

## Twin Victories & More Podiums for Husqvarna Canada

**May 19, 2011 – Saint John, NB** – The Husqvarna Canada race squad logged another stellar performance this past weekend by nailing **2 Wins** and **Multiple Podiums** at regional races across the country.

In a follow up to their **Win** at the St-Raymond 500 the weekend before, FP Husqvarna racers **Guy Giroux** and **Philippe Chainé** made it clear that they mean business in 2011 by hammering their way to **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>** in the opening round of the **CMRC** provincial off-road series in **Beauce, Quebec** on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

To add icing to the cake, Husqvarna's **Karine Geoffrion** rallied her way to an impressive **Win** in the **Ladies Class** at the Beauce round. Karine was joined on the podium by **Veronique Chainé**, sister to Philippe Chainé, who piloted her Husqvarna **TXC 250** to **3<sup>rd</sup>** position.

While the Quebec crew was causing havoc in the Eastern Canada, Husqvarna's **Ryan Graffunder** pounded his way to **2<sup>nd</sup> overall** at the **Rock Hound Hare Scramble** in Vernon, British Columbia.



**Philippe Chainé (L) & Guy Giroux (C)**

After notching a **victory** in his first race on the new **Husky TC 449** the week prior, **Guy Giroux** opted to race a **TE310** at the opening CMRC round in Beauce. It proved to be a good choice as Giroux took the bone stock unit, minus blinkers and street legal attire, nailed the holeshot, and ran uncontested to take the **Overall Pro Class Win**.

"I grabbed my first holeshot in maybe 3 years if not 4," said **Giroux**. The seasoned veteran took advantage of his opportunity to run in clear airspace, put his head down and charged until he had established a comfortable lead.

"I was watching Phil work his way through the pack. Second lap I had a 30 second lead, then pretty much put that pace in cruise control and watched behind for any comebacks. The bike was awesome, and I`m in really good shape, no fading, no sign of fatigue or anything. I was really happy with my riding. Got the win by 2:30 min over Phil making a Husky 1-2 punch."

While Giroux set the pace up front, Quebec's **Philippe Chainé** once again confirmed his status as one of the best young off-road racers in the country by rallying his **TXC250** to claim a comfortable **2<sup>nd</sup> position** behind Giroux. There is no doubt that Chainé will not relinquish his **No.1 plate** easily and it should make for a great battle between the Husky team-mates as the season unfolds!



**Philippe Chainé**

After a slow start that left her at the back of the pack, Husqvarna's **Karine Geoffrion**, quickly moved towards the front on her **TXC250**. A low side crash in fast sweeper corner on the slippery grass track cost Karine time and positions. Geoffrion picked herself up and settled into a steady rhythm that not only saw her move to the front, but run away with the **Overall Win** in the highly contested **Ladies Class** with more than a **5 minute cushion** over 2<sup>nd</sup> place!

Proving that "fast" can definitely run in the family gene pool, not only was Karine joined by Philippe's sister, **Veronique Chainé**, on podium as she finished **3<sup>rd</sup>** on her Husky **TXC 250**, Karine's mom, **Carole Geoffrion**, finished **5<sup>th</sup>** on her Husqvarna **CR150**!



**Karine Geoffrion (C) & Veronique Chainé (R)**

Honorable mention must also go out to **14 year old** Husky support rider, **Sam Rousseau**, who battled hard in the Intermediate Class to claim **3<sup>rd</sup> position** on his Husky **CR 150**. Only 12 seconds shy of the win, young Rousseau has really upped his game this year and will undoubtedly be in the hunt for victories all season.

In **British Columbia**, FP Husqvarna's **Ryan Graffunder** entered his first race since having major knee surgery last fall. Graffunder, who was the CEC's **Top Pro Junior** in both 2009 and 2010, silenced any questions about his conditioning or speed by charging through the dust on his new Husqvarna **TC 449** to claim **2<sup>nd</sup> Overall** at **Rock Hound Hare Scramble**.

"The race went very well", said **Graffunder**. "I started second behind Bobby (Prochnau) until I missed a turn and ended up on the wrong trail. I came around the first lap in fifth, but once I relaxed and started riding smooth, I started moving up and by the end of lap two I was in second.

I was battling with Ian Mckill but he decided not to stop for fuel in hopes of passing me on lap three but he ran out of gas. From that point I rode smooth until the finish. I'm really comfortable with the new 449. It is a huge improvement over last year's bike. My knee feels fine and I'm looking forward to racing again next weekend."



**Ryan Graffunder**

In its first year of competition in 2010, the new FP Husqvarna team enjoyed an enormous amount of success. In addition to over **20 podiums** in **Regional** races across the country, including almost **10 Wins**, the new Husqvarna Canada team finished its debut in the **Canadian Enduro Championship** with **10 Pro Class Podiums** and the **Top Pro Junior Award**.

With a **3 Wins** and **several podiums** already under its belt in 2011, the Husqvarna Canada squad is definitely on track for another great racing season!

We are very grateful to our many amazing sponsors that provide us with the outstanding support that has allowed us to help raise the bar in Canadian off-road racing. Without them, none of it would be possible.

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**Karine Geoffrion**

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