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ACTIVITIES FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY AT THE 30TH EDITION OF CANADA'S NO. 1 CROSS COUNTRY SKI EVENT

Gatineau, Monday, January 14, 2008 – The Gatineau Loppet team is gearing up for an outstanding **30th anniversary**, with over **1,000 people already registered**. While some of the details have yet to be finalized, the proposed calendar includes activities for everyone, from families to beginner and expert skiers alike.

The outdoors, health and well-being are central to the event, which is expected to draw representatives from **20 different countries!**

Here is an overview of the activities planned for February 15 to 17:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

SKI SHOW AND WINTER SPORTS INDUSTRY AGORA

The activities will start on Friday, February 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the Ski Show and the Winter Sports Industry Agora. These will also be open to the public on Saturday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sunday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Ski Show is not only the gathering place for participants interested in meeting other skiers, checking the results on the giant screen, registering or getting a bite to eat, but it also gives visitors the opportunity to discover local health, nutrition, outdoors and, naturally, cross-country skiing businesses. New this year: the Boite à grains health zone, with all kinds of nutrition and health tips.

The exhibitors at the Winter Sports Industry Agora will be displaying innovative products and the latest by major Canadian and other manufacturers. **Theme-specific activities**, as well as workshops, will also be provided by the exhibitors of the Winter Sports Industry Agora.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

THE CLASSIC STYLE RACES

The fun continues, this time outdoors, with the Classic Style races. The start time for the 29 km and 53 km races will be 9 a.m. After the first 9.1 km loop, the skiers will cross back through the Stade Mont-Bleu. This will give the public a chance to see where things stand after the first leg of the race. The 16 km Swix race will then start at 1 p.m. and the 5 km Rossignol at 1:10 p.m.

NORWAY/GATINEAU GIANT SKI COMPETITION

At 1:30 be sure to catch the breathtaking Norway/Gatineau Giant Ski Competition, where eight-person teams, each on one set of skis, will face off in this friendly competition. Teamwork is the key!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

THE FREESTYLE DAY

This day will start off at 9 a.m. in the Stade Mont-Bleu with the 29 km and 53 km Bell. Watch as hundreds of skiers take off on the first 100 metres of double poling, before they switch to the ski skating, the trademark of the freestyle. These races will be followed by the 10 km at 1 p.m.

THE 2 KM MINI GAZIFÈRE

Children, accompanied by their parents, are invited to take part in this fun-filled 2 km race. The only race at the event that will not be timed, this is the one that is set up for the sheer pleasure of taking part in an outdoor family activity.

Gatineau Loppet Challenge

For its 30th anniversary, the Gatineau Loppet launches the « Gatineau Loppet Challenge. » This challenge is for all brave and experienced skiers!

The men's version will be for competitors who complete both the skate and classic versions of the 53km event. For women, the event will include both the skate and classic versions of either the 29km or 53km event. All competitors must complete the same distance on both days (either both 29km events, or both 53km events). All those who complete both races (classic and skate 53kms for men and women, classic and skate 29 kms for women) will receive a pin to celebrate their accomplishment. The pin will be available for pick up at the "pre-registered" table, between 10 am and 4 pm on Sunday. An official group picture will be taken as well, right after the Medal Ceremony (1:30 pm for the 29 km and 3 pm for the 53 km). Finally, the names of all the skiers who have completed the Challenge will see their name appear on the Gatineau Loppet website.

REGISTRATION

Skiers should register before January 27 to take advantage of several discounts on their registration fees. Forms are available through www.gatineauloppet.com. There will also be on-site registration at the Salon du ski from February 15 to 17.

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