

## SHIELDS GRABS SILVER IN HALIFAX



Andy Shields, a first year member of the National Development Centre - Thunder Bay team claimed a silver medal at the Canada Winter Games in the 1000m skate sprint. Shields, who lives and trains out of Thunder Bay proved he is now becoming one of the best all around skiers for his age in Canada. Shields had a great race today and the snow conditions seemed to play in his favour. Shields commented after his race, "The snow conditions took a change from yesterday - there were some really soft, 'sugary' sections on the course. I was able to float over them not too badly and it probably turned out to be an advantage for me." Shields just edged out Michael Somppi in the quarter finals and unfortunately eliminated Somppi from the heats. Somppi is not losing any hope for a gold medal which he hopes to bring home in the 15km classic race taking place on Thursday. He stated after Tuesday's skate race, "I'm very happy with the result but I am still hungry for a gold." It's going to be an exciting rest of the week to see what Team Ontario and the National Development Centre can do!

On the women's side, Erin Tribe just missed the medals by less than a boot length. She ended the day in 4th position and is hungry for the medals. Other results include NDC - Thunder Bay member Andrea Lee, who is representing her home province of BC, had a strong top 10 finish, placing 9th. On the men's side Thunder Bay native Jimmy Gunka finished an impressive 10th position, Michael Somppi was 13th, and Chris Hamilton ended up 20th.

Racing continues at the Martock Ski Centre on Thursday with a classic mass start followed on Saturday with the relay races.

