

MEDIA ADVISORY
November 25, 2008

Canmore Nordic Centre hosts season-opening Biathlon events this weekend

- First event in the NorAm Cup and Calforex Alberta Cup Series -

Canmore, AB – What Mother Nature has failed to provide the staff of the Canmore Nordic Centre has remarkably produced: In this case, a 1-kilometre loop of man-made snow, sufficient for the season-opening NorAm and Calforex Cup biathlon events this weekend. Warm dry weather has created a challenge for event organizers, but such conditions are neither unusual nor unexpected in Canmore at this time of year.

Top biathletes from across North America will meet at the Canmore Nordic Centre this weekend to compete in the first round of both the NorAm Cup Series and the Calforex Alberta Cup Series. Approximately 140 athletes are expected. The competition begins Saturday morning, November 29th, at 11 am with a Sprint event, and continues Sunday, November 30th, at 10 am with an Individual competition. Both Individual and Sprint events feature individual starts, and a loop skied over a set distance with between 2 and 4 stops at the shooting range. Missed shots are penalized in the Individual competition with a 1-minute time penalty, while in the Sprint event one 150 metre penalty loop must be skied for each missed target.

The NorAm Cup Series represents the highest level of domestic competition in North America, attracting athletes from across Canada and the United States. Canmore will host both the first and sixth stops of the ten-event Series. The NorAm Cup serves as a stepping stone from which top regional athletes can qualify for the National Team and European competitions. The Calforex Alberta Cup, meanwhile, is a five-event series of provincial competitions held around Alberta and featuring competitors in a variety of age and ability categories.

Find more information on the sport of Biathlon at: <http://www.biathloncanada.ca/main.php?p=220>

For more information on these competitions visit the Biathlon Alberta website at www.biathlon.ca or the Biathlon Canada website at www.biathloncanada.ca
Information on the upcoming **IBU World Youth and Junior Biathlon Championships in Canmore**, January 24 – February 3, 2009, is available at www.canmorebiathlon.com

WHAT: NorAm Cup #1, Calforex Alberta Cup #1 Biathlon competitions

WHEN: Saturday, November 29, 2008
Competition starts at 11:00 am
Sunday, November 30, 2008
Competition starts at 10:00 am

WHERE: Biathlon Stadium, Canmore Nordic Centre

WHO: Carol Henley, Chair of the Organizing Committee
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