



## **Stellar Weekend for Team Ontario Athletes at Ontario Disabled Alpine Racing Championships**

It was a big weekend for Ontario athletes at The Caledon Ski Club, as the 2007 Ontario Disabled Alpine Racing Championships were held from February 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> at the southern Ontario resort. Close to 30 athletes took part in the event from the Ontario, Quebec, and National Capital Disabled Ski Teams, competing in the slalom and giant slalom disciplines.

In the visually impaired division, Ken Roche from Kitchener, along with first year guide Viki Larouche, and ODART president David Brown of Toronto, along with guide Gwen Binsfeld, swapped medals in the 2 races, Roche takes the silver in slalom and bronze in the GS, with Brown collecting the same medals in the opposite races. In the ladies division, Jan Hymers of Brampton also collected 2 medals, winning bronze in GS and silver in slalom. Rookie racer Alexandra Creighton of Toronto, appeared to be on her way to a silver medal in the GS, when she performed what turned out to be the most spectacular crash of the weekend. Alex was able to get up off the snow and able to ski off under her own power, but her injuries kept her from competing in the slalom. She plans to be back up and training later this month.

In the very competitive men's stand up division, Kaemon Dubeau of North Bay, in only his second event, was one of the few racers to successfully complete all of his runs, and ended up finishing tenth overall by the end of the event. Neil Mosburger of Kitchener chimed in with a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish in the GS, before being attacked by snow snakes several times in the slalom. Mike Sinclair of Toronto was consistent in finishing 6<sup>th</sup> in both disciplines, and 8<sup>th</sup> overall for the event. James Binsfeld of King City was able to fly in for the slalom event, just long enough to capture the gold medal. Second year racer Will Goessaert of Toronto, was also consistent in bringing home both bronze medals from the junior division. Remember that name. Another name to remember will be junior racer Michael Whitney of North Bay. The second year ODART member, not only captured both gold medals in the junior division, but his results were also good enough for 2 silvers in the adult divisions, and a second place over all finish to boot. Like the song says, "the future's so bright, I gotta wear shades." The big winner of the weekend was Robert "Franz" Scott of Whitby. The veteran racer was able to take





gold in the GS, bronze in the slalom, and will repeat his performance of last season, as again being crowned ODART Ontario Champion of 2007.

The men's sit ski division was not without its share of surprises. To no one's surprise, ODART's own Kamikaze pilot, Andre "the Giant" Nasvytis of Dundas, brought his "take no prisoners" style and attitude to the Caledon slopes, crashing violently in training, which caused him to pull out of the GS. Andre had the slalom gates shaking in fear, as he crashed through course after course, unable to complete a clean run by event's end. The sheer entertainment value of this racer is worth the price of admission alone. As for those that did finish, Bill Brouse of Puslinch turned in his usual stellar performance, taking forth place in the slalom, and bronze in the GS. Canadian National Team member Jeff Penner of Kitchener, on loan to ODART this season while he recovers from an injured shoulder, showed very few of the signs of an injured racer, capturing bronze in the slalom, and gold in the GS. The stand out sit skier of the event had to be new ODART acquisition, Andy Van Grunsven. The Kingston native recently made the jump from Quebec to Ontario, and has immediately started paying dividends. Andy, who is technically medically classified as quadriplegic, dominated the Caledon slopes all weekend long, taking silver in the GS, and earning his first ever gold medal in the slalom discipline. This acquisition may go down in history in the same context as the Babe Ruth trade.

The Ontario Disabled Alpine Racing Team wishes to thank all of the event supporters, especially Paralympics Ontario, Alpine Canada Alpin, Ski Rossignol Canada, The Canadian Association for Disabled Skiing, EMI Music Canada, Novapharm, and of course, The Caledon Ski Club, without whom the event would not have been possible. Stay tuned for the further adventures of ODART as they tackle the Quebec Disabled Ski Championships at the end of February, The B. C. Championships in early March, and the CADS National Disabled Ski Championships and Festival, March 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> at Kimberley B.C. Thank you for your support.

Complete results available at [www.odart.org](http://www.odart.org) .

