

Ramblers Orienteering Club

14th Annual Mount-Royal Score-O — November 4, 2012

This annual event, with its mass start and 2-hour maximum format, has been steadily growing in popularity. This year a new record was set for participation – 201 Orienteers took part. Once again the start was at the grand chalet by the Lookout, atop Mount Royal. The weather was dry but cool – about 2°C in the morning.

Bruce Glen designed the course layout and on Saturday afternoon, with Elaine – and in the rain – they put in place the 40 controls and punches, the locations of which were marked on everyone's map. The object for participants: find as many as possible within the time limit. The 20 controls nearest to the Start were worth 10 points each; the others: 20. Returning late would cost 10 points per minute of overtime!

A lot of careful map reading and smart route choices were going to be needed to make a good score. Competitors were given two minutes prior to “the start” in which to study their map and make crucial route-choice decisions. At exactly 10:00 a.m. the start whistle was blown. Everyone dashed off in all directions. The plaza was suddenly quiet.

At 1:26:20 into the race the first runner appeared at the Finish. **Francis Falardeau** had won another event! Six other competitors achieved the maximum 600 points and completed the course in under 2 hours. Tied for 2nd place were **Philippe Côté-Jacques** and **Nicolas Barrière**, each returning at 1:47:58. The top woman this year was **Jessica Auer**. She achieved 560 points, 10 points more than **Sarah Wilson** who was 2nd. **Yuliya Klochko** was 3rd with 530.

In addition to the Individual classes there were 43 groups who took part in the **Teams division**. A McGill Outdoors Club team led the field with an excellent 580 points. Taking part also were 40 students from Karen Oljemark's Outdoor Education class at John Abbott College. Their top scorer, G.C-DeGraaf, registered 310 points.

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

A Very Big THANK YOU to the many, many members who helped at the event; foremost among them:
Bruce, who designed the course and, with Elaine, put in place all the controls;
Francis who created and produced the unique punch card;
Gloria for registering and organizing waivers, as well as for a multitude of tasks before and after the meet;
Geoffrey, Thomas, Francis, Céline, Julie, Lina & Maia — result-card checking and tallying;
Bruce & Elaine again for picking up controls, along with Francis, Céline, Julie & Annie;
the smiling waiver-signing team : Michael, Dmitri and Jane;
the map distribution duo : Barbara and Christine;
Ralph, for taking wonderful pictures to remind us of the great day;
Stéphane – translating the pre-start announcements with his usual flair;
Thomas – for superbly and timely updating the web site;
and, for those who helped and weren't mentioned, we appreciate and thank you also !!

I hope everyone enjoyed the day along with the challenging Orienteering.

John