

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

An extremely fast Prologue for the raiders!

Carleton-sur-Mer, September 8th 2016. The kick off of the Prologue was done at 1:00 pm under a persisting rain that lasts all day long, but this was not enough to affect the good humour and energy of the 70 teams of the 150 K and 300 K of this third edition of the Raid International Gaspésie! At their sides, 200 youths of the Commission scolaire René-Lévesque, the Commission scolaire Chic-Chocs and the Commission scolaire Eastern Shores have also taken the start under the arch located at the Light House of the Pointe Tracadigash for the Desjardins Youth Prologue.

Some minutes before the start, the racers were informed of a change in the race course commanded by the high rains that had fallen all night and made a bushwhacking section very technical and too risky, and a transition transformed in mud field impossible to use with the assistance vehicles. The result was to cancel three control points... making the prologue, which always has the reputation to be very rapid, extremely rapid!

The first team were then fighting hard for the first place and there was no place for a mistake. Has Ruben Mandure of the team **Uruguay Natural Ultra Sports** put it, a small mistake could cost a lot for the position of the team in the race.

We first thought about a victory, for this first day, of the team **Azimut/Espresso Sport** formed by Lyne Bessette, Dany Déry-Chamberland, Benoit Simard and Martin Hardy, before they realized they had missed a control point and ran back to take it losing precious time. Some minutes later, Team **Estonian ACE Adventure** (brothers Timmo and Joosep Tammemäe) passed the finish line, followed by the winners of the last two years, team **Dynafit SkimoEast** (Jeff Rivest, George Visser, Patrick Lussier, Évelyne Blouin) and by team **Uruguay Natural Ultra Sports** (Ruben Mandure and Nicolas Alfageme) that are here for the third time. Team Azimut/Espresso Sport finished 5th.

As for the 150 K, three regional teams crossed the finish line in the first three positions overall: the female duet of team **Rhéal Pitre Sport/Clinique vétérinaire de la Baie** (Audrey Bastien and Marianne Desrosiers) crossed the line in third place, team **Intersport Carleton** (Jean-Michel Boudreault and Joël Poirier) in second position and the winner of the prologue is **Paysage Navigue.com** (Marc-André Toupin, Benoit Poirier, Jean-Sébastien Babin and Louis-Gabriel Pinard).

Once again this year, the conviviality reigns between the different teams participating in the GIR : Simon Leblanc and Edith Pépin from the team **La Beauce Débarque** were so disappointed to realize that they had lost their passport on which they had punched all the control points... until a team behind brought it back to the finish line! That made their day!

And regarding the youth race, they all passed the finish line with a big smile and mud on their running shoes (among others), very proud to have succeeded with this challenge bigger than nature. The Desjardins Youth Prologue was reserving many surprises this year: it was longer and more technical than the precedent years, and included a jump from the Carleton dock to swim into the sea to catch a control point!

The start of Day 1 will be given tomorrow morning at the St-Elzéar cave (non-public start) and the population can see the racers at 2:30 pm from the bridge of the Domaine des Chutes du Ruisseau Creux in Saint-Alphonse.

- 30 -



For further information:



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