

KASLO LOGGER SPORTS 2017

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VICTORIA DAY LONG WEEKEND



May 31/17

The sun shone all weekend! What an unusual treat for our event. Everyone loves the Kaslo Logger Sports show where over sixty competitors chop, climb, burl, choker and chainsaw their way through two days of twenty-six exciting events. Competitors come from B.C., Alberta, Washington, Montana, Oregon and Idaho.

Once again we had our wonderful announcers, Ben with his Kiwi accent and his lovely wife Michelle Lefler from Burnaby, B.C. They do a great job of revving up the crowd and paying tribute to the sponsors of our unique lumberjack events.

The winners of the Canadian Championship Events:

EVENT	SPONSOR	WINNER
Novice Obstacle Pole	Kaslo and District Community Forest Society	Seth Bergman of Kalispell, Montana
Intermediate Underhand Chop	Tirecraft Nakusp, Darren Hewit	Brad Barlow of Edmonton, Alberta
Open Unlimited Hot Saw	Woodland Equipment Inc., George Anderson	Wayne Paulson of Spruce Grove, Alberta
Women's Choker Race	Porcupine Wood Products, Craig Upper	Erin Lavoie of Spokane, Washington
Open Choker Race	PRT Growing Services, Dan Livingston	Brian Bartow of Mollala, Oregon

I'm pleased to report that all Canadian Championship prizes were purchased locally from sponsors of our event who generously provide the funds to run the show.

Loggers of the Day winners of the Stihl knives were:

Open – Brian Bartow, Mollala, Oregon

Women's - Erin La Voie, Spokane, Washington

Novice/Intermediate – Seth Bergman, Kalispell, Montana

Local Kootenay – Andrea Hand, Kaslo, B.C.

Our exciting tree falling event, sponsored by Kalesnikoff Lumber Company and Kootenay Innovative Wood, was handily won by Dave McLeod of Campbell River, B.C. This event takes a lot of work to set up and we can thank Jeff and Clint of Sunshine Logging and Dave Sicotte of D.W. Sicotte Trucking for that. Kat Spencer had a small problem in this event. She cut the wedge on the front and then the horizontal cut on the back, but the tree just stood there. She pushed and wedged and finally jumped up and down shoving all of her 95 pounds against the tree. Finally the tree went over but the Lucky Logger beer can was happy as she just missed it. Better luck next year Kat.

The Sponsor's Axe Throw Event was won by Glenn Erickson of Nelson throwing for Gary Burns Consulting and he took home a grass trimmer generously provided by Kevin Westerhaug of Main Jet Motorsports in Nelson. The Sponsor's Stock Saw event was won by Mike May of Salmo, sawing for Sunshine Logging Limited of Kaslo and he took home a leaf blower from Main Jet Motorsports.

About twenty kids raced around the field chokering and chopping. The crowd loves watching these little loggers and the winners disappeared so quickly the only name I got was Mitchell Erickson winning the Boy's Chop. They all picked up their prize envelopes though.

The Can/Am Relay is arguably the most exciting event of the weekend. There are six to seven novice-intermediate competitors per team with at least one woman competing in seven events. This is the fifth year Kaslo has featured this Canadian American challenge with each country winning twice. This year it came down to the final event, tree falling. Canada was ahead by several seconds but a mistake would be costly as there is a one second per inch penalty for missing the Lucky Logger beer can. Canada's tree faller was 78 year old Norm Gagne of Canal Flats. Norm nailed the can and the win for the Canadian Team. The U.S. Team is now behind by one but they said they would be back next year looking for redemption.

The Silent Auction load of logs provided by Sunshine Logging Limited and transported by D.W. Sicotte Trucking Ltd. went to Gary and Yvonne Weintz for the price of \$2,200.

One last thing. We have a resident toad in our log burling pond. He's about the size of a soft ball and adorable in a warty sort of way. Bruce gently takes him to the marshy area by the lake during the competition because we don't want him getting "burled" on. Every year he makes his way back to "his" pond which he generously shares with Kaslo Logger Sports.

Thank you to all sponsors, competitors and fans and please feel free to send me any suggestions and comments.

Yours truly, *"Kathy Freeman"*