

## **Lakehead Superior Nordic Association to host 2018 Canadian Ski Nationals**

After an extensive review of three applications, the Cross Country Canada Events Committee is pleased to announce that Lakehead Superior Nordic Association will play host to the 2018 Canadian Ski Nationals at the Lappe Nordic Ski Centre between March 10 – 17, 2018.

After hosting to two highly successful NorAm Selection Trial races and the 2015 Canadian Ski Nationals over the past five seasons, the Lappe Nordic Ski Centre will again welcome skiers from across Canada to the friendly trails just outside of Thunder Bay, Ont.

“The Selection Committee was especially impressed with the solid leadership group outlined in the bid package,” said Dave Dyer, events director, Cross Country Canada. “We witness tremendous commitment by volunteers and staff every time we visit Lappe and the local media and business sector have always embraced the sport and made it special for visiting teams.”

Homologated to FIS standards, the trails at Lappe will provide a variety of options for both senior and junior skiers at the 91st running of the National Championship event.

“We are extremely excited about being able to host the Ski Nationals in Thunder Bay again. It is a big event that will require lots of volunteers, but the Thunder Bay ski community is known for its volunteerism and supporting events such as this. Showing skiers from all over Canada how vibrant the Lappe Nordic Ski Centre is for 10 days, as well as creating an athlete centred event gives us, the Local Organizing Committee great pride. We are committed to upholding the “Lappe Standard” of excellence in race hosting,” said Werner Schwar, co –chair of the Local Organizing Committee.

Lappe Nordic Ski Centre last hosted the combined junior and senior Ski Nationals in 2015 when local Michael Somppi won the opening 15 km free technique interval race and then closed out the Nationals with a dominant performance in the 50 km marathon. During the same event, the Lakehead T Wolves took home both CCUNC men’s and women’s banners as the top University/College Nordic Program in the country. Lappe Nordic Ski Centre owner, Reijo Puiras beams: “it gives me great pride to see all the young skiers in Canada racing on these trails..... We’ve worked hard over the years to offer challenging trails in many different snow conditions”.

The 2017 Canadian Ski Nationals will be held at the Canmore Nordic Centre, home of the 1988 Winter Olympics and more recently the final 4 stages of Ski Tour Canada 2016 between March 18 – 25, 2017.

Cross Country Canada is the governing body of cross-country skiing in Canada, which is the nation’s optimal winter sport and recreational activity with more than one million Canadians participating annually. Its 55,000 members include athletes, coaches, officials and skiers of all ages and abilities, including those on Canada’s National Ski Teams and Para-Nordic Ski Teams. With the support of its valued corporate partners – Haywood Securities, AltaGas, Statoil and Canadian Pacific – along with the Government of Canada, Canadian Olympic Committee, Canadian Paralympic Committee, Own the Podium and B2ten, Cross Country Canada develops Olympic, Paralympic and world champions. For more information on Cross Country Canada, please visit us at [www.cccski.com](http://www.cccski.com).

Lakehead Superior Nordic Association is a partnership between the Lappe Nordic Ski Club and Big Thunder Nordic Ski Club created to bid for and host provincial and national level cross country ski races and competitions, as well as promote interest and participation in cross country skiing in the Thunder Bay area.

For volunteer opportunities at the event please contact Mary Ellen Ripley, the 2018 Ski Nationals Volunteer co-ordinator, at [XCskiVolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:XCskiVolunteer@gmail.com)