automakers he reaches regularly. But he also confidently talked-up the event to anyone who would listen – other journalists, potential competitors, people from the motorsport establishment and could-be sponsors as well as auto executives in every corner of the industry.

"When we first came up with the idea, I didn't think there was much of a chance we could pull it off," he recalls now. "After the very first event, I thought, 'Cool! Maybe we can do two or three of these'.

"I could not have guessed it would become a major motorsport event, or be in a position to plan for the 10th anniversary event."

In the years since the initial inspiration, he's witnessed the growing pains and been close to the major developments of Targa. He is one of a handful of competitors who's been in every Targa Newfoundland (all but one as driver), and has twice won the tough Open Division competition. The night before the very first event, he sat in a basement in St. John's and hand-lettered control boards for the stages. He's crisscrossed the island on a goodwill tour, visiting towns, politicians, media and fans. If Targa Nation has an ambassador, it's Jim.

That he even has the time to compete each year is something of a miracle given his ridiculous travel schedule. To drive the newest cars in the world and report on them, he's nearly always on the road. The travel itinerary for an average month probably includes stops in Spain, England, California, Arizona, Germany and back to Spain via the south of France – and that's not counting the events he can drive to from his home outside Toronto. He's enjoyed top status in the airline

frequent flyer points derby more times than he can count, and they know him by name in business class lounges in airports everywhere.

That kind of travel and commitments away from home would take a toll on most families, but the delightful and obviously patient Sandra Kenzie hasn't let her husband's manic pace interfere with the successful nurturing and education of four children, all of whom have now left the nest for universities and new lives.

If the travel is punishing, he seldom complains – perhaps because the objective makes it all worthwhile. Driving the finest cars in the world (and some memorable clunkers) in exotic places is the job description of every Targa fan's fantasy. Name an enthusiast car and Jim probably drove it before you ever saw one on the road.

If Jim's job description sounds like a fantasy, how he got the gig is a real life fairy tale. His original career path was headed in the direction of computer sciences. He had been teaching the subject at what is now Ryerson University when he first convinced the editor of the local weekly newspaper in his community to let him contribute road tests and stories about cars. He pursued this side-line with such enthusiasm and determination that he got noticed by the Toronto Star newspaper, which was looking to replace its auto writer. The offer of a regular freelance assignment was enough to send him off the computer path and full throttle down the road to covering automobiles. His role at the Star, and his status and respect in the industry, has continued to grow in the 27 years since. Jim raced cars before he wrote about them, so he has been an obvious choice for 'guest' seats in racing series around the country, or in those impossibly elite driving schools normally only available to the über-rich. Yes, Jim has driven a Formula 1 car. And yet he says Targa is his favourite event. In a life jam-packed with memorable moments, his Targa memories have a special place.

"Winning the Open Division twice is certainly the competition highlight," he says, but the favourite Targa tale is from the year retired Major General Lewis McKenzie ran the event, a transmission delivered by ambulance, and an autograph-seeker with a smashed fence. He recalls being adopted by a local family for tea and sandwiches the year he was left stranded when his first MINI blew out two tires on the same stage, and relishes in the story of the local elevator mechanic who fixed the transmission of the 1925 Stutz that was marooned at his door. He remembers fondly hosting every Targa gala since year one. And, of course, he recalls (most of) his own massive crash with co-driver Brian Bourbonniere in 2008, and the demise of their trusted MINI Cooper S JCW dubbed Old Red. In particular, he recalls the reaction and concern of the extended Targa family for his and Brian's well-being.



Jim Kenzie hosts the 2008 Awards Gala

With no let-up in his frenetic travel plans and the debut in Targa 2009 of a new red MINI Challenge Series car from MINI Canada (called Frankly Scarlett?), it's clear Jim isn't slowing down any time soon. There are new friends to make and new roads to drive, and maybe even a 10th Anniversary Targa Newfoundland book project. Expect Jim to be out there for a while longer.

MARYSTOWN CONFIRMS THEIR PARTICIPATION IN TARGA FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS

Marystown, the home of three of the most popular competitive stages in the annual Targa Newfoundland and the headquarters for the Burin Peninsula leg of the international motorsport event, has confirmed its participation in Targa for the next four years.

At its regular meeting the Marystown council approved an agreement that will welcome Targa competitors and fans back to the community for the next four years.

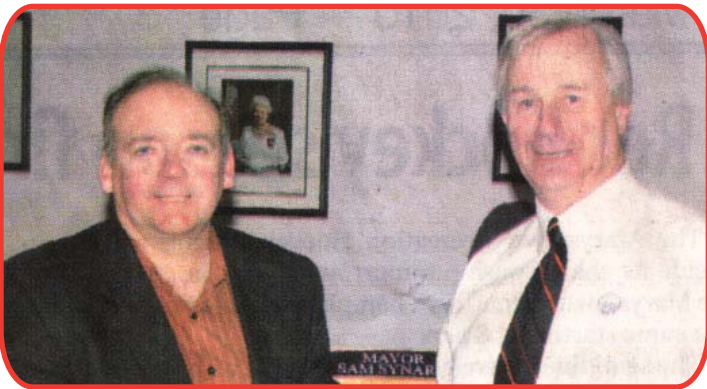
Marystown is the hub and central service community for the southernmost peninsula of Newfoundland and the traditional start of the frantic final day of the week-long Targa challenge. It numbers among its benefits a spectacular ice-free deep-water port which is home to such facilities as a major offshore oil servicing and fabrication base, a marine shipyard and dry-dock facility, as well as a major seafood processing plant. In the nine years since Targa started, Marystown has hosted more competitive Targa stages than any other community.

The three Marystown stages and nearby Mooring Cove stage are the pivotal points in the 11-stage, two-day Burin Peninsula competition that will see the competition run throughout the key towns and communities of the area. In addition, Marystown will host the competitors and service crews for an overnight stay in the town and treat its citizens and those of the surrounding area to an "after the event" evening car show at its local

arena and sports complex. The evening car show is held in support of the area school lunch program and the Autism Society of Newfoundland and Labrador's local chapter. The two 6-kilometre Marystown stages and their 2.5 km long Mooring Cove sister stage will be held in the early morning and late in the afternoon on Thursday, September 16, event organizers have announced. The stages will be the same as previously run and will set the tone for what is arguably the event's most difficult day of competition for both the Targa and Grand Touring categories.

"We truly appreciate that Marystown is continuing its key role in the Burin by bringing Targa Newfoundland to its streets, and we wish to thank the mayor and council as well as their staff for the working with us to accomplish this," said Targa organizer Robert Giannou. "This day is most critical to the success of the event and our competitors love it. Marystown is important because it sets the tone for the balance of the competition. High praise is due to retired teacher Robert Lymburner, who runs the three stages, and to Derrick Hanrahan who coordinates the Newfoundland Autism Society's projects in the area. They really deliver for their community, its people and our competitors."

"Throughout the years, Targa has demonstrated a tremendous loyalty to Marystown and we look forward to supporting the new partnership which Targa has created with the Autism Society this year," Said Marystown mayor Sam Synard. "We are pleased to be associated with them."



Targa organizer Giannou presented Mayor Synard with two numbered collectors plaques from the 2009 Targa Competitors.

Mayor Synard in turn presented one of the numbered plaques to Mr. Lymburner in recognition of his work for the town. "Mr Lymburner is a credit to Marystown and his work for the Targa event and for the other organizations he supports through the community Lion's Club should be recognized," said Mayor Synard. "Targa has given our area and our local tourism efforts an international flavour due to the fantastic media coverage the event attracts. It has made Newfoundland and the event more widely known than we ever expected. We look forward to seeing Targa in Marystown for the next four years and extend an invitation to all the people from the surrounding communities to come and join us at this year's arena car show," added the mayor.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

The April newsletter will shine the spotlight on a veteran of Targa. That lady is the heart and soul of her community and she has been the local coordinator of Targa since its inception in 2002. Who is that Lady? She is Vida Greening of Port Blandford. Vida is the Town Manager and with the Mayor, Reg Penny, they have supported Targa for nine years.

Vida knows her town, she knows everyone and most importantly, she is aware of all that is happening. When asked if everything is ready for the event; any event including Targa, she replies, "We are ready when you are" and they always are.

Vida is a virtual dynamo; she has the ability to energize others into action. She leads by example and others follow in her footsteps to make things happen. Vida can be found working for her town almost any night of the week from the Bingo Hall of the Canadian Legion, to serving tea at community functions, or tending the bar at The Legion. Vida is also the treasure of the local legion, the treasure of the local volunteer Fire Department, President of the local Dart League, and provincial President of the Provincial Municipal Association. She has also been a member of the Tidy Towns committee in the community since before anyone can remember. By the way, she is a good sport too.

Vida has a special liking for travel to communities assessable only by Ferry. Newfoundland operates sixteen ferries visiting in excess of 20 remote communities in the province. She has the distinction of riding the ferries and visiting all but three of these remote locations. (Her aim is to complete this project in 2010.) Her knowledge of these communities, Newfoundland and their way of life is second to none.

Vida is not all work and no play. On a Saturday night you may find her in Marystown (a three hour drive for a square dance.) The word "Dynamo" does not do her justice. Sciences have not yet invented "The perpetual Motion Machine" A machine which once set in motion will continue to run. Perhaps, they should visit Port Blandford and meet Vida. She is as close to one as it is possible to get. Thank you Vida for all your hard work and dedication.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

