

## **Everyone is a winner**

The fifth edition of the official Rubiks cube competition organised by Rockland's L'Escale High School Club de Cube L'Escale took place this past Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. The RCN-NCR 2015 edition of the competition attracted more than 75 competitors, from the greater Toronto, Ottawa-Gatineau and Montreal areas.

Since its modest 21-competitors first edition in 2010, the competition has grown every single year, to reach more than 75 competitors this year.

Sure the 2015 edition had winners, like Antoine Cantin from Rockland (1<sup>st</sup> in 3x3x3, blindfold, one handed, in Pyraminx and in Skewb; 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2x2x2 and in Megaminx), Louis Cormier also of Rockland (1<sup>st</sup> in 2x2x2 and in Megaminx, 2<sup>nd</sup> in 4x4x4, Pyraminx and in Skewb; 3<sup>rd</sup> in blindfold), Jonathan Esparaz from Toronto (1<sup>st</sup> in 4x4x4, 2<sup>nd</sup> one handed, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in 3x3x3), Thompson Clarke from Toronto (2<sup>nd</sup> in 3x3x3, 3<sup>rd</sup> in 4x4x4, 2x2x2, one-handed, Megaminx and in Pyraminx) et Laura Plourde from Ottawa (3<sup>rd</sup> in Skewb). But at the end of the day, everyone, most of them teenagers or younger, are winners.

For most of those people, speedsolving is a passion; a passion not shared with many people in their school or immediate surroundings. For many of them, it is also their favourite hobby. A hobby that requires dexterity and critical thinking: as they get faster and faster they need to know more and more sets of sequences, then need to know when to use them and in which order – and those decisions must be made in fractions of a second.



*The real winners of the RCN-NCR 2015 Rubiks Cube Competition – the participants!.*

Speedcubers typically start their hobby by solving the traditional 3x3x3. But the World Cube Association uses many other cubes in its competitions: from the 2x2x2 to the 7x7x7, from the Square-1, Skewb, Megaminx or Pyraminx. Some events are done blindfolded, where studying the scrambled cube is part of the resolving time. The 3x3x3 may be done with your feet, or using one hand. Most start the hobby with the traditional 3x3x3, but they quickly add other events to their arsenal, learning new sequences of movements and different skillsets to their growing passion.

Competitions are organized by volunteers. In fact, most competitors are expected to help out during the day. Tasks may include judging, or scrambling cubes using a specific formulae so every competitor gets the same scrambles. A World Cube Association delegate must be present to ensure proper procedures are followed.

In the case of the RCN-NCR series of competitions in the National Capital Region (Rockland), CanadianCubing.com from Toronto represents the World Cube Association. They make sure rules are followed. They also take care of registrations, tabulate results, and submit them to the WCA. The rest is handled by Le Club de Cube L'Escale.

But the real backbone of the RCN-NCR competitions is made out of the parents, the volunteers, the organisers and the sponsors. Everything started when Le Club de Cube L'Escale was formed, in 2010, by two grade 9 kids from école secondaire catholique L'Escale. With the support of the school, the two students received a grant from the Ontario Ministry of Education for their project. The Caisse Populaire Desjardins got involved the following year, and helped them out to give demonstrations in the community both in Rockland and in Ottawa (mostly in the Canadian Museum of Science and Technology). The Myers Automotive Group of car dealerships in Orleans got involved in the first competition. As did the local Knights of Columbus, the Rockland Jean Coutu pharmacy, Tim Hortons and Dr Danielle Frigault (optometrist) – they gave donations so various prizes could be given to competitors; some of those are door prizes, to ensure even the beginners have a chance to win. The last few years, Rubiks has given medals to the top-3 scores in each of the events.

It is therefore a big, heartfelt THANK YOU the organizers of the National Capital Region competitions would like to give all those people, those sponsors, those community organisations. To all those volunteers. Also to the parents, willing to bring the youngsters to those competitions. It is because of you all that those kids can, once a year, get together in a hall full of people JUST LIKE THEM, performing one of those odd-ball type hobbies. For many, they are in seventh heaven for that day.

Thank you. Merci.

Claude Cantin, for Le Club de Cube L'Escale, organiser of the RCN-NCR Rubiks cube Rockland competitions  
<http://cubes.lescale.com>