

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Robert (Rob) Atchison - Athlete Modern**

- Born London, Ontario, September 19, 1975
- Attended Prince Charles Elementary School and Clarke Road Secondary School in London
- At age 19 in 1994 he joined family business, Atchison Machine Service Inc, founded by his father Bob in 1964, who was also a competitive drag racer at a high level for over 20 years
- Atchison Machine Shop supplies and builds drag racing components
- Rob began drag racing at age of 19, with the assistance of his father who was his crew chief
- Honed his driving skills at Grand Bend Dragway and other Southern Ontario tracks in the Quick 16 and Pro Comp Eliminator categories
- Over 25 years he became the winningest Canadian driver in International Hot Rod (IHRA) history winning 21 national events across North America and three IHRA Alcohol Funny Car championships
- Competed in the IHRA Alcohol Funny Car class from 1999 to 2008 winning three consecutive IHRA Alcohol Funny Car Championships in the 2003-2005 period
- Was named 2003 IHRA Pro Driver of the Year and 2005 Canadian Drag Racer of the Year
- Was the first IHRA Alcohol Funny Car driver to run a 5.685 second elapsed time at last event of 2005 IHRA season in San Antonio
- Qualified first over 35 times and had 36 final round appearances
- Is second in career victories in IHRA Alcohol Funny Class category
- Following discontinuation of IHRA Alcohol Funny Car category in 2010 Rob moved to the NHRA where he competed in top alcohol category
- In 2011 began competing in IHRA Pro Modified category winning his race in that category in Grand Bend in 2014, the scene of his first Alcohol Funny Car win in 2003.
- Was first Canadian driver to be named a second team all-star by the American Auto Writers and Broadcasters Association (2005)
- Retired in 2023
- Atchison remains active in family business which now occupies 4 buildings in east London where they perform machine work on all types of engines and supply and building drag racing components
- Has raced in Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia and more than half the American states
- Rob and his dad became the first father-son duo to be elected to the Canadian Drag Racing Hall of Fame in 2023