

Ramblers Orienteering Club

13th Annual Mount-Royal Score-O — November 6, 2011

This annual event, with its mass start format, has enjoyed an unbroken string of sunny and mild days since its inception in 1999 – no doubt contributing to its rising popularity. There was no exception this year. Nearly 200 took part in the two-hour meet which started at the grand chalet by the Lookout, atop Mount Royal.

Bruce Glen again designed the course layout and put in place the 40 controls that were used. A lot of careful map reading by participants would be needed to eliminate wasted time and effort. Competitors had two minutes prior to the 10:17 a.m. start in which to study their map and make crucial route-choice decisions before dashing off in all directions. How well those two minutes were spent could and did decide their O-fortunes that morning.

We had one unexpected starter... a 50-year-old visitor from England, Andrew Stott, out for a jog on the mountain, spotted people running with maps. He quickly found us in the chalet and was soon on the course, himself. The North Gloucester O Club member placed 8th, scoring 560 points.

With Thomas Kneubühler electing to run for only one hour because of an injury, **Francis Falardeau** had an easy win, returning in a fast 1:21:21 with all controls found – and over 38 minutes to spare of the two-hour limit. A pair of much younger runners, **Matt Hryciuk** and **Timothee Govare** was second and third, returning in 1:34:01 and 1:42:34 respectively. Three other men achieved the maximum 600 points in less than the full two hours. Another just missed because of a 10-point penalty incurred for being one minute overtime.

Varela Aurore led the field of 22 women with a very creditable score of 530 points, improving by 30 points over her win of last year. **Laura Fuchs** was 2nd with 460 pts. and **Jessica Auer** was 3rd with 440. More than half of the women achieved scores of over 250.

There were 46 ‘starts’, comprising about 60 individuals, in the **TEAMS/FAMILIES** division. Emerging with the most points were the pair of **Louis Simon Capistran** and **Daniel Grimard** with 550. **Stéphane Lamy** and son, **Rakan** (14), were 2nd with 480, followed by **Johnny Hlibchuck** and **M. Pasandi** (470). Glenn Wight and **George Hill** came 4th with 460 points.

31 students from Karen Oljemark’s Outdoor Education class at John Abbott College also enthusiastically took part in the Score-O. **Alex Cornellier**, with some previous family experience in Orienteering, was an easy leader with 320 points. **Raquel Charron** was top woman **and** 2nd overall, accumulating 260 pts. Both suffered from late-return penalty points.

Mount Royal, at 230 meters, is a modest summit as mountains go. But for Orienteering it’s a classic locale. With a multitude of carefully mapped trails – both major and less-distinct – it can certainly provide a lot of intricate route-choice decisions and simultaneously require plenty of physical effort. All participants can be proud of their efforts last Sunday.

A Big THANK YOU to the many members who helped at the event – there were over a dozen, in all! But, special acknowledgements must go to Bruce, Elaine, Céline and Gloria, who also performed major tasks both prior to and following the event.

I hope everyone enjoyed the glorious weather along with the challenging Orienteering.

John