

26 year old Matt Hadley has raced his mountain bike all over the world but as Dorothy said to Toto "There's no place like home." Hadley is back home in Penniac NB for a small break from the Canada Cup Mountain Bike Circuit and so in honour of his visit, he and his dad Eric designed and organized a race on the trails the Hadleys and other Fredericton area mountain bike enthusiasts have built. Titled the Hadley Challenge the race offered a demanding 26 km circuit but also featured a couple of slightly less grueling 20 km or 14 km events. Race day was set for Aug 23 and as an extra challenge riders had to contend with the edges of Hurricane Bill as well as the tough terrain. Still not even threat of a hurricane can keep mountain bike racers away and organizers and officials were please to see 46 intrepid riders from NB and NS mostly but included a visitor from Germany, Thorsten Heidrich and Ontario's Catherine Vipond and Sarah Frey. The 14 km circuit had the younger crop of future stars featuring 7 young riders of 14 to 16 years of age.

When the race bears your name and the finish line is at your house there's a certain pressure to perform and Matt did not disappoint finishing the 26 km event in 1 hour, 25 minutes, over 4 minutes ahead of second placed Jamie Lamb, another former national level mountain bike racer. Jamie hails from Dartmouth NS and despite being semi-retired from racing still gives a great showing at any event he rides. Third place went to Fredericton's Brain McKeown, which was also an impressive ride, as McKeown is just home from the Canada Summer Games in PEI where he was the team coach for NB's cycling team and so would not have had a lot of training rides in over the past week.

In the 20 km race Jonathan Clayton took top spot followed by George Versloot and Andrew Steeves. In the 14 km event young Neil Symington from Sussex roared into first place in just over an hour and more than five minutes ahead of the next rider, Justin Mallet of Dieppe. Third place went to Julien Roussel also of Dieppe.

All 46 riders ended the day at the Hadley homestead and it was a mud caked crowd who enjoyed a barbeque and social time post-race. Winners of the various races were awarded edible medals, made by a Hadley family friend – the gingerbread medals must have been delicious as none could be found after the presentations and many a rider was seen sporting an empty ribbon around their neck.

Full results:

26 km race

Rank	Name	Club	Time	Difference
1	Hadley, Matthew	Xprezo	01:25:09.25	0:00:00.0
2	Lamb, Jamie	Cyclesmith	01:29:29.07	0:04:19.82
3	McKeown, Brian	Radical Edge	01:31:01.08	0:05:51.83
4	Hadley, Adam		01:32:18.18	0:07:08.93
5	Simms		01:32:51.54	0:07:42.29
6	Therault, Justin	Radical Edge	01:36:15.97	0:11:06.72
7	Austin, Martin	Cyclesmith	01:36:19.93	0:11:10.68

8	Davis, Mike	Radical Edge	01:39:09.12	0:13:59.87
9	Vipond, Catherine		01:40:51.78	0:15:42.53
10	Douthwright, Adam	Radical Edge	01:41:44.81	0:16:35.56
11	Arnold, Jonathan		01:43:14.30	0:18:05.05
12	Julien, Rene	Mike's Bike	01:47:29.54	0:22:20.29
13	Sparkes, Jeff	Radical Edge	01:49:38.97	0:24:29.72
14	Miller, Mark		01:50:03.43	0:24:54.18
15	Russon, Nick		01:51:35.71	0:26:26.46
16	Levesque, Marc		01:54:31.10	0:29:21.85
17	Arcand, Antoine		01:57:10.70	0:32:01.45
18	Landry, Andre		01:58:25.28	0:33:16.03
19	Hamilton, Shawn		01:59:03.10	0:33:53.85
20	Murray, Kelly	Radical Edge	02:02:30.38	0:37:21.13
21	Violette, Greg	Radical Edge	02:04:26.46	0:39:17.21
22	May, Tom		02:04:47.29	0:39:38.04
23	Belanger, Serge		02:09:26.76	0:44:17.51
24	Heidrich, Thorsten		02:14:28.55	0:49:19.30
25	Farnham, Tristan		02:16:19.93	0:51:10.68
26	Ritchie, Sean		02:17:07.20	0:51:57.94
27	McNair, Andrew		02:17:10.51	0:52:01.26
28	Bragdon, Joel		02:17:10.98	0:52:01.73
29	Belanger, Annik		02:20:36.37	0:55:27.12
30	Van Dam, Dexter		02:26:31.50	01:01:22.25
31	Noel, Daniel		02:27:33.17	01:02:23.92

#### 20 km race

Rank	Name	Club	Time	Difference
1	Clayton, Jonathan		01:41:03.64	0:00:00.0
2	Versloot, George		01:41:29.89	0:00:26.25
3	Steeves, Andrew		01:49:40.62	0:08:36.98

4	Frey, Sarah	01:49:59.85	0:08:56.21
5	Smith, Graham	01:57:39.85	0:16:36.21
6	Smith, Josh	01:59:10.37	0:18:06.73
7	Arsenault, Todd	02:04:49.13	0:23:45.49
8	Mersereau, Ben	02:06:52.32	0:25:48.68

#### 14 km race

Rank	Name	Club	Time	Difference
1	Symington, Neil		01:00:37.62	0:00:00.0
2	Mallet, Justin	Mike's Bike Shop	01:06:13.72	0:05:36.10
3	Roussel, Julien	Peter Wedge	01:06:31.69	0:05:54.07
4	Evers, Marc		01:07:08.07	0:06:30.45
5	Denovan, Cole		01:13:00.73	0:12:23.11
6	Green, Benjamen	Darlings Island Race	01:25:14.94	0:24:37.32
7	Arsenault, Chris		01:44:55.01	0:44:17.39