

## NDC-Thunder Bay Athletes Put in Solid Performances



**N**DC-Thunder Bay athletes finished their first races of the competitive season this past weekend at Sovereign Lakes Nordic Centre in Vernon, BC. These races were the first stop on the Haywood Noram/Teck Sprint race series and attracted many of the top skiers from across Canada and the United States.

With over 250 racers from across North America, competition was tight. In his first year of senior racing, Waterloo native, Andy Shields finished a solid 15th place in the classic sprint races in a very deep field of 53 racers. Michael Somppi was the next NDC athlete who crossed the line in 21st position. Other notable results included Alannah MacLean who finished 16th in the Junior Women's Category.



Andy Shields steps quickly around a tight turn

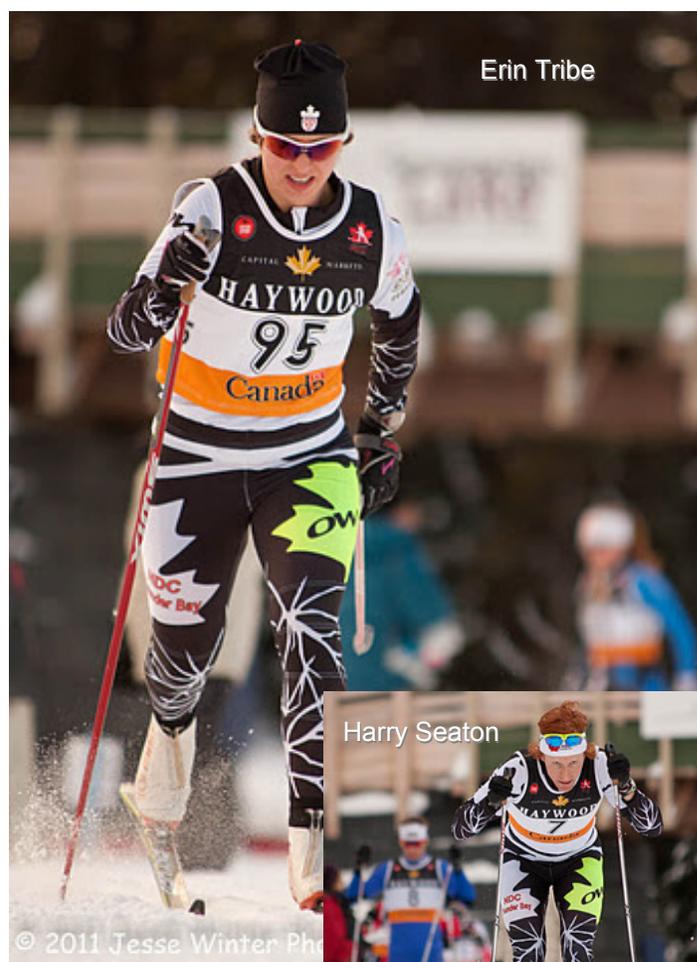
On the second day of competition, Michael Somppi finished an impressive 12th position in the 15km classic race in a strong field of 79 athletes. Chris Hamilton was close behind in 19th position. In the Junior Men's category, Jack Carlyle came in a very solid 11th place. On the women's side, Andrea Lee finished 23rd in a strong Senior Women's category of 62 racers. Erin Tribe crossed the line in 26th position.

Head Coach Eric Bailey was pretty impressed by the teams' performance, "the athletes performed great for the time of year. Our key races do not take place until mid-January so I'm really looking forward to seeing them improve each race."

Full results can be found on [www.zone4.ca](http://www.zone4.ca) and you can also find highlights and pictures from the races on

[www.fasterskier.com](http://www.fasterskier.com) Also check out the attached pictures from [www.jessewinterphotography.com](http://www.jessewinterphotography.com) - more action shots from the weekend can be found on his website. Jesse was there taking pictures for Fasterskier and is a NDC alumnus.

Racing continues in Rossland, BC this weekend for the second stop of the Haywood Noram/Teck Sprint race series. Saturday gets underway with free technique sprints and finishes off on Sunday with a mass start free race.



Erin Tribe

Harry Seaton

All photos by Jesse Winter  
[www.jessewinterphotography.com](http://www.jessewinterphotography.com)

Jesse Winter Photography.com