

WHAT IS A CANADIAN SKI ODYSSEY?

by Kevin Jones

An odyssey is defined in Webster's dictionary as a "long and adventurous journey." Add "Canadian" and "ski," and the picture becomes clearer. The Canadian Ski Odyssey is a series of eight of the finest long distance mass participation cross country ski events in Canada. In 1987, seven provinces from British Columbia to New Brunswick will welcome close to 7,000 skiers in the inaugural season for the Odyssey.

A series of long distance ski races, although new to Canada, is not unique. The World Loppet League, established in 1979, unites eleven of the world's best loppets including Canada's Gatineau 55. Last year, almost 50,000 skiers took part in these prestigious events. Meanwhile, during the last ten years in Canada, the popularity of loppets has grown, and we can now boast of approximately 75 events and over 20,000 participants. Cross Country Canada recognizes the popularity of loppet skiing and is developing the Odyssey not only to recognize the best events but to encourage as many Canadians as possible to come out and participate.

Each event in the series has been chosen based on specific criteria. These include not only the very important technical aspects but also how much fun each event is. What we have are eight ski experiences which challenge you as a skier and also make sure you have a good time!

A special challenge for Ski Odyssey participants will be to complete all events in the series in their lifetimes. A passport is being produced and will be sold at each race. After completing each event, the passport will be presented to each skier who completes the whole Odyssey. The Canadian Ski Odyssey will also recognize the winners of each event by sponsoring their travel to the national championship of the series, the Gatineau 55.

So as you see, the Ski Odyssey offers something for everyone. There are a variety of distances from ten to sixty-five kilometres and categories for all ages and abilities. So come out and ski the Odyssey.

CANADIAN SKI ODYSSEY SCHEDULE/CALENDRIER POUR L'ODYSSÉE CANADIENNE DE SKI

CARIBOO MARATHON

February 8, 1987 50,20,10 Km.
Box 1888, 100 Mile House,
British Columbia, V0K 2E0
(604) 395-2266

CANADIAN BIRKEBEINER

February 14, 1987 55,20 Km.
Canadian Birkebeiner Society
C/O River Valley Outdoor Center
Box 2359 Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2R7
(403) 452-4501

SASKATCHEWAN 60

February 28, 1987 60km.
PO Box 3071, Saskatoon,
Saskatchewan, S7K 3S9
(306) 933-0652

GRAND BEACH CLASSIC

February 8, 1987 10,20,30km.
Cross Country Ski Manitoba
1700 Ellice Ave, Winnipeg
Manitoba, R3H 0B1
(204) 786-5641

KAWARTHA SKI TOUR

February 8 1987, 12,32,55
PO Box 1371, Peterborough,
Ontario, K9J 7H6
(705) 742-1943

GATINEAU 55

February 15, 1987 35,55 km.
PO Box 69, Stn. A, Ottawa,
Ontario, K1N 8V3
(613) 992-4401

LOPPET MONT STE ANNE

March 7, 1987, 15,25,65 km.
32 Rue Dubeau,
St-Joachim de Montmorency,
Quebec, G0A 3X0
1-800-463-1568

LES AVENTURIERS MARATHON

February 22, 1987 21,42 km.
Box 9, Site 11
Balmoral, New Brunswick,
E0B 1C0
(506) 826-3083 or 684-4497

QU'EST-CE QUE L'ODYSSÉE CANADIENNE DE SKI?

par Kevin Jones

Le dictionnaire Robert définit le mot *odyssée* comme «un voyage rempli d'aventures». Ajoutez le mot «canadienne» et «ski» et voilà que tout se précise. L'odyssée canadienne de ski consiste en une série de huit magnifiques épreuves de ski de fond de longue distance qui regrouperont de nombreux skieurs au Canada. En 1987, sept provinces depuis la Colombie-Britannique jusqu'au Nouveau-Brunswick accueilleront près de 7 000 skieurs en cette grande première de l'odyssée.

Une série de courses de fond, bien que ce soit tout nouveau au Canada, n'est pas unique en son genre. En effet, la ligue du World Loppet établie en 1979 réunit onze des meilleurs loppets au monde y compris, celui de Gatineau 55. L'an dernier, presque 50 000 skieurs ont participé à ses épreuves prestigieuses. Les loppets ont gagné de la popularité au cours des dix dernières années au Canada et on peut se vanter de compter environ 75 épreuves regroupant plus de 20 000 participants. Ski de fond Canada reconnaît la popularité du loppet et a mis ce projet de l'avant non seulement pour honorer les meilleures épreuves mais aussi pour encourager le plus grand nombre de Canadiens à participer.

Chaque épreuve a été choisie conformément à certains critères. Il y avait plus que l'aspect technique dont il ne faudrait certes négliger l'importance; le plaisir devait également être de la partie. Nous vous proposons huit expériences de ski qui, en plus de vous permettre de faire valoir vos talents de skieur, vous procureront plaisir et agrément!

Participer à toutes les épreuves constitue le défi spécial que l'odyssée vous invite à relever. Nous procédons présentement à la production d'un passeport qui sera en vente à chaque course. Après chaque épreuve, le passeport sera remis au skieur qui a complété le circuit de l'Odyssée. L'Odyssée canadienne de ski récompensera tous les gagnants de chaque épreuve en payant leur voyage au Championnat national des séries, le loppet Gatineau 55.

Comme vous pouvez le constater, l'Odyssée de ski s'adresse à tous. Les distances varient entre dix et soixante-cinq km et les gens de tout âge et de tout calibre sont invités. À vous de tenter l'aventure.



Cariboo Marathon, British Columbia



NATIONAL CALENDAR

1991

JAN. 19	Reino Keski-Salmi Loppet Salmon Arm, B.C.	40 km CL
JAN. 19	Fleischmann's Tour of Hardwood, Orillia, Ont.	30 km F
FEB. 2	Cariboo Marathon, 100 Mile House, B.C.	50 km CL
FEB. 9	Sun Life Cdn. Birkebeiner Edmonton, Alta.	55 km F
FEB. 10	Les Aventuriers Marathon Charlo N.B.	42 km F-CL
FEB. 16	Red River Ski Fest, Winnipeg, Man.	45 km F
FEB. 17	Gatineau 55 Worldloppet Hull, P.Q.	55 km F
FEB. 24	Kawartha Ski Tour Peterborough, Ont.	55 km CL
MAR. 9	Saskaloppet/La Ronge, Sask.	60 km F
MAR. 16	La Loppet Fleischmann Mont Ste-Anne/Quebec	65 km CL



For complete information contact:
CROSS COUNTRY CANADA
 1600 James Naismith Dr
 Gloucester, Ontario
 K1B 5N4 (613)748-5662

1991 FLEISCHMANN'S SKI ODYSSEY

Now in its fourth season, the 10-event Fleischmann's Ski Odyssey (FSO) is still growing. Six thousand to 7,000 skiers are expected to participate in this 1991 national loppet program that stretches from Les Aventuriers Marathon in Charlo, N.B., to two of the most popular Odyssey events in ski-busy British Columbia.

In each event the Ski Odyssey theme of participation pervades - always providing one longer distance and two or more shorter distances, including one for Jackrabbits, the youngest members of the skiing community.

Ski Odyssey Passport

Fleischmann's Ski Odyssey participants are eligible for unique individual and group awards. A Ski Odyssey Passport can be purchased for just \$5 from Cross Country Canada or any one of the 10 event organizers. Upon completion of any odyssey the passport is stamped. Completion of three events warrants a bronze medal, with a silver medal for completing five and a gold for doing seven. The first loppet-hungry skier to earn a platinum medal for completing all 10 was John Deppman of Middlebury, Vermont. The Club Challenge Award goes to the club with the greatest participation numbers each season. Chinguacousy Nordic of Brampton, Ont., took the honors in 1990, while Edmonton Nordic won in 1989.

FSO Honor Roll

Platinum:

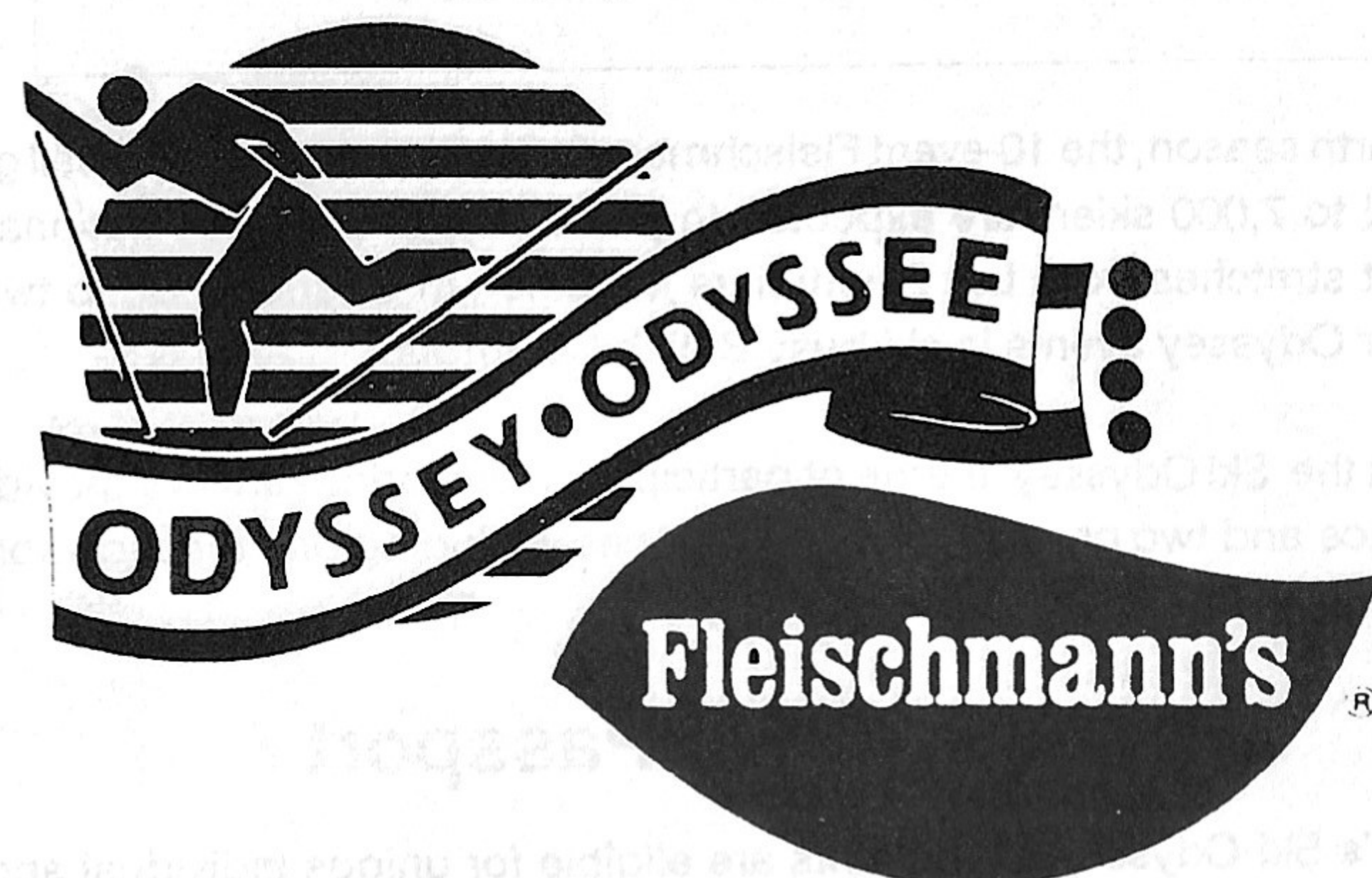
John C. Deppman, Middlebury, Vt. (10 events)
 Carlo Ianni, Rosemere, Que. (10)
 Cathie Henry, Rosemere, Que. (10)

Silver:

George Kriegel, Edmonton, Alta. (5)
 Herbert Riese, Edmonton (5)
 Einar Viddal, Edmonton (5)
 Ralph Thomas, Saskatoon (5)

Bronze:

Pierre Harvey, Mont Ste-Anne, Que. (4)
 Tom Kemp, Toronto, Ont. (4)
 Anne Budge, Bellfountain, Ont. (4)
 Malcolm Wheeler, Caledon East, Ont. (4)
 Laurie Tangerman, Kamloops, B.C. (4)
 Claude Bouchard, Munster Hamlet, Ont. (4)
 Bruce Nevison, Brampton, Ont. (4)
 Dave Beattie, Swift Current, Sask. (3)
 Paul Zimmerman, Edmonton (3)
 Harding Van Schaack, Minnestoka, Minn. (3)
 Minnie Sjolseth, Kamloops, B.C. (3)
 Alasdair & Hedda Hunter, Ottawa, Ont. (3)
 Garry & Gerry Mitchell, Harcourt, Ont. (3)
 Paul Wright, Bedeque, PEI (3)



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FEB. 16	Red River Ski Fest, Winnipeg, Man.	45 km F
FEB. 17	Gatineau 55 Worldloppet Hull, P.Q.	55 km F
FEB. 24	Kawartha Ski Tour Peterborough, Ont.	55 km CL
MAR. 9	Saskaloppet/La Ronge, Sask.	60 km F
MAR. 16	La Loppet Fleischmann Mont Ste-Anne/Quebec	65 km CL



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1600 James Naismith Dr
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#1

REINO KESKI-SALMI LOPPET

Date: January 19, 1991.

Location: Larch Hills, 20 minutes from Salmon Arm, B.C.

Distances: 40km cl

Details: Kicks off the Fleischmann's Ski Odyssey at 9 a.m. Part of B.C. Loppet Series. Honors the famous native son, Reino Keski-Salmi, a Canadian cross country ski champion and international competitor. Fun for all and great tune-up for the loppet of your choice later in February or March. History of wonderful snow conditions and ioppeteers are treated well during and after the event. Six age categories from 18-19 to 70+.

Registration: Grace Keskinen, Box 218, Salmon Arm, B.C. Register until Jan. 12 or late entry charge. No entries on race day. Fee structure: 40 km, \$16 (\$20 for late entry); 20km cl-junior (14-17), \$6 (\$10); 20 km cl-recreational (20+), \$16 (\$20); 20km cl recreational-(u-18), \$6 (\$10); 8km cl-Jackrabbit (u-14)-\$6 (\$10).

Event contact: Marcia Beckner, Box 700, Salmon Arm, B.C. V1E 4N8 Tel: (H) 604-832-3534, (W) 832-6206. Fax: c/o Robin Pryor, 832-9359.



Stephen Lewis & mom Judy Linkletter at '90 R. Keski-Salmi L.

Tour of Hardwood



#2

FLEISCHMANN'S TOUR OF HARDWOOD

Date: January 19, 1991.

Location: Hardwood Hills Ski Centre, north of Barrie, Ont. in Ontario's snowbelt of cross country skiing.

Distances: 30, 15 and 7.5km free technique.

Cost: Before 6 p.m. on Jan. 13 - \$30, \$20 and \$15 respectively. Late entry: \$40, \$30 and \$20 up until 8 a.m. race morning. Site receives much more snow than many areas much farther north. Also has snow-making capabilities. Various age categories: u-13, 20-29, 30-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50+, plus time awards in 30km. Awards in 7.5km for fastest male and female, youngest and oldest skier, team with greatest number of finishers, and certificate of completion.

Details: Rolling course through the pine-quilled forests. You're never far from home as the course includes several parallel tracks, including some fun uphill and downhill. Check out Hardwood Hills ski shop afterwards.

Event contact: Kim Viney, Hardwood Hill, RR #1, Oro Station, Ont. L0L 2E0. Tel: (705) 487-3775. Fax: 487-2153.



Greg Inkster: winner of 1990 Cariboo Marathon

#3

CARIBOO MARATHON, presented by Fleischmann's Margarine

Date: February 2, 1991.

Location: 100 Mile House, British Columbia.

Distances: 50km classical technique. Also 10km Jackrabbit and 20km, both classical technique.

Entry deadline: January 13. Late entries: \$5 extra per person, \$15 extra per family.

Details: 14th annual Cariboo, one of the oldest major races in Canada.

Contact: Cariboo Marathon at (604) 791-6212 or 791-5211 regarding accommodation or fax 791-6384. Event chairman is Bill Hilland. Mailing address: Cariboo Marathon, C-477, 108 Ranch, RR#1, 100 Mile House, B.C. V0K 2E0.

Details: 1989 winner was Greg Inkster of Fort McMurray, Alta.

Start line at downtown Red Coach Inn. Interesting, rolling terrain. Major sponsor is Fleischmann's Margarine. More than 1,000 participated in 1989 event, including 568 in the 50km event.

#4

SUN LIFE CANADIAN BIRKEBEINER

Date: February 9, 1991.

Location: Starts 9 a.m. in Ukrainian Heritage Village east of Sherwood Park, outside Edmonton.

Distances: 55km fr.

Entry details: Entries can be sent to The Sun Life Birkebeiner, c/o River Valley Centre, Edmonton, Alta. T5K 0B3. Tel. 403-428-3033. Fax: 428-4615. Race secretary is Ron Nichol. The Haakon Haakonson Award will be presented to all those who have completed the Canadian, American and Norwegian Birkebeiner-Rennet events. Entry fee is \$25 for the 55km classical event, skied with or without pack; \$15 for the Mini-Birky, and \$5 for the 3km Jackrabbit Tour.

Entry deadline: Feb. 6. No late entries will be accepted!

Other details: The event passes through Elk Island National Park into Blackfoot National Park. Numerous feed stations.

#5

LES AVENTURIERS MARATHON

Date: Feb. 10, 1991.

Location: Starts at Sugarloaf Park in Campbellton, N.B. Finishes in Charlo, N. B. 9 a.m. start for free technique racers and 10 a.m. mass start for tourers. Family tour starts from Balmoral at noon. The tracks are redone between the racers' and tourers' starts.

Distances: 42km free or classical technique - all categories. Also 16km classic for family tour.

Host Club: Les Aventuriers.

Details: Race secretary Guy Laviolette, Box 120, Charlo, N.B., E0B 1M0, Tel. 506-684-2223, Fax 684-2419.

First entry deadline: January 16, 1991. Registration periods are before Jan. 16, Jan. 16-31, and Feb. 1-11. Respective fees are: adult - \$15, \$20, \$25; couples - \$25, \$30, \$35; under-16 - \$10, \$13, \$15; family - \$35, \$40, \$45; family tour - \$10 per participant. Refreshment stations every eight kilometres with beverages, fruits, first aid, and transportation (for those unable to finish). The scenery changes as if you were

watching a movie, with a beautiful view of the Bay Chaleur with its chain of mountains, the Chic Chocs. A small meal is also available for those wishing one at 24km, at the Recreation Centre in Balmoral. Food service, transportation, bar service, reception, awards at Charlo.

#6

BEATRICE RED RIVER SKI FEST

Date: Feb. 16, 1991.

Location: Festival du Voyageur, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

History/details: Third annual event starts 10 a.m. John Deppman completed his 10th Ski Odyssey here last year. Skiers from Vermont, Minnesota, the Dakotas, Western Canada and Ontario. Part of 22nd Festival du Voyageur this year: a 10-day celebration of French heritage with dog-sledding, ski events, French Canadian food, jigging, ice sculptures, and lots of other winter fun.

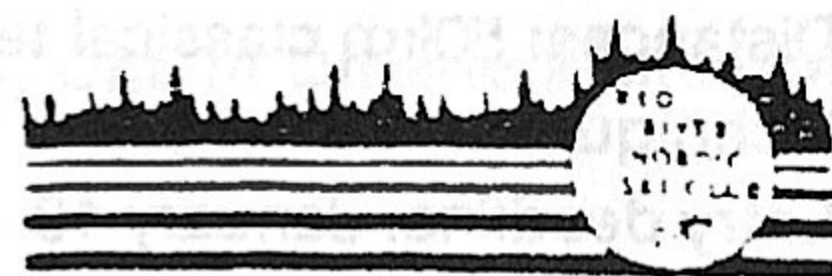
Fee schedule: \$15 per person, \$5 per extra family member, \$5 for 1km event and for any child under 12. Entry includes pass to Festival du Voyageur at Whittier Park. Apres-ski meal of traditional French Cdn. cuisine.

Entry deadline: Friday, Feb. 15 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Forks Skating Pavillion.

Event coordinator: Maureen McBride, 71 Quiring Bay, Winnipeg, Man., R2S 1Y5. Tel: (204) 688-7782. Tel: (204) 261-9333. Fax: 985-4028.

Distances: 30, 15, 3 x 5 relay, 5, and 1km free AND classical technique. No 45km event this year.

Other details: Fund raiser for Association of Community Living (for the Manitobans Living with a Mental Handicap). Goal is to exceed \$3500 raised last year. Special prizes for top two fundraisers. Elkhorn Resort, another is weekend for two at Maplelag Ski Resort.



#7

GATINEAU 55 WORLDLOPPET

Date: Feb. 17, 1991.

Location: Hull, Quebec. Starts at Collège de l'Outouais and weaves through beautiful Gatineau Park, the site of the signing for the infamous Meech Lake Accord.

Distances: 55km Fr.

Event contact: Chantal Bourbonnais, Box 554, Stn A, Hull, Que. J8Y 6P3. Tel: (819) 827-4641. Fax: 827-3337.

Entry deadline: Feb. 16 at 5 p.m.

Cost: Mid January, early February and late registration determines payment structure. For 55km fr: \$35, \$40 and \$65. For 25km fr: \$20, \$25, \$35. For 25km cl: \$20, \$25 and \$35.

Details: This event always attracts some top Scandinavian skiers. Last year's event featured defending champion and three-time World Cup winner, Pierre Harvey of Canada. He finished third behind Austrian winner, Manfred Nagl, a 26-year-old policeman.

Part of Worldloppet series with events in Canada and United States, plus others in Japan, Scandinavia and mainland Europe.



#8

KAWARTHA SKI TOUR

Date: Feb. 24, 1991.

Location: Peterborough, Ontario. Starts 9 a.m. at Apsley Community Centre.

Distances: 55, 32 and 12km classic.

Host club: Kawartha Nordic.

Race secretary: Peter Hopps, Box 1371, Peterborough, Ont. K9J 7H6. Tel: (705) 748-9331. Fax: 748-4631.

Entry: No deadline. Limited to 1,000 skiers, first come, first serve.

Details: 17th annual tour with good organization, lots of fun and events for all ages. Everyone gets his or her finishing time after skiing over the beautiful terrain of Peterborough's Crown Reserve.

#9

DON ALLEN SASKALOPPET

Date: March 9, 1991.

Location: Legion Hall at La Ronge, Saskatchewan.

Distances: 90km open marathon, 60km racing, 60km touring, 30km touring, 10km Jackrabbit tour. Open technique (free or classical).

Host club: La Ronge Ski Club.

Details: 9th annual Saskaloppet. Well known for its rugged but beautiful pre-Cambrian terrain and expertly-groomed classic and skating trails. More than 450 participants last year. Includes wine and cheese reception Friday night, bannock and chili after the Saskaloppet and Saturday evening banquet of northern delicacies, including rainbow trout and wild rice. Prizes include Indian crafts such as caribou-hair tuftings and birchbark bitings. Also Friday wine and cheese reception.

Major sponsor: CAMECO - Canadian Mining and Energy Corporation.

Entry deadline: Noon on March 8, 1991.

Entry fee: \$15 per person, \$40 family, \$10 Jackrabbit tour. Banquet tickets: \$12.

Contact: Jim Andrews, La Ronge Ski Club, Box 168, La Ronge, Sask. SOJ 1L0. Tel: (306) 425-3215, (W) 425-2255, fax: 425-3955. For registration, contact Maryanne Rings at same address or call 425-3080.

#10

LA LOppet FLEISCHMANN CAMP MERCIER MONT STE-ANNE

Date: March 16, 1991.

Location: Mont Ste-Anne, Quebec. Longest event starts at Camp Mercier, home of approximately 20 feet of snow each year, and finishes at Mont Ste-Anne.

Distances: 65km Cl. Also 25km Fr and 15km Cl.

Start time: 8 a.m.

Entry details: No entry deadline. \$40 for 65km event only for those 18 and older. 25km fr: \$24, 15km cl: \$16, 5km fr: those 18 and under. Can enter morning of the event.

Details: One of the nicest loppet courses in Canada, moving through park of 20,000 square kilometres with countless lakes, virgin snow and not an automobile to be seen for miles. Unique wilderness experience.

Organizing club: Club Nordique Mont Ste-Anne.

Race contact: Pierre Vézina, 3945 Ave. Royale, St-Feréol, Que. GOA 3R0. Tel: (418) 827-4561. Fax: 827-3121.

