

## Ramblers Orienteering Club

### 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Mount-Royal Score-O — November 8, 2009

**I**t couldn't have been better. After many days of cool and wet weather we enjoyed a gorgeous Sunday, with sunny skies and a temperature up to 15°, ideal for a run on the mountain.

Meet Director, Bruce Glen, with much help from partner, Elaine, set a 40-control, 2-hour O-challenge on an 11" x 17" version of our map, making use of the whole of Mt. Royal from one end to the other and through the Mount Royal Cemetery to the edge of the Université de Montréal. Although most controls were not too difficult to locate, careful route choice was needed to save on hill-climbing. Just prior to the 10:13 a.m. start, competitors were given two minutes to study the map prior to dashing off in all directions. This time, spent in formulating a route strategy, would be decisive to the success of each enthusiast.

In the end, it was our webmaster, **Thomas Kneubühler**, who returned with the winning run in a time of 1:27:39, having visited all 40 checkpoints. **Lukas Wildi**, a visiting Swiss Orienteer, was 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1:42:40, just 10 seconds ahead of another local stalwart, **Stéphane Rousseau**.

**Tappio Haarlaa**, here on a business trip from Finland (*winner of last year's Score-O*), was 4<sup>th</sup> in 1:44:44. He was forced to make a 1.5 km dash back into the Cemetery section when he realized that he had overlooked and by-passed one of the easy controls there. An even greater heartbreak befell our oft-time champion, **Francis Falardeau**. Francis returned with what was actually the fastest run of the day (1:22:31) but it was discovered later that he had jotted down an incorrect code at one of the first controls. A unfortunate way to lose!

**Johanna Ragvald**, a student here, but a member of a Swedish O club, was the **top woman** of the day. She reached all but 2 of the controls in the allotted time, for a point total of 580 out of a possible 600. **Sarah Wilson** and **Aurore Varela** and were 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> amongst the ladies, with 440 and 430 points respectively.

**A Big THANK YOU** to the members who helped with the event. At the Registration and Timing tables ...Barbara Schumann, Stéphane Rousseau, Christian Reber, Elaine Glen, and Gloria C. (Elaine also picked up more than half the controls before day's end.) And finally, thank you, Bruce, for the great course, and the many pre-event tasks that led to it.

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

*John C*