



2010 Haywood Ski Nationals

For Immediate Release

Whitehorse, Yukon

Nationals Heading North!

Cross Country Canada has awarded the 2010 Haywood Ski Nationals to the Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club.

The event will take place at the club's Mt MacIntyre site in mid-March of 2010, just a few weeks after the 2010 Olympics wrap up.

This will be the biggest event the Whitehorse club has hosted in many years. The Haywood Ski Nationals encompass both junior and senior events and includes the Canadian Colleges and University Championships (CCUNC). "The 2010 Haywood Ski Nationals will be the last major event on the domestic calendar for the Olympic season," stated Dave Dyer, CCC Events Director. "The Whitehorse Ski Club did a tremendous job in 2007 when they hosted the cross-country skiing events at the Canada Winter Games, we are confident the community will again treat young Canadians to a unique blend of northern hospitality and great skiing in 2010."

About 400 skiers are expected to participate, representing the elite of Canada's ski community. Along with the skiers, another 50 – 70 coaching and support staff will be coming to town.

Each skier can participate in up to 5 races spread over an 8 day stretch. The races will encompass everything from sprints to long distance races, team sprints, mass and interval start races.

For Haywood Securities, title sponsorship of the Ski Nationals is a natural extension to their 7 year sponsorship of the National Ski Team and NorAm Canada Cup Series. The Sprint event at the Ski Nationals will be presented by Teck Ltd., the national sponsor of the Teck Sprint Series since 2007.

This is a unique opportunity for Yukon skiers to compete at the highest level without the usual grind of national travel and local skiers are looking forward to the challenge. "It's awesome that the Nationals are coming to Whitehorse" noted National Junior Cross Country Team member Emily Nishikawa.

Fellow Junior National Team member David Greer agrees. "I grew up skiing these trails and that gives me a definite advantage" he commented. "Being at home is more relaxing so it's easier to recover between races."

Home field advantage seemed to work for the skiers at the 2007 Canada Winter Games when they were held in Whitehorse; cross country skiers brought home three of the four medals won by Yukon athletes during the Winter Games. In 2010 organizers will host Para-Nordic competitions for the first time on a National scale as many new athletes to the sport prepare for inclusion in the 2011 Canada Winter Games.

The Nationals are the ultimate test of a Canadian skier's performance. Nishikawa said that "Everyone comes to the Ski Nationals, it's the focus for the last half of the season for us."

The five race series is the ultimate measure of speed and tactics and especially endurance for the athletes and competition is always intense.

The Whitehorse club and the Yukon ski team have performed well over the past few seasons, finishing in 4th place in the country at last year's Nationals with strong performances by all skiers, including medal performances by both Nishikawa and Greer.

The Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club has established a solid reputation among skiers across the country for putting on great events. About 200 volunteers will be hard at work over the next couple of ski seasons training and preparing for the races.

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Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club
The best ski trails in the Yukon.

