



The Northern Star

Official Newspaper of the 2016 Labrador Winter Games

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Cartwright wins LWG trophy!

**By Bonnie Learning
The Northern Star**

Team Orange will be going home with the LWG trophy!

The team was presented with the top prize at the closing ceremonies last night with a community point total of 283.

Lab City claimed second place with 265 points; and HV-GB took third place with 248 points.

Awards were also handed out to the top male & female athletes from each of Labrador's four electoral districts.

The winners in each district were:

Torngat Mountains - Mandy Smith, Makkovik; Trent Pottle, Makkovik; Labrador West - Chantelle Bursey, Labrador City; Alf Parsons, Labrador City; Lake Melville - Kelly Way, HV-GB; Cyril Brennan, HV-GB; Cartwright-L'anse au Clair - Alyson Thomas, L'anse au Clair; Nico Brown Dyson, Cartwright.

The Most Traditional Dog Team award went to Dennis Burden, Port Hope Simpson, while the Most Spirited Athlete award was presented to Rick Burden of Churchill Falls, while the Joe Mullins Memorial Award for Most Spirited Team went to Mary's Harbour.

Most Improved Team since the last games was Mud Lake, and the Premier's Best Dressed Cup went to Sheshatshiu. Chantelle Bursey of Labrador City was named the Most Outstanding Female Athlete of the games, while Nico Brown Dyson of Cartwright was named the Most Outstanding Male Athlete.



Team Orange claimed the LWG trophy at last night's closing ceremonies. They got a total of 283 community points to claim the title. Photos by Bonnie Learning/The Northern Star

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Emotional tribute for Max Winters

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While the awards were much anticipated, the most emotional moment of the night took place with the playing of a tribute video to Max Winters, which included interviews with former and current Games volunteers who've worked with Max over the decades. It also included memorable archival footage of Max playing ball, and receiving his Order of Newfoundland and Labrador Award.

After the video, Team Makkovik – Max's home community, which he never forgot and always made a point to visit whenever he could - made their way to members of Max's family to hug them.

Another great games in the history books!



Members of Team Makkovik hug members of Max Winters's family after an emotional tribute video was played.



LEFT: Mary Winters at Maxville during yesterday's Labrathon finals.



Remembering Max Winters



This last issue of The 2016 Northern Star newspaper is dedicated to Max Winters—first and foremost a loving husband, father and grandfather, but also one of the best ambassadors the LWG has ever known, especially for his beloved Labrathon. ‘Maxville’ was in good hands this year, thanks to the leadership roles of his daughter, Marlene, and long-time volunteer Gunner Bird, as well as his many other long-time, dedicated committee members and volunteers. His wife, Mary, children, and grandchildren, was on-site for the two-day event and was very happy with how well the event went over, despite the absence of their patriarch. Max’s spirit will forever live on with the LWG! xoxoxoxoxoxoxo



“The Labrathon is about maintaining the tradition of our Labrador trappers. It’s not about winning a medal; it’s about honouring the tradition. We need to remember that.”

- Max Winters

Gold for Guido!

Rich claims 2016 Labrathon title!

By Bonnie Learning
The Northern Star

There was no stopping Guido Rich on Saturday.

The Rigolet athlete made his way around the Labrathon course in a time of 17:56:27 to take the gold medal.

Claiming silver was Barry Dyson of Cartwright, 20:05:35; and Roderick Pye of Mary's Harbour with 20:35:20.

Rounding out the top six were Patt Hibbs, NWR, 21:29:94; Ricky Dean Burden, Churchill Falls, 21:59:79; and Clifford Russell, Williams Harbour, 22:49:92.

Guido and Barry were pretty much neck-and-neck off the start line after packing their sleds as they both raced to the kettle-boiling station, but it was Guido who got the first go-ahead from the judge to move on to the target shoot tilt, where he knocked down his five targets in no time.

Then, he was off to the log saw/trap station, where again, he was first off the mark to the final station – chiseling through 30" of ice. He was soon joined by Barry Dyson once more, and eventually the rest of the finalists. Guido kept chiseling away, and after judge's checked his hole for the proper 4" diameter, he was given the go ahead to head to the finish line and boy, did he fly on those snowshoes!

Guido crossed the finish line to wild cheers and applause from the spectators, including his teammates.

When asked how he felt immediately following his win, an out-of-breath, sweat drenched Guido replied. "Like a champ!"



Guido Rich of Rigolet practically flew to the finish line after leaving the chisel station in the Labrathon finals on Saturday. Guido took a strong lead early on and never looked back, resulting in his gold medal win. Photos by Bonnie Learning/The Northern Star

Team Rigolet hoist their Labrathon athlete, Guido Rich, on their shoulders for a victory picture.



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Dyson retiring from Labrathon

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“It was good,” he said of the course. “I never lost my chisel today, I kept my cool...I got a little edgy there when Barry came up.”

Guido says there no real strategy to his win.

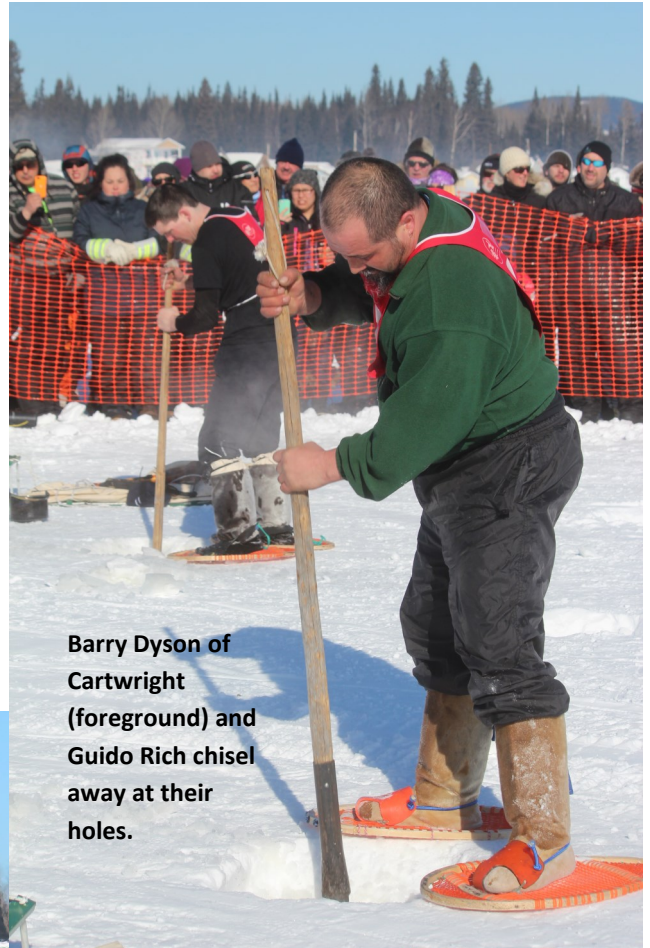
“I do a lot of trapping myself, an outdoors feller...it helped me get through it, I guess!”

Barry gives full credit to Guido on his gold medal win.

“This is it, no more,” said the six-time Labrathon athlete, who has four gold, one bronze – and now one silver - under his belt.

“It’s too hard now; Guido’s too fast! Time for somebody younger to take it over; we knew Guido was going to be hard to beat!”

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Barry Dyson of Cartwright (foreground) and Guido Rich chisel away at their holes.

Judges watch competitors carefully as they wait for their kettles to boil at the first station.



‘Hopefully, (Dad) is proud’: Marlene Wheeler

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For Pat Hibbs of NWR, this was not only his first Labrathon, but also his first games ever.

“I had a problem with the fire yesterday, and I went home and studied it real hard and thought I had it all figured out but nope! - I had a problem with it again today!” he laughed. “There’s a technique to it all, I ‘spose!”

Pat says he’ll probably be back for the next games to take another crack at it.

“I might have to go kettle-boiling school, I’ll be good for it!” he laughed.

Marlene Wheeler is the chair of the 2016 Labrathon.

She said she was very happy with the entire two-day event, from the set-up, to all her hard working, and reliable volunteers who pulled together to ensure another successful Labrathon.

“I feel good, I feel relieved that we got through it without any major incidents,” she said after it was all said and done.

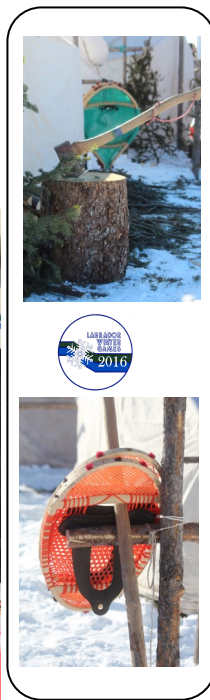
“Hopefully, he’s proud!” said Marlene of her late father, Max Winters.



ABOVE: The medals were handed out immediately following the end of the Labrathon to the winners, including (from left) Barry Dyson, Cartwright, silver; Guido Rich, gold; and Roderick Pye, Mary’s Harbour, bronze.



Guido Rich (left) and Roderick Pye pack up their sleds.



Mary Winters, wife of the late Labrathon icon, Max Winters, gives Guido Rich a hug after his victory on Saturday.

Mud Lake Musher claims dog sled gold!

By Janice Goudie
The Northern Star

From last place in the 2013 Labrador Winter Games to first place this year, Carl Rumbolt of Mud Lake took gold in yesterday's dog race event.

Mushers from Wabush, Mud Lake, Charlottetown, William's Harbour, Labrador City and Port Hope Simpson ran the 30 kilometer race which started near the dock and set out Lake Melville for 15 kilometers where they turned their teams around and headed back to the finish line.

Rumbolt crossed the finish line with a time of 1:33.

"There is more adrenaline going through me than my body can handle right now," he laughed right after the race while still shaking with excitement. "I was hoping I might place in there but I wasn't expecting to take first at all."

Dwayne Russell of Charlottetown is used to a win, having taken gold in the last three Labrador Winter Games. But he was happy with his time of 1:35 which place him second.

"Today was a good run," he said. "Carl got a wonderful team of dogs and we had a tight race."



Mud Lake musher Carl Rumbolt gets a celebratory hug after coming in first place during the dog race. *Photos by Janice Goudie/The Northern Star*



Dwayne Russell of Charlottetown is hoisted high on his komatik after cross the dog race finish line on Saturday.

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Burden claims bronze for PHS

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The bronze medal win went to Dennis Burden of Port Hope Simpson with a time of 1:57.

The dog races are in memorial of Henry John Williams of Cartwright. His daughter Rose Dyson, and great-grandchildren Kayla McLean and Emma Clarke, were all on hand to present the winning medals.



Dennis Burden gets some lovin' from his lead dog after completing the dog race on Saturday.

Port Hope Simpson's Dennis Burden prepares to stop his team once they cross the finish line and bring him bronze



Port Hope Simpson claims Duathlon gold!

By Janice Goudie
The Northern Star

A crowd gathered at the finish line of the Duathlon yesterday, which took place at the Birch Brook Nordic Ski Club. Eighteen athletes set off from the start each having to cross country ski through a 5 kilometer course before coming back to change their footwear and set out for a 3K snowshoe run.

Competitor Alyson Thomas of L'Anse au Clair unfortunately broke her ski during the first portion of the event and had to pull out of the race.

But it was a great run for Dean Burden of Port Hope Simpson, Alf Parsons of Labrador City and Harry Borlase of Nain who respectfully claimed gold, silver and bronze.

"It was amazing," said Borlase about his third place run. "The conditions were perfect, the skis were flying, and then strapping on the snowshoes; it was all adrenaline from there on in."

Borlase finished with a time of 37:42 and spent some of his run alongside fellow competitor Burden, who finished with a time of 36:04.

"Dean passed me about a quarter of the way through the snowshoe portion but I just hung with him and encouraged him the whole way," said Borlase. "I know he had a lot of trouble with the cross country event, so I was really hoping he was going to do well and he came first so I'm really happy for Dean, too."

When Burden was asked how he felt of his win, he simply replied, "relieved."



Dean Burden of Port Hope Simpson congratulates Labrador City's Alf Parsons on a great race after both cross the finish line. Photos by Janice Goudie/The Northern Star



Nain's Harry Borlase pushes himself hard to cross the finish line of the duathlon on Saturday.

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Northern Duathlon a success

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“It was a hard week,” he said. “Things seemed to go wrong every turn I made but this time...something was on my side this time.”

This is the first time Burden took gold in the duathlon noting that first place usually goes to this year’s silver medalist Alf Parsons who finished with a time of 36:20.

“He’s such an ambassador to sports,” said Burden. “I take my hat off to him every time I see him. He’s a great athlete.”



Sidney Ford of Makkovik is closely followed by Amie Jones of Forteau in the snowshoeing portion of the duathlon.



ABOVE: Tyler Edmunds of Postville works at his laces before taken off on the 3K snowshoe run in the duathlon.



ABOVE: One of the many participants of the duathlon yesterday puts on snowshoes to run the second half of the race.

THANK YOU!!!

A million thanks to my awesome reporters this week, including Valerie Rachwal, Chrissy Chiasson, and Janice Goudie—I could NOT have gotten through this week without you awesome ladies!! Also thanks to contributing photographer John Graham; much appreciated! Also, thanks to Barry Keough for his results contributions! Great work!

I hope everyone enjoyed this week's coverage via The Northern Star—it was a lot of fun!

(I know Marlene Wheeler enjoyed it immensely! LOL!)

Bonnie Learning

Editor, The Northern Star 2016

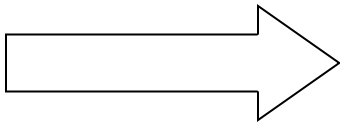
Socks a lot!

A total of 430 pairs of socks were donated during the recent 'Sock it to 'em' concert during the LWG—that's a lot of toasty tootsies!



Marlene Wheeler!

Although I had hoped this would be me on Saturday night....



Cheers!
To alcohol!



Chances are good this was my reality after laying out this very last issue...

