

Canadian Masters Annual report
Current events
and
Masters World Cup
Sappada-Forni Avoltri
2026
29.01/06.02

The Canadian Masters XC Ski Association continued its membership growth for the 2025 -2026 season. Approximately one hundred plus new members joined our Provincial and Territorial Associations to bring our membership to over five hundred skiers.

We welcomed Nova Scotia to our National Association which hosted our Bill Gairdner Canadian Masters Championships in March 2026 in a beautiful park in the city of Fredericton.

Canadian Masters members from across Canada competed in our second official Bill Gairdner Canadian Masters Championships to honor our founder Bill Gairdner. His son, Bill Gairdner Junior competed in his father's honour and won a Gold and Silver medal in the M5 category!

A great event with wonderful east coast hospitality over four days of competitions with so many smiling faces! Great courses on natural snow made for several fun races with many first timers joining the new Nova Scotia Provincial XC Ski Masters Association. Seventy two new members were welcomed into our National Organization!

Canada's ski season did not escape the world wide warming trend with low snow packs in Western and Central Canada. Eastern regions did see significant snow in December, January and February which resulted in great skiing conditions into spring for Ontario and Quebec!

Team Canada - Sappada-Forni MWC 2026

The Sappada-Forni Masters World Cup 2026 had everything a competitor could hope for over the entire event. Incredible scenery framed the race courses; spectacular

Dolomites towered above the courses, a rolling valley flowed underfoot, all dotted with Tyrolean themed homes and chalets. The weather Gods were smiling with daily sunshine for most events with the exception of the men's relays and long distance Free Technique (FT) events when fresh snow fell throughout. Great snow conditions prevailed with everything from frozen fast courses early on to new snow mixed with artificial snow for awesome FT racing later on in the week.

Team Canada had forty-five competitors competing in three individual races and four teams in the relays. Results are available on the World Masters XC ski Association web site - <https://www.world-masters-xc-skiing.com/en/results.html>

Our skiers raced against strong fields with many individual personal bests along with top ten finishes. Canada had a strong medal count, finishing seventh overall out of twenty-three countries!

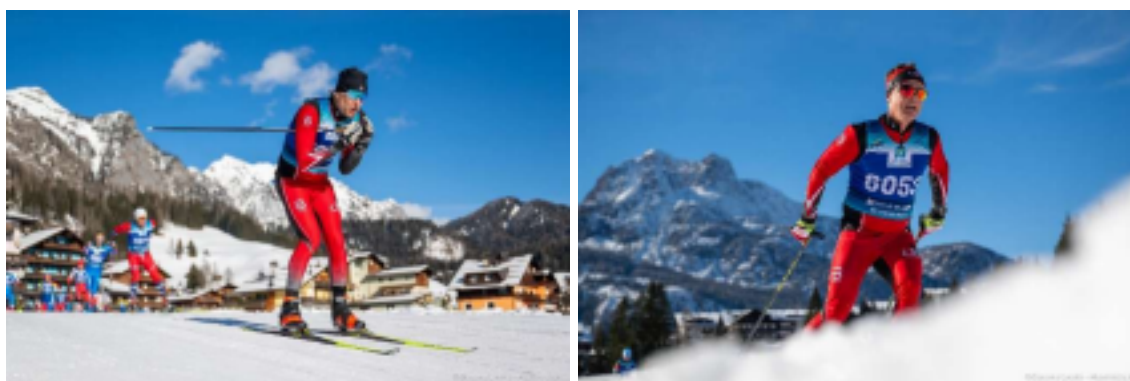


*Left: Maureen taking on the snowy race conditions at the relay venue in Forni Avoltri.
Right: Lori setting her sights on her teammate in the relay exchange zone.*



*Left: Genevieve skiing in the Bronze position in W-4 30 km CT.
Right: CMA Quebec Director, Martin, on his 2nd lap in M-7 15km CT.*

Day one saw crazy fast Classic Technique (CT) conditions with frozen tracks, icy downhills and bumper to bumper racing on 2.5 km, 5 km and 7.5 km courses. Multiple crashes were observed but luckily there were no serious injuries throughout the CT events. The afternoon brought softer conditions for FT events with fast courses and more pile ups on climbs and downhills. Bluebird conditions with sunshine made up for the challenging racing.



*Left: Brad- M7 about to take on a downhill section of the 10k FT course.
Right: Dave- M6 chasing down the competition during the 10km FT race.*

The FT races were skied on 2.5 km, 5 km and 7.5 km courses in the afternoons on manmade snow mixed with natural snow. Warm weather created some tricky glide conditions especially for the later events. The courses held up for the most part

especially considering the FT field was approximately four hundred and fifty starters across all age categories. The largest field was the M7 category, with over 55 competitors skiing bumper to bumper for most of the middle and short distance events.

The excitement really picked up on the downhills where you had to ski side by side on fast downhills with several packs of skiers in multiple age categories. This is definitely the unique part of racing in Europe as you gain confidence racing with competitors ahead and behind you for most of your races. So much fun with the occasional OMG moment in the fast sections of the courses.



*Left: Pat - W-9 - leading the field by three plus minutes with her third Gold medal!
Right: Peter (green toque) and Mike (in new Dahlie Team Canada racing suit) at the start of the M-9 - 15 km CT.*

The ski facilities in Sappada were a short walk for most of the team with a few skiers staying out of town. A great ski waxing room in our hotel and a large “Plastic Palace” (nickname for large tent) hosted ski suppliers, lunches, awards ceremonies and the final banquet.

The Siera Hof Hotel, our Team Hotel, was home to the majority of our team and featured home made dishes of local Tyrolean cuisine. Our wonderful hosts were a

family with Mama - Manuella - overseeing our breakfasts and dinners with wonderful authentic Tyrolean/Italian hospitality for the entire week. Mama kept us all in order and her husband/Chef and son kept us all hydrated with essential spirits!



A presentation of the Canadian flag from Team Canada to our hosts at Hotel Siera Hof.

Most of the team gathered at the Siera Hof Hotel to present the MWC 2026 Team flag to our wonderful Team Hotel Hosts. If you ever go to Sappada please say hello to the family at the Siera Hof Hotel!

A special mention to our medal winners below (check out the results using the link above) to see how everyone chased skiers from all over the world! Canada was proud to have our athletes reach the podium in such a strong field in Sappada, Italy!

Name	Age Group	Medal	Event
Pat	W-9	Gold Gold Gold	10 km FT 5 km CT 15 km FT

Gaetan	M-9	Gold Gold	15 km CT 10 km CT
Luc	M-6	Silver Bronze	30 km FT 15 km CT
Kathryn	W-10	Silver	10 km FT
Harry	M-11	Silver	15 km CT
Genevieve	W-4	Bronze	30 km CT
Maureen	W-9	Bronze	15 km FT

Congrats to all the skiers who competed in Sappada and in Forni Avoltri in the relays as you made us all proud to be Canadian! So many personal bests and life long memories for each of you!

What a great event and what an honour to work with all of you to help you reach your personal goals in the Sappada, Italy 2026 Masters World Cup!

Thanks to all our members for such a great season and for supporting the Masters World Cup!

Hope to see you all in Tromso, Norway in 2027! (See <https://msm.no/masters-world-cup/> for more information).

Stay well and enjoy your remaining ski season and summer!

Mike