



For immediate release

## PRESS RELEASE

### Over 800 participants and a resounding success for the first edition of Courons Gatineau!

Gatineau, September 28, 2024 - Gatineau Loppet wins its bet and announces positive results for the very first edition of its new event, Courons Gatineau.

While initial projections put participation at around 600 runners, registrations for the 2, 5 and 10 km events soared to 816.

The higher-than-expected turnout, coupled with the generosity of financial partners, has already enabled the organizers to confirm that the event will at least manage to cover its costs, right from its first edition.

But beyond the numbers, it's the smiles on the faces of participants of all ages and abilities that make us most proud," says Philippe Lebel, President of Gatineau Loppet and Event Director for Courons Gatineau. We really get the impression that people felt privileged to take part in this very first edition, and that they are grateful to the organizing committee and volunteers for having succeeded in putting on an event of this quality."

[See results and photos of winners on page 9](#)

### Olympian Audrey Leduc, touched by the love of the people from her hometown

Olympian and Courons Gatineau spokesperson Audrey Leduc was delighted to have the opportunity to show her appreciation for the Gatineau residents she felt behind her throughout the Paris Olympic Games. She was omnipresent on the site, symbolically taking part in the 2 km event to encourage the little ones, handing out



medals, kicking off events, shaking hands, giving autographs, taking photos and applauding participants as they crossed the finish line.

“It was a great crowd-building experience with the public, and that made me extremely happy. It was very warm. It was a wonderful experience, full of touching moments and wonderful encounters. I'm very grateful to Gatineau Loppet for inviting me to be a spokesperson for Courons Gatineau. They are people with heart and passion. So I'm not surprised by the success of this first edition, and I'm delighted. The Outaouais region is fortunate to be able to count on an organization of this calibre,” says the Gatineau-born athlete.

### **Gatineau Loppet announces the launch of registration for the second edition and the addition of 1 km and 15 km events**

Organizers have taken advantage of the excitement surrounding the event not only to announce its return in 2025, but also to immediately open registration in an eight-day flash sale, not only for the 2, 5 and 10 km events, but also for two new events, the 1 km and 15 km. People will have until 11:59 p.m. on October 6 to register at the lowest rate through [CouronsGatineau.ca](http://CouronsGatineau.ca).

### **Elected officials don their running shoes and take to the course**

Many of the region's elected officials were delighted by the arrival of this new event, and were also very excited about the prospect of taking part. Greg Fergus, Member of Parliament for Hull-Aylmer and Speaker of the House of Commons, Suzanne Tremblay, Member of the Quebec National Assembly for Hull, and Maude Marquis-Bissonnette, Mayor of Gatineau, took part in the 2 km run with Audrey Leduc. District Limbour Councillor Louis Sabourin also took part in the 5 km. Marc Bureau, municipal councillor for the Parc-de-la-Montagne-Saint-Raymond district, was all smiles as he completed his first ever race. Mr. Bureau rose to the challenge with flying arms, crossing the finish line in the 10 km race.

### **Rivers at the heart of the event and a donation of \$3254 to Ottawa Riverkeeper**

Gatineau Loppet wanted a unique course to highlight our majestic and precious rivers for its Courons Gatineau event. The team therefore designed a course running



along both the Ottawa and Gatineau rivers. The organizers also saw an opportunity to raise public awareness of the need to protect them.

This led to the idea of inviting participants to make a donation to Ottawa Riverkeeper, whose mission is to protect the river. Our partner Evolgen by Brookfield Renewable loved the idea and decided to match the donation made by participants.

At the end of the fundraising activity, Kristine Dupuis, Communications Manager at Evolgen by Brookfield Renewable, and Philippe Lebel, President of Gatineau Loppet and Event Director for Courons Gatineau, announced that the collective efforts had raised \$3254, which will be donated to Ottawa Riverkeeper.

“I'm delighted to see the mobilization of participants in Courons Gatineau, Gatineau Loppet and Evolgen by Brookfield Renewable to help Garde-Rivière des Outaouais accomplish its mission. This shows that the public is sensitive to environmental issues and to the need to take concrete action to protect our rivers,” says Laura Reinsboroug Riverkeeper and CEO of Ottawa Riverkeeper.

### Here are the winners:

#### 10 km - Men

Aidan Kirkham from Kanata, ON, was the first to cross the finish line of the 10 km, the flagship event of the first edition of Courons Gatineau, in a time of 00:34:09. Samuel Frechette and Éric Lavigne from Chelsea, QC, finished second and third, in a time of 00:35:22 and 00:36:15 respectively.

10 Km - Men	Name	City	Time
1 <sup>st</sup> position	Aidan Kirkham	Kanata, ON	00:34:09
2 <sup>nd</sup> position	Samuel Frechette	Chelsea, QC	00:35:22
3 <sup>rd</sup> position	Éric Lavigne	Chelsea, QC	00:36:15



### 10 K - Women

Lynda Gingras from Chelsea, QC, took top honours in the women's 10 km, with a time of 00:38:10 She was followed by Natasha Munroe from Gatineau, QC who recorded a time of 00:45:26 and by Judy Andrew Piel from Nepean, ON, who completed the podium, with a time of 00:45:54.

10 K - Women	Name	City	Time
1 <sup>st</sup> position	Lynda Gingras	Chelsea, QC	00:38:10
2 <sup>nd</sup> position	Natasha Munroe	Gatineau, QC	00:45:26
3 <sup>rd</sup> position	Judy Andrew Piel	Nepean, ON	00:45:54

### 5 K - Men

Samuel Proulx from Laval, QC, is the overall winner of the 5 K. He completed the course in 00:16:16, followed by Rodrigo Ideus, from Gatineau, QC, in second place, with a time of 00:16:21 and Guillaume Ethier, from Gatineau, QC, who took third place, recording a time of 00:16:39.

5 K - Men	Name	City	Time
1 <sup>st</sup> position	Samuel Proulx	Laval, QC	00:16:16
2 <sup>nd</sup> position	Rodrigo Ideus	Gatineau, QC	00:16:21
3 <sup>rd</sup> position	Guillaume Ethier	Gatineau, QC	00:16:39

### 5 K - Women

Clara Sénéchal was the fastest in the women's 5 km with a time of 00:20:41. G Fortier-Cofsky finished second with a time of 00:21:03. Ève Plante took third place, with a time of 00:21:38. The three winners are from Gatineau.

5 km – Women	Name	City	Time
1 <sup>st</sup> position	Clara Sénéchal	Gatineau, QC	00:20:41
2 <sup>nd</sup> position	G Fortier-Cofsky	Gatineau, QC	00:21:03
3 <sup>rd</sup> position	Ève Plante	Gatineau, QC	00:21:38

### 2 K - Men

Connor Finlayson from Ottawa, ON, took the top step of the podium in the men's 2 K race with a time of 00:08:01. He was followed by Xavier Miller , also from Ottawa, who took second place with a time of 00:08:11. David Lefebvre-Morin of Gatineau, QC, finished third, with a time of 00:08:13.

2 K - Men	Name	City	Time
1 <sup>st</sup> position	Connor Finlayson	Ottawa, ON	00:08:01
2 <sup>nd</sup> position	Xavier Miller	Ottawa, ON	00:08:11
3 <sup>rd</sup> position	David Lefebvre-Morin	Gatineau, CA	00:08:13

## 2 K - Women

In the women's 2 km event, Marielle Hawkes from Ottawa recorded the fastest time, with 00:08:17. Abigail Simard from Gatineau. was second, with a time of 00:08:40. Marie-Anne Lebel, also from Gatineau, finished 3rd, with a time of 00:09:25.

2 K - Women	Name	City	Time
1 <sup>st</sup> position	Marielle Hawkes	Ottawa	00:08:17
2 <sup>nd</sup> position	Abigail Simard	Gatineau	00:08:40
3 <sup>rd</sup> position	Marie-Anne Lebel	Gatineau	00:09:25

### **Thanks to volunteers and partners**

Gatineau Loppet would like to thank the Courons Gatineau organizing committee and the hundred or so volunteers, as well as the financial partners who put their trust in us for this first edition and without whom none of this would be possible.

Thank you to our major partners Ville de Gatineau, ID Gatineau and Evolugen by Brookfield Renewable! Thanks also to our sponsors, Tourisme Outaouais, La Foulée sportive, Loisir Sports Outaouais, Res-O-Bord Le Pirate, the National Capital Commission, À La Dérive Brasserie Artisanale, Trinerergie, Athletics Quebec and Athletics Canada.

Finally, Gatineau Loppet would like to thank the elected officials who supported the event, including Suzanne Tremblay, Greg Fergus, Steven MacKinnon, Mathieu Lévesque, Robert Bussière, Sophie Chatel and Mathieu Lacombe.

### **About Gatineau Loppet**

Gatineau Loppet is a non-profit organization whose mission is to organize sporting events and deploy various initiatives to encourage the practice of sport.

The organization is behind Courons Gatineau, as well as the Gatineau Loppet, Canada's largest cross-country skiing event. Gatineau Loppet will celebrate its 50th anniversary in February 2028.



According to a study commissioned by City of Gatineau and conducted by the firm SEGMA recherche in 2020, the Gatineau Loppet generated tourism spinoffs of the order of \$1.2 million, and an attractiveness index of 1.5%. 39.1% are tourists, 30.7% are day-trippers, and almost 15% of participants are international.

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## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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