

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **Desjardins Youth Prologue: speed, rain and mud!**

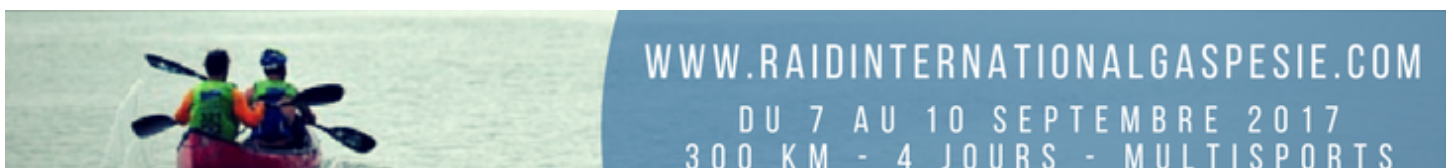
**Carleton-sur-Mer, Septembre 7, 2017.** — It's in a thrilling atmosphere that the youngsters of the Desjardins Youth Prologue have given the kick to the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Gaspésie International Raid (GIR) this afternoon, at 1 pm, at the Antoine-Bernard School. Some 225 high school students from the Gaspésie and Bas-Saint-Laurent region have not been intimidated by the threatening sky.

We could feel the adrenaline on the starting line: each team was matched with an athlete doing the GIR with whom they have completed the 20-km course. Many surprises awaited them in addition to the biking, running and canoeing sections, among which a suspended ladder and a *slackline*. Due to the weather and risks of hypothermia, the control point in a pool was cancelled.

The team of Louis Henry and Paul Fugère, from Antoine-Bernard School from Carleton-sur-Mer, crossed the finish in first position with a muddy smiley face! "It was really fun. I have no regret at all to have done the Raid for a third time. It was a wonderful experience!" said Paul Fugère, few seconds after his arrival, still on his bike. "I may start to consider doing the 150 K, even if it's a really big challenge", he said.

Jean-François Thériault, from *Les frères Thériault* Team, doing the 300 K, was matched with Louis and Paul. "This morning, I saw my name on the sheet and I saw that I was matched with my nephew and his friend... I knew that it would be fast!" With a three-year experience of participating in the RIG (Gaspésie international Raid), Jean-François could serve as mentor and give them some advice. "Take the time, look at the map, be sure about the next CP (Control Point). This was a good warm up for tomorrow!" A new concept this year: the RIG athletes were fully part of the Youth Prologue instead of doing their own Prologue in parallel. Their first official day of race will start tomorrow, September 8, in the Saint-Octave-de-l'Avenir sector.

Other teams also crossed the finish line few minutes behind, sometimes under heavy rain and cheered by an impressive crowd of parents, friends and Antoine-Bernard School students.



For Jonathan Fyfe, Organizer of the Youth Prologue at the René-Lévesque Schoolboard, the event is once again a success. "I congratulate the physical education teachers and the people in charge in each school. Classes started last Wednesday. Seven days later, 225 students are here today, it's a real success." He added that the GIR is a source of motivation for the youngsters. "This contributes to having them appreciate sports and outdoor activities, it's a big motivation for their school year. They have benefited from advice from experienced raiders like Patrick Lussier and Lyne Bessette, who have transmitted their skills and knowledge. It is a unique experience for them."

Following the growing success and the huge popularity of the Youth Prologue since the first edition, we already can announce that there will be a next edition in 2018.

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**For information :**

**Diane Léger**

Media Relations, Endurance aventure  
dleger.enduranceaventure@gmail.com  
Mobile : 514 893-0981

**Marie-Ève Allard**

Communications Assistant, RIG  
meve.allard@hotmail.com  
Mobile : 418 392-9298

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