

## Racers face the wilderness north of Fenelon

Jay Gutteridge

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Adventurous outdoor enthusiasts rolled into Fenelon Falls on the weekend for a race through the wilds of the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Frontier Adventure Racing hosted the season-opening race in its Salomon Adventure Challenge on Saturday, featuring a course running from the Norland area to the Fenelon Falls fairgrounds.

The race included mountain biking, trekking and canoeing sections, spanning nearly 60 kilometres.

"It was absolutely beautiful, very nice," said Alain Beaudry, a member of the winning Simon River Sports team.

The race featured 45 teams of three competing in men's, women's and co-ed divisions.

"Usually we get 100 teams for (the season opening) race," said Geoff Langford, president of Frontier Adventure Racing.

"It's a funny sport. It's very unpredictable in terms of the number of people you get out."

Regardless, the racers who did attend enjoyed the area, he said. He picked the location based on past experience.

"In terms of coming to Fenelon Falls, we had done races around Bobcaygeon and Minden, and we always ended up coming through Fenelon Falls."

The race proved longer than expected, with the Simon River Sports team crossing the finish line in five hours and 22 minutes. The race had a time limit of roughly eight hours.

Simon River ran into a few snags on their way to victory. On the opening leg of the race, team captain Benoit L'Étourneau got a flat tire on his bike, and the third member of the team, Benoit Tremblay, had brake troubles.

"From there it went well. We did everything well," said Mr. L'Étourneau.

"It was nice with the portage, too. That's where we usually gain some ground," said Mr. Beaudry.

The team came to the race from Quebec, and is a regular presence on the Frontier Adventure Racing circuit.



Jay Gutteridge/This Week  
Janice Ashworth and Tyson Dyck, two-thirds of the Pink Guard of NERO, won co-ed division.

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A team known as The Pink Guard of NERO placed second overall and first in the co-ed division with a time of five hours, 42 minutes. The team raced together for the first time, and it was team member Janice Ashworth's second adventure race.

Ms Ashworth is from Ottawa, while the other two members of the team, Tyson Dyck and Tim Grant, came from Toronto.

The third place finishers overall took first in the women's division with a time of five hours, 58 minutes. The team, known as adidas divas, is comprised of Leanne Mueller of Bolton and Nicola Cameron and Carolyn Connell of Ottawa.

"It was beautiful. It was a fantastic course. The terrain really varied," said Ms Cameron.

The team overcame some challenges along the way, including Ms Mueller getting a bloody nose from a stray branch during the trek.

"She's the first lady of adventure racing," said Ms Cameron.

Each of the division-winning teams earned a spot in the Salomon Adventure Challenge Finals at Bark Lake in September.

Two local teams also participated in the race. Two Men and a Baby, featuring Scott Dickie of Fenelon and Brian Beukeboom and Anthony Lynn of Lindsay, finished 14th in the men's division in a time of eight hours, 51 minutes. Havoc, consisting of Richard Wackernagel of Fenelon, Brenna Steels of Unionville and Aaron Balmer of Peterborough, did not finish.



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