

## Ramblers Orienteering Club

### 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Mount-Royal Score-O — November 7, 2010

This annual event with its mass start format is becoming our most popular...probably because everyone is together in one great mass at the beginning, and again when they finish.

This year's race was one of the most exciting, at least from the viewpoint of this observer. Just before the 87-minute mark of the 2-hours event, I came out of the chalet and stood at the top of the steps looking down at the "Finish" flag where chief-of-timing, Elaine, stood guard with clock, paper and pen at the ready. It was time for a winner to emerge. Almost immediately, I spotted a runner, clutching a map and approaching from the left (the east). It was **Thomas!** With perspiration dripping profusely, he reached the flag and dropped his card in the blue box. The time was 1:27:03 into the race.

At almost the same moment, **Francis** appeared, sprinting across the concourse from the right (west) side. He was soon at the box – but 9 seconds later than Thomas. Both had all 40 controls correctly recorded. The two immediately sat down and for some time were deeply engrossed in their route-choice experiences. Both felt they had missed opportunities for smarter routes at some point or other along their chosen circuits. It hadn't been easy!

**Bruce Glen** had designed a course layout that required a lot of careful map appraisal to eliminate wasted time and effort. Competitors had two minutes prior to the 10:16 a.m. start in which to study their map and make crucial route-choice decisions before dashing off in all directions. How well this time was spent could and did decide their day.

It was seven minutes later before the 3rd runner checked in. **Mathew Hryciuk** of the Edmonton O Club is currently a post-grad student at McGill. Five more Orienteers made it back to the 600-point circle before the two-hour deadline was up. Dozens of others were soon in, most with creditable results. They'd had a large area to cover and with much uphill involved. A lot of Orienteers that day could be proud of their efforts.

**Aurore Varela** led the 15 women who did the event individually, netting 500 points. Close behind was **Jessica Auer** with 480, one 20-point control short. In the Families and Teams category, two teams from the McGill Outdoors Club led the way, each recording 420 points. There was a tie for top honours in the Students category. **Sarah Kettenbach** and **Andrew Brestansky** each scored 260 points; **Leonie Reitzmann** was close behind for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Amongst all participants, only 15 of the 110 "starts" were assessed a "late penalty" – a costly 10 points per minute, or fraction thereof.

It was a memorable day for the 156 participants and it also marked yet another Club event without rain. It's been an amazing 4½ years since we were poured on. Now we ask "let it snow"!

**A Big THANK YOU** to the many members who helped with the event, notably Gloria, Elaine, Michael Anderson, Barbara Schumann, Stéphane Rousseau, Jeremy Barnes, and Sylvie Perrault. And most importantly, thank you, Bruce, for the great course, and the many pre-event tasks that you did beforehand.

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

*John C*