



## Media Advisory

February 28, 2014

### **CALEDONIA NORDIC SKI CLUB HOSTS THE 2014 PRINCE GEORGE TOYOTA SPIRIT OF THE RIVERS LOPPET ON MARCH 9, 2014**

The Otway Nordic Center will be bustling with activity beginning at 10:00AM (the first morning of Daylight Saving Time) on Sunday, March 9, 2014 as families and individual skiers participate in the Annual Spirit of the Rivers Loppet, this year sponsored by Prince George Toyota.

The Prince George Toyota, Spirit of the Rivers Loppet is a fun, recreational style, family-oriented event with categories for all. The loppet meets everyone's expectation whether it is competition or a relaxing way to spend a day outside taking in the pristine beauty at the Otway Nordic Center. The Caledonia Marathon Trophy was awarded in its inaugural year, 1977, to the "Family Ski", recognizing the recreational nature of this event. In 1978 The Caledonia Marathon Trophy was awarded to Rolf Pettersen, who is recognized in the Prince George Sports Hall of Fame for his ability as a Nordic skier, as he was the first to complete 25 kilometres.

Last year some skiers completed as little as 2.5 kilometres; some as many as 30 kilometres; some dressed up in costumes; and others pulled tots in ski chariots. Afterwards, in the Rotary Nordic Lodge, all participants enjoyed the camaraderie and the chili or soup and bun included in the entry fee. This year The Caledonia Nordic Ski Club is hoping to surpass the 123 skiers who gathered at Otway on March 3, 2013.

In 2013, on the competitive side, David Zurevinski, of Vanderhoof's Nechako Nordic Ski Club, narrowly edged out Tony Fiala and Will Andal, both from the host club, in the 30 kilometre Open Men's race. The women's 30 kilometre race was dominated by the Caledonia Nordic Ski Club with Jacqui Benson in first, followed by Shar Balogh, and Jacqui Pettersen. Gord Horning was the fastest Classic Skiing person and Gillian Recknell was the fastest Classic skiing women to complete the 30 kilometre course. Other 2013 results can be found at:

<http://zone4.ca/results.asp?id=5638>

Registration for this event closes at 11:59PM on March 5, sign up online at <http://new.zone4.ca/>. More information is available at: <http://caledonianordic.com/races-results/caledonia-loppet>

## BACKGROUND

A Loppet is a great gathering of Nordic skiers who ski either Classic (Diagonal Stride) or Free Technique (Skating) on a specifically groomed trail of various distances. In Europe enormous amounts of food and drink are consumed during the event. After the skiing is finished there is a

# SPRIT OF THE RIVERS LOPPET



Prince George  
**TOYOTA**



party and celebratory banquet with awards, prizes and possibly a dance. **The Vasaloppet** in Sweden is a 90-km classic cross-country ski course that is the most popular and oldest in the history of classic Nordic skiing. It is where the Worldloppet—the world championship long-distance races—are held. It all starts on Sunday, March 2, 2014, at 8:00 in the morning in the city of Sälen.

Every year there are about 16,500 participants who ski from Sälen to Mora as they traverse forests, hills, and frozen lakes. Participants have an unforgettable memory of this great course. Thanks to thousands of spectators all along the course, participants are cheered on so much that they forget the difficult moments during the race. And what awaits them is even better when they cross the finish line in Mora—the setting is spectacular and magical.

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