



For immediate release

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Test of Metal champions return

Even if the weather stays cool, this year's edition of the North Shore Credit Union Test of Metal on Saturday, June 19, promises to be sizzling with at least 9 past champions, representing 14 1st place TOM finishes, on the starting line.

“It's an unbelievable year,” said race organizer Cliff Miller. “We've got confirmation that at least 6 past champions on the men's side and three from the women will be competing.”

Leading the way is Canada's best known mountain-biker, Geoff Kabush, who won the race in 1998. Kabush will be joined on the starting line by Carter Hovey ('96, '02, '04), Michael Pruner ('97), Ricky Federeau ('05), Neal Kindree ('06,'07), and Max Plaxton ('08, '09).

Organizers have also heard rumours that Chad Miles ('99, '00), and Andrew Kyle ('03), and are planning to race this year.

“We're getting close to having all the men who have won since the long course was created in 1996,” Miller said.

On the women's side, '07 and '09 champ Catharine Pendrel is expected to be joined by Wendy Simms

('08) and Linda Robichaud ('98).

“I think that if the weather holds, it's safe to say we will have a new course record set,” Miller said. “The course is in fabulous shape and these guys are going to be pushing one another through the race. It'll be very exciting to watch.”

This is the 15th running of the Test of Metal on the long course in Squamish, and every year the race increases in popularity. This year it sold out the 800 available spots in less than 25 minutes.

The Test of Metal, a 67 kilometre mountain bike race, is the most successful cross-country mountain bike in Canada and has sold out for the last 13 years.

Test of Metal Inc. is a not-for-profit society run by volunteers, and any proceeds from the race are returned to the community through charitable donations. Since its inception, the Test of Metal has donated more than \$135,000 to community organizations and events.

More information about the Test of Metal weekend can be found at www.testofmetal.com

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