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MOMENTUM BUILDS FOR A RETURN TO 'OLD-SCHOOL' ADVENTURE RACING

Haliburton, Ontario's wilderness to play host to epic, 24-hour backcountry adventure

'Navigation strategy and route-finding', 'teamwork', 'nutrition planning', 'sleep deprivation', 'mental limits'...these are phrases that have been synonymous with the origins of the sport of adventure racing since its inception in New Zealand in 1989. More recently, however, sprint-distance multi-sport races have taken off in popularity, leaving some of the origins of the sport behind. On August 20th & 21st, 2011, in the wilds of Haliburton, Ontario, 'old-school' adventure racing will make its return.

"Short-distance, multi-sport races have been incredibly successful of late as they offer a thrilling outdoor experience that can be had in a few hours. When I came into adventure racing in the late '90's, I was hooked by the 'bigger-than-life' type of challenge that overnight or multi-day wilderness events offer. Those haven't been around for a while and I want to change that", says Bob Miller, creator of the Wilderness Traverse.

The 2nd edition of the Wilderness Traverse will be a 'back-to-basics' adventure race where coed and open teams of 3 or 4 individuals will mountain bike, paddle, and trek across a remote region of the Haliburton Highlands. Route choices throughout all disciplines will be abundant, making navigation strategy a key element of a team's ability to go the distance. The racecourse itself is roughly 150 km in distance and teams will have up to 30 hours to complete it – the winners are estimated to take 24 hours. No support crew is necessary as all gear will be handled and transported by event organizers.

As for who the Wilderness Traverse is designed to attract, the race is for all-levels of adventure enthusiasts who want to push their physical and mental limits in an awe-inspiring backcountry setting, supported by like-minded people on their team. Physical fitness will be an asset but mental fortitude and a team-first attitude will be a deciding factor in who achieves their goals.

To ensure the Wilderness Traverse is created with quality and safety in mind, Miller has assembled an impressive coalition of event planning consultants including sponsors, experienced racers, race organizers, and seasoned volunteers.

“Bob’s approach to this project has been exceptional to say the least. He’s a purist and truly wants to share his vision of wilderness-based adventure racing with others. I’m honoured to join his planning coalition as our group’s opinions and experiences will help bring his vision to life the best way possible for everyone”, says Pete Cameron, former Salomon Adventure Challenge Series Manager and present Softgoods Category Manager at Salomon Canada.

As for what Miller is promising for the event’s participants, he had this to say, *“My goal is to have as many teams reach the finish line as possible and I’ve created a racecourse with multiple short-course options to do so. No matter what distance a team covers, I can guarantee this traditional, wilderness-based adventure race will create a very special and indelible memory for all participants.”*

Bob Miller himself has raced in dozens of adventure races, orienteering events, and multisport races, taking him to some of the most exotic locales in the world. He’s one of the most respected and talented adventure athletes in the country and knows a thing or two about event organization and racecourse design having been the course designer of over 30 adventure races, including:

- National Adventure Racing Championships, Timmins, ON (4 day);
- Raid the North Series Championships, Fort-Coulonge, QC (2.5 day);
- Raid the North, French River, ON (36 hour);
- Keen Adventure Sports Games, Collingwood, ON (2 day)
- Ontario’s first Xterra triathlon, Guelph, ON; and,
- Several 8-hour adventure races for Adventure Racing Canada and Frontier Adventure Racing.

Bob currently organizes the Salomon Snowshoe Raid (www.adventurerunning.ca), the GUATS Logs Rocks & Steel Multisport Adventure (www.logsrocksandsteel.com), and the GUATS XC Series @ Blue Mountain (www.xcseriesatblue.com).

Event Details:

Date: August 20th – 21st, 2011

Location: Haliburton, Ontario, Canada

Duration: 24 - 30 hours

Distance*: 150 km (Trekking 35 km, Paddling 30 km, Mountain Biking 85 km)

**Distances are approximate and are largely impacted by individual team route selections*

Disciplines: Canoeing, Mountain Biking, Trekking, each requiring wilderness navigation

Start Time: Saturday, August 20th, 2010 @ 08h00 (maps will be distributed on August 19th @ 20h00)

Entry Fees: Team of 4 - \$1,000 (early bird), \$1,200 (regular), Team of 3 - \$750 (early bird), \$900 (regular)

