

**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**A SOLITARY VICTORY
FOR RUSSIA'S YURI KOZLOV**

Gatineau, February 16, 2008 – Skiers from every corner of the world were bursting with enthusiasm as they threw themselves onto the magnificent trails of the Gatineau Loppet. The temperatures turned out to be milder than forecast, which meant that everything started on time, at 9 a.m. sharp.

53 km of classic style

Coming out of the first 9.1 km loop, Russia's **Yuri Kozlov** was in the lead, followed by Jon Arne Enevoldsen, originally from Norway but now living in the United States. Taking up third position was Wayne Dustin of the XC Ottawa cross-country ski club.

Yuri Kozlov ended up being the only one of the three to keep up the pace, ending with a time of 2:43 that took him to the top of the podium. Quebec's **Phil Shaw**, winner of the last two years' races in this category, managed to rev it up and glide into second place with a time of 2:49, a whole six minutes behind the leader. **Pierre Lavoie**, from La Baie au Québec, known for his war against hereditary diseases, came in third, with a time of 2:56. Jon Arne Enevoldsen and Wayne Dustin managed to complete the course in 4th and 5th place.

Among the women, it was Rimouski's **Louise Martineau** who walked away with the gold, with a time of 3:29, moving up from third in this same race in 2007. American **Taylor Leach** from Oregon followed with a time of 3:31, and British Columbia's **Teresa White**, took the bronze when she stopped the clock at 3:36.

The six winners collected magnificent glass trophies crafted by the Tcheq Republic's Jilek Glass Factory. His Excellency **Pavel Vosalik**, Ambassador of the Tcheq Republic, handed out the awards.

29 km Fischer classic style

The new generation took the day in the men's 29 km. The first two positions went to Ontario skiers in the 19 and under age category, **Mathias Purdon** and **Aidan Lennie**. The XC Ottawa club's young Quebec member, **Justin Demers**, earned himself the third place on the podium.

It was a different story among the women, where it came down to experience. Chelsea's **Natalya Kuziak**, with a time of 1:50, scooped the gold, while Ottawa's **Stéphanie Rees** and Lac-au-Saumon resident **Diane Bouchard** came in second and third.

16 km classic

Canada made a clean sweep of the 16 km, with Ottawa's **Michael Vieira**, Nelson's **Ferreira Bevan** and Oakville's **Patrick Monette** taking the trophies on the men's side, and Kanata's **Julie McVicar** and **Danielle McVicar**, along with Chelsea's **Monika Stoeger** on the women's side.

5 km Rossignol

Although intended to be a participatory event, the 5 km Rossignol gives up-and-coming competitive skiers, including those from several local clubs, a chance to practice their favourite sport alongside hundreds of skiers. The first three to reach the finish line were **Ezekiel Williams** from Cantley, **Riel Allain** from Chelsea and **Dominique Moncion-Groulx** from Gatineau. Among the women, it was Gatineau's **Noémi Bérubé** and **Sofia Attali**, and **Emilie Stewart-Jones** who took the top honours.

Canada's number 1 cross-country ski event continues tomorrow with the freestyle and Mini Gazifère.