



# VELOCITY

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## THE WORLD CAME TOGETHER IN GRANDE PRAIRIE FOR THE 2007 NATURAL LUGE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

For the first time in history, the Natural Luge World Championships were held in Canada. The event took place February 15-19 in the city of Grande Prairie, Alta., with more than 70 athletes competing from 14 different nations.

The Canadian team, consisting of John Gibson, Kaj Johnson, Greg Jones, Corey Pusey and Melissa Jones, were well prepared for the event, having made the Grande Prairie Track their home for the past three months. The expectations were high and the Canucks did not disappoint, posting two top-15 finishes against the world's best natural luge athletes.

Led by Kaj Johnson, the men's team turned heads early during training runs, putting down some of the fastest times. The Canadian men fared very well, smashing the old record of 21st by placing two in the top-20, including one in the top-15.

Johnson, despite dropping a few places from day one, came out in 11th-place, the best finish for a Canadian male in world championship history. He was followed closely by the second best-ever finish for a Canadian male, John Gibson in 16th-place.

Greg Jones also had a personal best finish in a world championship with his 23rd-place finish. Corey Pusey struggled through the race, but still managed to finish a respectable 28th. Pusey, upon crossing the finish line, announced his retirement from singles competition. He may, however, return to bring new glory to the burgeoning Canadian doubles scene.

Notably, Melissa Jones carried the weight of the team on the women's side and fared very well against the field. Jones crossed the line in 11th-place, matching the result of her male teammate.

For full results, visit [www.fil-luge.org](http://www.fil-luge.org)



John Gibson

### FINAL CANADIAN RESULTS:

#### Men's Singles:

- 11. Kaj Johnson, 3:55.45
- 16. John Gibson, 3:56.31
- 23. Greg Jones, 4:00.59
- 28. Corey Pusey, 4:04.75

#### Women's Singles:

- 11. Melissa Jones, 4:17.87



# JUNIOR CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Just a few weeks after battling the world's best at the Junior World Championships on the Olympic Track in Torino, Canada's next generation of luge athletes took to their home track in Calgary, each looking to be crowned national champion.

National titles were handed out in the men's and women's singles - junior, youth A and youth B categories, and the doubles category at CODA's Canada Olympic Park, over the two days of competition. Still riding high from her sixth-place finish at the Junior World Championships, 19-year-old Olympian, Alex Gough, stood atop the podium in the women's singles event.

This is the first national title for Gough, who has just returned home after a successful season on the World Cup circuit. Denaë Delcourt was runner-up for the second year in a row, grabbing the silver medal, while 2006 champion, Andrea Petersen, took the last spot on the podium.

In the junior men's division, it was a golden day for Brendan Hauptman, who edged out his competitors by over a second to claim the national title. Stefan Rath claimed the silver and rounding out the top-three was Cameron Gunn, who also teamed up with David Adair to take the national title in the doubles category.

National champions were also crowned in the youth A and B division for both men and women. Laura Glover, Elena Corrigan and Jordyn Caron were the top-three in the youth A women's race, while Matt Bennett, Peter Koltes and John Fennell were the medal winners in the youth A men's race. Jordan Smith took top spot in the youth B women's race, followed by Anna O'Neil in second and Valerie Harbour in third. It was a family affair in the youth B men's race, with brothers Brian and Warren Marriott battling it out for top spot. Brian managed to hold off his sibling to take the title, with Warren in a close second. Evan Wildman took the bronze medal spot.



Stefan Rath and Cameron Gunn hoist Brendan Hauptman

## 2007 CANADIAN LUGE CHAMPIONS CROWNED AT CODA'S CANADA OLYMPIC PARK



From Left to Right: Gunn/Adair, Moffat/Moffat, Pothier/Albrecht

Three new champions will be added to the record books after a beautiful day of competition at the Luge Canadian Championships, March 11, in Calgary. While the warm weather conditions created some issues for the track crew, it provided the perfect backdrop for the crowning of the 2007 luge champions.

The big surprise of the day came in the men's singles event. Vancouver's Jeff Christie was the definite favourite coming into the

race, and was sitting with a comfortable lead after the first run. However, troubles in the lower section of the second run saw that lead diminish, leaving the door open for Calgary's Sam Edney.

Edney put together the fastest run of the second heat, pushing him ahead of Christie to take the title of Canadian champion in the men's singles event. Christie settled for the silver medal, followed by surprise bronze medallist, and Junior Canadian Champion, Brendan Hauptman.

In women's action, Alex Gough left no doubt about who was the out-and-out champion. Gough won both runs of the two-heat event, her closest competition more than a full second behind. Her World Cup teammate, Meaghan Simister, slid to the silver medal position. Denaë Delcourt gave the crowd a bit of excitement in the braking stretch when her sled flipped backwards, eventually causing her to crash. Luckily, she was already across the finish line and in third place.

Finally, in the doubles race, brothers Mike and Chris Moffat were the winners on the day, posting the two fastest times of the race. Grant Albrecht and Eric Pothier came together to take the silver medal, while the junior team of Cameron Gunn and David Adair showed their potential in taking the bronze.



# THIRD ANNUAL PATCH FOR LUGE

– By Joanne Petersen

About four years ago, my daughter, Andrea was sliding on the Canadian Development Luge Team. Like most parents in our program, we went out most nights to watch her slide, and volunteered our time by officiating the races. One thing that was very obvious to me was that our younger athletes were in dire need of new clothing, race booties, sleds, etc...

There also was limited money in the budget to send these kids to luge tracks around the world so they could get the much needed exposure and experience to be able to develop. With funding cutbacks and the bulk of the program dollars going to the Senior and Junior National teams, there had to be another way. So I thought about all of my contacts in the oil patch and thought that if I could convince them to come out for an afternoon of fun, maybe we could use those oil patch dollars to "patch" up the novice and development programs. Hence, the Patch for Luge!

The third annual event was held on February 27, 2007. Our goal was to try and raise money for the Canadian Novice and Development Luge teams which fall under the umbrella of the Calgary Luge Club. I would have been thrilled to raise \$25,000 but we gave ourselves a stretch goal of raising \$30,000, including monies raised from the silent auction.



Brave participant at the PATCH for LUGE

That was a huge jump for us as we only raised \$3,800 just two years earlier!

After two months of planning and calling, we were very fortunate to get 90 "sliders" from corporate Calgary who each paid \$250 to participate in a two-run consistency race from the Tourist Start House on the Olympic Luge Track. In a consistency race, the person with the closest time between their first and second run would be the winner (this equalizes the competitors as in

a speed race, the heavier person has a strong advantage over his or her lighter competitors).

The race was followed by a beautiful dinner, medal ceremony and silent auction at the ATCO Centre. We also had three very brave souls who put their names in a draw to have a run from Junior Start which ran right after the race.

The outcome? We raised \$34,000 for our novice and development program this year!!!! It was a HUGE success and I'm so proud of all of the volunteers. We had about 48 parents, athletes, coaches and other volunteers that helped with everything from shuttling sliders from the ATCO Centre to the start house, to catching folks at the finish line, to providing beverages at the helmet shack, to putting on a fantastic silent auction. I can't thank them enough!

Below are the times of the gold, silver and bronze winners that raced from Tourist Start:

	Name	Team	Finish Times
<b>Gold</b>	Ian	Collins Barrow	31.821/31.709 0.118 seconds between both runs
<b>Silver</b>	Claus	CalFrac	33.118/33.285 0.167 seconds between both runs
<b>Bronze</b>	Rob	CCS Energy	33.216/32.875 0.341 seconds between both runs
<b>Our three brave sliders from Junior Start (one run speed race):</b>			
<b>Gold</b>	Loni	Sempre	43.712 (amazing - she never even touched the wall!!!)
<b>Silver</b>	Rene	Silver Star	52.359
<b>Bronze</b>	Layna	Schlumberger	1:05.158

## QUICK FACTS ABOUT KARBON:

Just before the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah, the Canadian Luge Association began a partnership with a Canadian-owned clothing company – Karbon Sports. Five years later, this partnership has evolved into a well-recognized symbol of luge in Canada. Both the Canadian Luge Team and the Junior Canadian Luge Team are outfitted every season in Karbon clothing, from speed suits to jackets. Karbon is a well-known sponsor of amateur sport in Can-

ada, and our luge team would not look as good as they do without their generous support. Thank you Karbon Sports!

"As a Canadian company, one of our mandates is to support Canadian athletes. Through extensive research and development, we want to make sure our athletes have the best product on the market, whether outerwear, training or race apparel. As luge races can be won or lost by a 1-1000th of a second, Karbon delivers a competitive advan-

tage to all our athletes," stated Peter Schure, team/resort manager, Schure Sports.

Schure Sports, a Toronto based company in business since 1982, designs and manufactures KARBON brand year-round performance apparel which is designed for winter sports, aerobic activity and athletic training. The company does extensive product testing with its sponsored World Cup Teams, providing invaluable feedback with respect to product development. In association

with some of the world's leading companies in insulation and fabric technology, they are bringing garments to the consumer that performs in better harmony with the body. Schure Sports is committed to the highest level of product quality and service and the promotion of winter sport through the support of amateur and professional athletes around the world.



Reminder notice...ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CANADIAN LUGE ASSOCIATION

Saturday , March 31, 2007 • 10 a.m. to noon • Four Points Sheraton • 8220 Bowridge Crescent N.W. • Calgary, Alberta

The Annual General Meeting shall be convened according to the bylaws of the Canadian Luge Association.