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Benson 2nd in CC Ski



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Monday, February 17, 2014 - 7:00 AM
By Hartley Miller

Prince George, B.C.

--Host BC led the team standings at the Haywood Nor Am Western Canadian Cross-Country Ski Championships at the Otway Nordic Center.

BC captured the Swix Fischer Trophy amassing 6450 total points over the three days of competitions, well ahead of Alberta with 4779 points. Ontario came third with 722 points followed by Manitoba (692), the Northwest Territories (689), Saskatchewan (384) and Quebec (274).

Jacqui Benson of the local Caledonia Nordic Ski Club placed 2nd in the Open Women's 15Km Free Technique race, just 1:21 behind the winner Maya Macisaac-Jones of Rocky Mountain, who completed the course in 50:34.7.

Russell Kennedy of the Canmore Nordic club took first place in the Open Men 20Km Free Technique edging out Quebec's Ezekiel Williams by just 0.7 of a second.

The Junior Boys 10 Km was won by Gabriel Price from the Bulkley Valley Ski Club in Smithers.

Lauren Doak from the Whistler Nordic Club took top honors in the Junior Girls 7.5 Km race. Prince George racer Erika Kreitz finished 12th while Pippa Roots ended up 16th.

Molly Miller from Kimberley won the Juvenile Girls 7.5 Km race. Caledonia Club's Kaia Andal of Caledonia took 3rd.

The Juvenile Boys 10 Km race was won by Canmore Nordic's Ty Godfrey. Three PG local racers competed with Bobby Kreitz 19th, Logan Sherba 23rd and Kristian Jensen-Leblanc 26th.

Hanneli Ladyman from BC's Overlander Ski Club crossed the finish line first in the 3.75 Km Midget Girls race. Caledonia Ski Club racers Sadie Bialuski, Danika Fiala and Mackenzie Connon

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finished 7th, 8th and 9th ,respectively.

The Midget Boys 3.75 Km race was won by Remi Drolet of the Black Jack Club. Caledonia Nordic's Liam Connon placed 8th and Bhavish Parshotam came 10th.

The Masters Women 7.5 Km race was won by local racer Jacqui Pettersen while the Masters Men 10 Km race was won by John Hagen.

"The quality of facilities and trails now available at Otway as a result of volunteer efforts and investment by public and private supporters over the past 3 years is second to none in Canada and would make many World Cup sites envious, commented Dave Dyer, Race Director for Cross Country Canada the sanctioning body in Canada for the sport. The Nordic athletes at the 2015 Canada Winter Games are sure to have a tremendous experience next season."

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