



National Development Centre Thunder Bay

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (NDC) THUNDER BAY TEAM INTRODUCED

(Thunder Bay, Oct 27th, 2011) The National Development Centre (NDC) Thunder Bay cross country ski team opened their “push” towards the competitive season with their second annual team kick-off event at one of the organization’s main sponsors - PUSH Fitness Centre. The event showcased the talented athletes and acknowledged the support of the team’s community sponsors. The day was highlighted by an exciting roller-ski team sprint relay race featuring NDC athletes. Each team represented NDC’s gold level sponsors who are Fresh Air Experience, RBC Royal Bank, CRC Communications, and the event host, PUSH Fitness Centre.

After an exciting 2010/2011 season where the team saw Michael Somppi qualify for the National Team, Andy Shields and Erin Tribe make the World Junior and Under 23 championships and Andrea Lee become National University Champion, the team is looking to continue to assert themselves as the lead development centre in Canada.

With the return of Head Coach, Eric Bailey, now in his 8th year and assistant coach Timo Puiras, the team is looking fit and strong for the upcoming season. This year will be a very busy one as the team will compete in numerous events across North America to vie for spots on World teams. The season winds up with the Canadian National Championships in Mte. Ste, Anne, QC in March.

NDC welcomes 4 new faces to Thunder Bay:

- Alannah Maclean from Sudbury
- Jack Carlyle from Sault Ste. Marie
- Jordan Cascagnette from Penetanguishene; and
- Nick Monette from Oakville

These new faces all bring talent and enthusiasm to an already strong team and will set the foundation for NDC to succeed this season and into the future. The team now consists of 12 athletes and 3 staff members, the largest team in multiple years. Below is a complete roster for the 2011/2012 season.

Name	Club	Hometown	Year on NDC	Racing Category
Michael Somppi	Lappe Nordic	Thunder Bay	5th	Senior Man
Harry Seaton	Team Hardwood	Orillia	4th	Senior Man
Chris Hamilton	Big Thunder Nordic	Thunder Bay	3rd	Senior Man (U23)
Erin Tribe	Team Hardwood	Barrie	3rd	Senior Woman (U23)
Dudley Coulter	Big Thunder Nordic	Marathon	2nd	Senior Man (U23)
Jimmy Gunka	Big Thunder Nordic	Thunder Bay	2nd	Senior Man (U23)
Andrea Lee	Strathcona Nordic	Black Creek, BC	2nd	Senior Woman (U23)
Andy Shields	Waterloo Region Nordic	Waterloo	2nd	Senior Man (U23)
Jack Carlyle	Soo Finnish Nordic	Sault Ste. Marie	1st	Junior Man
Jordan Cascagnette	Team Hardwood	Penetanguishene	1st	Senior Man (U23)
Alannah Maclean	Walden Fitness Club	Sudbury	1st	Junior Woman
Nick Monette	Team Hardwood	Oakville	1st	Junior Man
Eric Bailey	Head Coach	Thunder Bay	8	
Timo Puiras	Wax Technician/Assistant Coach	Thunder Bay	3	
Amanda Holdsworth	Team Manager	Orillia	2	

NDC is on the web at: www.ntdc-tbay.on.ca. For updates on the team’s latest adventures and a detailed race calendar, be sure to visit the website.

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NDC Quick facts:

- NDC is a community-based organization working within the framework of Cross Country Canada to provide elite cross-country skiers with intensive training and competition programs.
- It is one of only four NDC's in Canada with the others based in: Quebec City, Callaghan Valley, BC, and Canmore, AB.
- Since 1994, NDC-Thunder Bay has been a cornerstone for the development of elite cross-country ski racers in Canada. These outstanding young men and women are dedicated to the challenge of becoming Canada's future Olympians and represent excellent role models to the sporting youth in Thunder Bay and across Canada.
- NDC alumni include Canadian Olympic team members, Sean Crooks and Brittany Webster. Many alumni have gone on to represent Canada on the world stage.

For more information contact:

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