



February 1, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Don Sumanik Memorial Homecoming Freestyle Cross Country Ski Race held

Yukon's first cross country ski race of the year was completed Saturday. The 26th running of the Don Sumanik Memorial Homecoming Race was hosted by Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club. Elsie Sumanik attended and presented awards and ribbons at the close of the event.

Day 2 – the freestyle technique race – was postponed three times due to cold temperatures following the day one classic technique event on December 27. Racers competed in ideal conditions with fresh snow from Thursday, freshly groomed and an optimum temperature of -4C. Approximately 40 racers participated.

The race is traditionally scheduled to include homecoming college students. Due to the postponed day two race, most college students had already returned to school. This allowed younger skiers to shine. In the Open Men's 10km race Knute Johnsgaard edged out Logan Potter by 34 seconds with a winning time of 30.47. Jeff Wood came in third. Meanwhile, in the Open Women's 6.6km race Heidi Brook was the lone remaining racer in a time of 26.28

In other categories highlights included a close race in Juvenile Boys where Izak Baril-Blouin came first in 23.51, just 14 seconds ahead of Fabian Brook. In the Juvenile Girls Dahria Beatty took first place in 16.48. 20 seconds ahead of Kendra Murray. In Midget Girls Emily Wilson won in 11.02, 8 seconds ahead of Moya Painter. This was an identical lead as MiniMidget Girls where Cambria Fuerstner took 11.35 over Alexis Gee.

Knute Johnsgaard won the combined two day total time honour and trophy in the Open Male class. Heidi Brook earned the Open Female trophy. Knute also won a \$100 cash award donated by Elsie Sumanik for the most promising up and coming skier.

Many thanks go out to all the volunteers who put up with schedule changes and uncertain snow conditions and to Grey Mountains Lions for their ongoing support for this event.

Complete results are available at <http://zone4.ca/results.asp?id=2152>

The next ski race will be a low key sprint race on Saturday February 7 at Mt. McIntyre Ski Chalet

- 30 -

For more information contact:

Alain Masson
867 334-9220
xcyukon@northwestel.net

Claude Chabot
867 333-0171
cchabot@northwestel.net