



National Development Centre Thunder Bay

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

October 20th, 2010

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (NDC) THUNDER BAY TEAM INTRODUCED

(Thunder Bay, Oct 20, 2010) The National Development Centre (NDC) Thunder Bay cross country ski team opened their “*push*” towards the competitive season with their first 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, and the event host, PUSH Fitness Centre.

Under the tutelage of Head Coach Eric Bailey, now in his 7th year with NDC, the team is looking strong and race ready. The coming season promises to be an exciting one for the team and for the Thunder Bay Ski community since it will play host to two major events. From January 6th to the 9th, selection races will take place at Lappe Nordic Ski Centre for the 2011 Junior and Under 23 World Championships slated for February in Otepää, Estonia and for the 2011 Canada Winter Games being held in Halifax, NS from February 11-27. These January selection events will be a great opportunity to cheer on the team as they compete on home turf against some of the top skiers in the country.

The 2010-11 season will be a very busy one as the team will compete in numerous events against the best skiers from all over North America. The season winds up with the Canadian National Championships in Canmore, Alberta in March.

NDC welcomes four new athletes to the team:

- Andrea Lee from Strathcona Nordic on Vancouver Island;
- Andy Sheids from Waterloo Region Nordic; and
- Dudley Coulter and Jimmy Gunka both from Big Thunder Nordic Ski Club.

These new faces all bring talent and enthusiasm to an already strong team and will all set the foundation for NDC to succeed this season and long into the future. Below is a complete roster for the 2010/2011 season.

Name	Hometown	Home Club	Yr. on NDC	Racing Category
Michael Somppi	Thunder Bay	Lappe Nordic	4 th	Senior Men (U23)
Harry Seaton	Orillia	Team Hardwood	3 rd	Senior Men
Scott Sullivan	Thunder Bay	Big Thunder Nordic	2 nd	Senior Men (U23)
Leif Lennie	Ottawa	Nakkertok	2 nd	Senior Men (U23)
Erin Tribe	Barrie	Team Hardwood	2 nd	Senior Women (U23)
Chris Hamilton	Thunder Bay	Big Thunder Nordic	2 nd	Senior Men (U23)
Andrea Lee	Black Creek, BC	Strathcona Nordic	1 st	Senior Women (U23)
Dudley Coulter	Marathon	Big Thunder Nordic	1 st	Senior Men (U23)
Andy Shields	Waterloo	Waterloo RNSC	1st	Junior Men
Jimmy Gunka	Thunder Bay	Big Thunder Nordic	1st	Junior Men
Eric Bailey	Thunder Bay	Head Coach	7	
Timo Puiras	Thunder Bay	Wax Technician	2	
Amanda Holdsworth	Orillia	Team Manager	1	

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, ALB.
- 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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