

Coupe Fondeurs: On January 28, Viking took part in the second Coupe Fondeurs Race at St-Jérôme's Community Centre, along with 24 other clubs. It was a beautiful mild winter morning, with sunny blue skies at first, then partly cloudy. Coach Kaley Drouin and volunteer waxers Kyle and Quentin Stoyel arrived at 7:30 a.m.. Racers started arriving at 8:00 and some had time to do a pre-race tour of the course while others warmed up on designated tracks before the races started. Meanwhile, Kaley attended the coaches meeting, registered all the Viking participants and collected bibs.

Volunteer waxers glide-waxed skis and tested wax for grip. Temperatures hovered just below freezing and conditions were icy, so choosing the right wax was a challenge. Luckily the sky stayed overcast so no last-minute wax changes were needed. A big thanks to the waxers who worked hard and made the right choices!

Conditions on the track were icy in spots, with some participants falling. Approximately 500 racers, adults and kids participated in this Coupe; up to 65 participants were in youth categories. There was a lot of action with departures every 15 minutes until noon – plus plenty of cheering by coaches, parents and friends. Organizers and volunteers did a very good job to make this event a success.

Among the 11 Viking racers who participated in this race, aged 6 to 18, some were competing for their very first time and were bitten by the bug, while others had the experience of racing the Quebec cup circuit! Race results can be viewed at <http://www.fondeurslaurentides.com/resultats.html>.

Congratulations on their race to David and Lucas Cormier, William, Mathieu and Thomas Duhamel Morson, Sofia Pastinen, Felana, Quentin and Kyle Stoyel and Calvin Walsh.

A special thanks to Kaley Drouin who coached our "Vikings" and patiently calmed their parents.