

1999 [Lappe Nordic](#) 24 Hour Relay
Friday March 26 6pm to Saturday March 27 6pm
Temperature Range -4C to +10C

		Team Size	KM's
1	NTDC (Megan McTavish, Karla Mika, Steve Bursey, Mark Tierney, Dan Roycroft, Chad Yurich, Karl Saidla, Lee Churchill)	8	516.8
2	Big Thunder Men's Moose Caboose	9	500.3
3	Lappe Never Were's But Still Defending Champs	7	486.3
4	Lappe/Laurentian Hampsters	7	440.35
5	Night Danger	4	423.4
6	Pressed Ham	5	417.1
7	Country Good Meater Eaters	6	416.05
8	Team Extreme - Big Thunder	10	414.1
9	Lappe Lounge Lizards	12	412.79
10	Team Tabor	2	395.6
11	Girl Power	10	383.9
12	Team Vauhti	7	369.8
13	Crazy Finns (Toni & Kati)	2	351.55
14	Happe Lappe	8	333.15
15	Racing Rabbits	10	323.9
16	9 Unchaste Men & 3 Chased Women	12	322.95
17	Jeff Lewis - ValCartier, Quebec	1	305.3
18	Bay Street Whackers	9	291.2
19	Lovely Lappe Ladies	12	288.45
20	Reipas Ikinuoret	12	284.6

[Lappe Nordic](#) 24 Hour Relay - Press Release

The 1999 Lappe Nordic 24 Hour Relay began and ended with a bang. And in between Friday's start and Saturday's 6:00pm shotgun finish, some skiing history was made. Jeff Lewis, a remarkable skier from Val Cartier, Quebec, skied 305.3 km to establish a new North American distance record for 24 hours.

Jeff, who is a member of the "Centre d'excellence de biathlon" team based just outside Quebec City, travelled to Thunder Bay to challenge the record. That record of 301 km had been set 3 years earlier by Kerrie Abols, a member of the National Team Development Centre - Thunder Bay Team.

For the first 14 hours Jeff skied strongly and comfortably and the record seemed well within his grasp. Then as the sun warmed the 4.3km course, trail conditions turned from hard and fast to painfully slow. The sun quickly took its toll. With 2.5 hrs left to run, Jeff was only 16km short of the record but exhausted. A brief rest and some food helped restore his energy reserves. Drawing on inner strength and the support of a large crowd he skied slowly and gracefully into the record books.

Jeff, 26, said his next goal is to make the National Biathlon Team, and participate in the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City.

An exhausted Jeff said he was overwhelmed by the event and the support he received from the Lappe Club and the other skiers. "This is one of the very best and friendliest events I've ever participated in." he said.

Jeff wasn't alone in his record setting. The Thunder Bay National Team Development Centre team (Megan McTavish, Karla Mika, Steve Bursey, Mark Tierney, Dan Roycroft, Chad Yurich, Karl Saidla, Lee Churchill) shattered the previous team event record skiing 518km. They were pushed hard by a team of Lakehead University skiers, "The Mighty Moose Caboose (500.3km), and last year's defending champions the "Lappe Seven" (486.3 km).

In fourth place with 440.35 km was a team of up and coming junior athletes from the Lappe and Laurentian ski clubs ranging in age from 14 to 18.

For the first time the event welcomed American teams. Three teams of athletes from Minnesota said they were "blown away" by the hospitality they were shown and promised to return in 2000 in greater numbers.

The annual 24 Hour Relay is now in its fifth year. It's a combined season ending ski event, 24 hr. party and fund raiser for the NTDC Thunder Bay Team. The event has grown every year. Most of the 20 teams consisted of recreational skiers wanting to support the Training Centre athletes and enjoy one of the last good skis of the year. Awards include the much sought after "Oldest Aggregate Age Award" and the not so prized "Worst Wax Choice Award". Both awards were won by the Reipas Sports Club IKINUORET (Ever Young) team which included 5 skiers over age 68.

For further information about this year's event call Marc Bode - 807-767-4698, or see the complete [Results](#).