



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**

**PRESS CONFERENCE**  
**“GATINEAU LOPPET PROGRAM LINEUP UNVEILED”**

**GATINEAU, JANUARY 27, 2016** – The Gatineau Loppet Organizing Committee today unveiled the full program lineup for the 38<sup>th</sup> edition of the **BIGGEST INTERNATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY SKI EVENT IN CANADA**. In just a month, on **FEBRUARY 26, 27 AND 28, 2016**, Gatineau Park’s cross country ski trails will be teeming with thousands of skiers from across the region and from some 20 countries around the world. This year’s event is taking place two weeks later than usual in order to provide a five-day cross-country skiing experience that includes **SKI TOUR CANADA 2016** at Jacques Cartier Park on March 1.

**2016 SCHEDULE - REGISTRATIONS**

In order to satisfy the demand, once again this year there will be eight races for different levels of skiers. All of Saturday, February 27 will be dedicated to the classic style, with the 5km *Tourisme Outaouais*, the 15km, the 27km *Otto’s BMW/SUBARU* and the 51km *Swix* linear, the latter departing from P17 in Wakefield. On Sunday, February 28, there will be the 2km *Mini Sport Échange Outaouais*, the 10km *Ski Tour*, 27km *Ski Trax* and 51km freestyles. There will also be three snowshoe races, presented by *Atlas*, on Sunday, February 28: the 2.5km initiation, the 5km and the 10km.

Cross-country skiers can still take full advantage of a discount on the Gatineau Loppet. Online registrations will continue until February 24th, with the guarantee of a spot in the race of your choice. On-site registration will begin at 5 p.m. on Friday, February 26th at École secondaire Mont-Bleu. Please note that skiers can now sign up as a team for the 27 and 51km races. Each team must have a minimum of five people, including at least one woman. Only the four best times of the members of a given team will be counted towards the prize on the race weekend.

**NEW RACES FOR THE GATINEAU LOPPET**

Major new development for the Gatineau Loppet and Gatineau Park: for the very first year, the program will include **TWO FAT BIKE RACES**. Both races will take place on Saturday, February 27 (5km and 10km), leaving from École secondaire Mont-Bleu, and using trails 65 and 66. These races have been made possible thanks to the help of the NCC and the Ottawa Mountain Bike Association.

### **CHELSEA SUPER SPRINT JEUNESSE**

The **CHELSEA NORDIQ SKI CLUB**, in collaboration with the Gatineau Loppet, the municipality of Chelsea and the CLD des Collines-de-l'Outaouais, invites you to the **CHELSEA SUPER SPRINT JEUNESSE** on Saturday, February 27 at 3 p.m. sharp. **FOR THIS YEAR ONLY**, this event, exclusively for young skiers aged 9 to 17, will be held on the **SKI TOUR CANADA** trails, and will be peppered with obstacles, jumps and tight turns. Registration is underway until midnight, February 25.

### **HONORARY PRESIDENTS**

This year, the Gatineau Loppet is proud to announce that a very well known local couple, **LISE MELOCHE AND DAVID McMAHON**, will be its **HONORARY PRESIDENTS**. These cross-country skiers and biathletes, both with impressive track records, are true ambassadors for the sport. Lise has twice competed in Olympic games, and has been in more than 200 world cup races, raking in seven medals, including a gold and a world champion title. David is a Canadian biathlon champion, having placed third in the world for the summer biathlon, and having represented Canada at the World Snowshoe Championships and on the Woldloppet cross country circuit. Lise and David wrote *The cross-country ski manual*, have produced a number of films about skiing, and created a YouTube series that has accumulated more than 3000 members and two million hits. They have mentored thousands of people through their Natural Fitness Lab, the biggest ski, snowshoe and running program in the country. Lise and David invite all cross-country ski fans to join in the 2016 Gatineau Loppet as part of a team or on their own.

The Gatineau Loppet wants to thank its partners, specifically Ville de Gatineau, Swix, Otto's BMW and Subaru, Demsis Recreational Services, Nordik Spa-Nature, Fischer, Sport Échange Outaouais, the Chelsea Pub, Biscotti, Gainsbourg, Atlas Snow-shoe, Xact Nutrition, Espaces plein-air, Ski Trax, FasterSkier, Tourisme Outaouais, Développement économique - CLD Gatineau, the National Capital Commission (NCC), Norway Embassy, the Crowne Plaza and the Ramada Plaza Manoir du Casino and all others Official suppliers and Associative partners.

For additional information, visit the Gatineau Loppet Web site at [gatineauloppet.com](http://gatineauloppet.com).

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*The Gatineau Loppet is run by the Simoncic Group, an agency that specializes in event management, and that also manages Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie, the Festival Franco-Ontarien Banque Nationale, the Franco-Fête de Toronto, and the St-Albert Curd Festival.*

#### **Source:**

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