



# MICRA CUP

## M A G A Z I N E



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**RACES 11 AND 12**

SEPTEMBER 22, 23, 24  
CIRCUIT MONT-TREMBLANT

**THE 2017 SEASON GRAND FINALE!**

**ROUND  
6**



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## 2017 CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE FOR OLIVIER BÉDARD IN THE NISSAN MICRA CUP

– Olivier Bédard and Xavier Coupal, winners of the last two races of the season, held this weekend at the Circuit Mont-Tremblant

The 2017 Nissan Micra Cup championship ended this past weekend during the Fall Classic, held at the Circuit Mont-Tremblant. Two races took place, and all eyes were on the overall championship duel between Olivier Bédard and Kevin King. Under intense heat and constant sun, the two races brought together thousands of motorsport enthusiasts and fans of Nissan Canada and the Nissan Micra Cup.

After earning pole position on Saturday, Olivier Bédard led from the start to the finish of a race that stopped momentarily following Kevin King's incident, which ended King's hopes of claiming the title. Stefan Rzdzinski and Valérie Limoges rounded out the podium after a tight battle for third place between Limoges, who started on the first line, Stéfan Gauthier, Jean-Michel Isabelle and Xavier Coupal. After multiple position changes throughout the race, they finished in that same order.

Seventh overall and winner of the senior class following Saturday's race, Metod Topolnik diminished the senior class drivers' championship gap between himself and Normand Boyer, who finished the race behind Topolnik and Frédéric Bernier. As a result of this finish, Boyer claimed the senior class' championship title. Among the rookies, Fadi Mourad earned his first victory of the season, ahead of Englishman Jake Exton and Vincent Doyle.

"I would have obviously preferred to win the title at the end of another great battle with Kevin King, but unfortunately incidents are part of racing," said Olivier Bédard. "I also had issues during the season and I'm very pleased with this title. It's my second win in the Nissan Micra Cup, after my win in 2015. For me, it's a special moment that I'll never forget"

The last race of the 2017 Nissan Micra Cup took place the following day, once again under unseasonably high temperatures. The race concluded without any pauses, setting the stage for a number of exciting battles amongst all three classes. The fight for victory played out between Olivier Bédard, who once again qualified in pole position, Valérie Limoges and Xavier Coupal. The latter claimed the win after passing Bédard on the last lap, which, with the fastest lap bonus points, give him the runner-up title, just one point point ahead of King. Rzdzinski finished ahead of Isabelle and Topolnik, who was at the top in the senior class.

The biggest battle of the weekend took place between 10 drivers, who were fighting for seventh place neck and neck. Jake Exton eventually succeeded, while also finishing first among the rookies. A special mention also goes to Austin Riley, the young autistic racer who put up a strong fight in the rookie championship after qualifying second. Overall, Austin finished in twelfth place in Sunday's race.

It was at the Fall Classic at the Circuit Mont-Tremblant where 2017 champions Olivier Bédard, Normand Boyer and Jake Exton were crowned, but all Nissan Micra Cup participants, drivers, officials, and team members were celebrated as the series' third season came to an end. A season that was intense, action-packed, and highlighted by the achievements of about 40 drivers on the track, also allowed hundreds of Canadian Nissan Micra owners to discover and appreciate the series and its events.

For more information on the Nissan Micra Cup, please go to the website [www.nissan.ca/micracup](http://www.nissan.ca/micracup). Don't miss series news and updates on the [Coupe Nissan Micra Cup Facebook page](#) and live tweets/results during practice, qualifying, and races on [Twitter: @micracup](#), on [Instagram: nissanmicracup](#)



# THE WORLD OF THE NISSAN MICRA CUP



## **NORMAND BOYER, FIRST SENIOR CLASS CHAMPION!**

The Senior class was introduced at the beginning of the 2017 season and was created for drivers over the age of 40-years-old. The purpose of the senior class is to give drivers of that age range, who are mainly participating for the fun family atmosphere, the opportunity to battle each other on the track and give them additional motivation. By the end of the 2017 season, the senior class was a huge success with almost one-third of the participants in that category at every race. Throughout the season, fans were expecting a battle between Metod Topolnik and Normand Boyer for the lead position, but the latter finished in the top 10 multiple times, enough to ensure the title. Normand, who is experienced in Canadian motorsports, impressed Nissan Micra Cup fans with his talent behind the wheel, but he also made an impact with his original hats in the paddocks!



## **PRESIDENT, VP AND MARKETING DIRECTOR TRACKSIDE!**

In addition to the thousands of spectators at Circuit Mont-Tremblant, including Nissan Micra Cup fans and Nissan Micra owners, Nissan Canada had the honour of welcoming Joni Paiva, president, Nissan Canada; Steve Milette, recently appointed vice-president of sales, Nissan Canada; and Steve Rhind, marketing director, Nissan Canada. Joni Paiva is no stranger to the Nissan Micra Cup events, but this weekend marked the first race weekend that Steve Milette and Steve Rhind were able to attend, and they enjoyed it very much. In addition to enjoying the show on the track, the Nissan Canada executives had the opportunity to participate in a number of fun activities. This included meeting the drivers, visiting the paddocks, talking with clients and guests before going on the track themselves for the Nissan Micra and Z parade, as well as being passengers in the Nissan GT-R for hot laps. The weekend was a great experience for the Nissan Canada executives, but also for the drivers and Nissan Micra Cup teams, since they were able witness just how much the Nissan Micra Cup is valued by Nissan Canada and its executive team.

## **JAKE EXTON ROOKIE CHAMPION**

The rookie championship was also a great success this season. In fact, the 2017 season featured the most rookie participants compared to the first two seasons. After the beginning of the season where Nicolas Barrette dominated, Jake Exton and Vincent Doyle managed to pass him during the second last event of the season, which took place earlier this month in Ontario. But the rookie champion was determined during the final two races this weekend at Circuit Mont-Tremblant. Finishing second behind Fadi Mourad in both races, Exton gained the necessary points to win the 2017 rookie title in front of Vincent Doyle, Nicolas Barrette, Austin Riley and Fadi Mourad.



## **NEXT EVENT: THE ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY!**

We talked a lot about Québec comedian Michel Barrette this season. We have to admit that he was not only passionately involved as a driver in the senior and rookie classes, but also as a co-owner of Barrette Racing. When his racecars are parked, they are actually located at Michel Barrette's home, or should we say at his hotel, which he owns. It's called the Trois Tilleuls Hotel at St-Marc-sur-Richelieu (Québec), and this is where the annual banquet will be held, and where the Nissan Micra Cup 2017 award ceremony will take place. This wonderful evening, which will be filled with surprises and announcements, will take place on Saturday, November 11. More details will be available on [www.micracup.com](http://www.micracup.com)



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## 2... 3 QUESTIONS FOR... **OLIVIER BÉDARD**

**How do you feel about winning a second Nissan Micra Cup championship title?**

I am very, very happy to have won a second title. That said, the weekend did not go as planned. I would have really liked to experience an exciting battle with Kevin King this weekend, like we did earlier in the season. We are adrenaline junkies and to be fighting until the very end is very thrilling. I was anticipating a battle since the race weekend at the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, but I am still very happy to have won the championship. Consistency was one of the key factors for success this year.

**What a great way to end the season with an amazing weekend. Is it the cherry on top for you?**

Yes, team Albi Total provided me with an exceptional car, and it was a pleasure racing this weekend. I think that all of the elements came together this weekend to show the potential of this team as well as me as a driver. My best moment of the season is the second



half of the season, including the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières where I felt good in the car from a driving perspective, but also a concentration perspective. I truly felt like I was one with the car. Another memorable moment was at the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park because we had some great fights on the track.

**What are your goals for your future career? What kind of series would you like to compete in?**

I am ready for everything. This year I had the

opportunity to experience every type of racing. I participated in the Nissan Micra Cup, I got to try out touring, and I also showed what I could do on oval while participating in three ACT races. I also took part in the Formula 1600 race at the Canadian Grand Prix, as well as tried out endurance. I have experienced success in each of these ventures this year, so I think I am ready for anything. We are working hard on our plans for the next season. In the spring, I am hoping to be able to announce some good news concerning my career in car racing.



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## INTERVIEW **JONI PAIVA,** NISSAN CANADA PRESIDENT

**The third season of the Nissan Micra Cup is ending, how are you feeling about it all?**

I'm feeling very positive. The Nissan Micra Cup started on a certain level in its first year, we aimed higher in its second year and this time, for the third year, we did even better by developing a formula that includes even more clients. We left the exclusive, but welcoming and professional Nissan Micra Cup behind, and opened our doors to a larger audience. We've done this by hosting events like the Trois-Rivières concert, and by inviting Nissan Micra owners to the track for their own special parade. It has been incredible.

**What does the Nissan Micra Cup mean for Nissan Canada?**

The Nissan Micra Cup is proof that Nissan Canada is innovative. The Nissan Micra Cup is something that hasn't ever been done before, and it demonstrates that we make reliable, affordable and quality cars. It also shows that we attract all kinds of clients.

**This year, there were a number of clients and Nissan Micra owners at the races, there was a free concert in Trois-Rivières, as well as other fun activities. Is it important to involve your clients?**

Yes, very important. As I said earlier, we had to expand the Nissan Micra Cup's reach and open it up to a larger audience. The goal was to attract more than just racecar enthusiasts. An element that seemed inevitable to gain more interest was to allow our clients to attend the events and drive on the racetracks during the parades. This hasn't ever been done before and is a unique opportunity for them. Feeling and discovering the track is amazing for those who drive Nissan Micras in their everyday life. We put on a concert and hosted a BBQ in order to share the experience with our clients.

**Is it important to you that the Nissan Micra owners are not only guests at the race weekends, but also get to drive on the track?**

Offering both provides the best of both worlds. Nissan Micra owners get to experience the Nissan Micra Cup as spectators, but they also



get to see what it's like to be a driver by going on the track with their own Micras, a car that they likely use to drive to work or shop for groceries with. Nissan Canada is giving them the opportunity to go beyond what fan usually experience at a race weekend, without being an actual driver.

**You had the opportunity to meet a few of those clients at Circuit Mont-Tremblant, what were their impressions?**

I received a lot of thank yous and appreciation. Shortly after the Nissan Micra and Z parade on Saturday afternoon, a few waited for me to finish interviews to come and thank me for what Nissan Canada has done for them

through this initiative. A few had driven more than six hours to attend the event, which they thought was unique. We are giving our clients the treat of living an amazing day or weekend, and it's wonderful to hear how grateful they are in return. I also received remarks from Nissan Micra experts, who are suggesting that we do some things differently, like import vehicles from other markets, etc. In light of all of our initiatives, we definitely reached the general public – the full parking lot alongside the track speaks for itself.

**To conclude, how do you define the Nissan Micra Cup with one phrase?**

Very professional, very welcoming and down to earth.



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# POSTCARD





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## INTERVIEW WITH **JACQUES DESHAIES**

Jacques Deshaies, promoter of the Nissan Micra Cup, is proud of the third season that concluded this past weekend. In this interview, he discusses the latest season, as well as reflects on the evolution of the series since its inauguration in 2015 and its competitiveness.

### **Jacques, what did you think of the 2017 season?**

It was extremely positive! We had a nice season, a great champion and a new driver, Michel Barrette, who attracted a lot of media attention to the series. For the third consecutive year, we showed that the championship title isn't determined until the last event of the season. The results are always very close, which is exciting for everybody. Another highlight of mine from the 2017 season is the creation of the senior class. This allowed our non-professional drivers, who race for fun and are not in their twenty's, to compete against one another. This is exactly what the Nissan Micra Cup is all about – to be happy and have fun on the best racetracks in Canada. The senior class creates a "race within the race", since the drivers have their own standings, trophies and podiums. The creation of the senior class has prompted more senior drivers to join the Nissan Micra Cup, and it's been a real success. Going forward, the senior class is here to stay.

### **In 2017, the number of drivers participating in the Nissan Micra Cup increased. Was that because the series only had six events this year, or are there other reasons?**

This year, the Nissan Micra Cup included six race weekends, instead of eight race weekends like in 2016, and this decreased overall costs for the drivers. This was definitely a factor in the increased number of drivers for 2017, but it's not the only reason. This year, the Nissan Micra Cup calendar included a seven-week break between June and July, and many drivers were grateful for this since it allowed them to take vacations. From the perspective of the organizers, the Nissan Micra Cup is a professional series, but it's made for amateur drivers. With that, we have to take into account their needs. The drivers participate in the series for fun, but also have a daily job and need vacations, especially at the end of the school year since a lot of them are parents. Family is important to the Nissan Micra Cup. It always has been, and always will be.

### **You mentioned it earlier, but for the third year in a row, the champion was determined during the last race**

### **weekend. As a promoter, you must be satisfied...**

Absolutely. The results are always very close and this creates a lot of suspense throughout the season, which continues to attract more and more fans to the series. We've seen other series crown their champions before the end of the season, and this diminishes any ongoing interest. The public wants a show, suspense and emotion. The fans that came out to the Fall Classic in Mont-Tremblant were on the edges of their seats as they witnessed the battle for the championship title. Once again, the Nissan Micra Cup kept its promise to excite thanks to all of our drivers and the amazing show they put on. This is what contributes to maintaining the media's attention, and as a promoter, it's exactly what I'm looking for.

### **Does the Nissan Micra Cup have a bright future?**

The past shows what the future can bring... Since its launch in 2015, the Nissan Micra Cup has been a huge success, at all levels, both in Canada and even internationally. In three years, the Nissan Micra Cup has become a leading racing series in the national motorsports community, while also being the most accessible and affordable. We are very proud of this 100% Canadian achievement. We will disclose more news on the Nissan Micra Cup during the annual award ceremony taking place later this year.



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# CIRCUIT MONT-TREMBLANT RACE 11 AND 12 RESULTS

ROUND  
6

### QUALIFICATION RACE 1

1) Olivier Bédard	No.99
2) Valérie Limoges	No.220
3) Stéfán Gauthier	No.96
4) Xavier Coupal	No.1
5) Stefan Rzdzinski	No.69
6) Kevin King	No.40
7) Normand Boyer	No.11
8) Jean-Michel Isabelle	No.86
9) Metod Topolnik	No.78
10) Nicolas Touchette	No.55
11) Frédéric Bernier	No.28
12) Mario Berthiaume	No.7
13) Fadi Mourad	No.77
14) Vincent Doyle	No.43
15) Simon Charbonneau	No.41
16) Jake Exton	No.00
17) Austin Riley	No.20
18) Martin Barrette	No.875
19) Nicolas Barrette	No.427
20) Peter Dyck	No.73
21) Alex Habrich	No.75
22) Mario Charette	No.728
23) Michael Habrich	No.88
24) Sylvain Ouellet	No.98
DNS) Keishi Ayukai	No.59

### QUALIFICATION RACE 2

1) Olivier Bédard	No.99
2) Valérie Limoges	No.220
3) Xavier Coupal	No.1
4) Jean-Michel Isabelle	No.86
5) Stéfán Gauthier	No.96
6) Stefan Rzdzinski	No.69
7) Metod Topolnik	No.78
8) Normand Boyer	No.11
9) Fadi Mourad	No.77
10) Frédéric Bernier	No.28
11) Austin Riley	No.20
12) Mario Berthiaume	No.7
13) Vincent Doyle	No.43
14) Nicolas Touchette	No.55
15) Jake Exton	No.00
16) Simon Charbonneau	No.41
17) Nicolas Barrette	No.427
18) Peter Dyck	No.73
19) Keishi Ayukai	No.59
20) Alex Habrich	No.75
21) Sylvain Ouellet	No.98
22) Michael Habrich	No.88
23) Mario Charette	No.728
DNS) Kevin King	No.40
DNS) Martin Barrette	No.875

### RACE 1

1) Olivier Bédard	6 laps
2) Stefan Rzdzinski	-2.343
3) Valérie Limoges	-3.084
4) Stéfán Gauthier	-3.691
5) Jean-Michel Isabelle	-4.388
6) Xavier Coupal	-4.641
7) Metod Topolnik (S)	-7.768
8) Frédéric Bernier (S)	-9.480
9) Normand Boyer (S)	-9.724
10) Fadi Mourad (R)	-9.960
11) Jake Exton (R)	-10.675
12) Nicolas Touchette (S)	-11.057
13) Vincent Doyle (R)	-11.838
14) Keishi Ayukai	-13.939
15) Mario Berthiaume (S)	-14.296
16) Nicolas Barrette (R)	-15.517
17) Austin Riley (R)	-16.118
18) Alex Habrich (S)	-37.774
19) Mario Charette (S+R)	-38.603
20) Michael Habrich (R)	-1:40.418
21) Peter Dyck (S)	-5 laps
22) Sylvain Ouellet (S)	-5 laps
23) Martin Barrette (R)	-5 laps
24) Kevin King	-6 laps
25) Simon Charbonneau (R)	-6 laps

### RACE 2

1) Xavier Coupal	15 laps
2) Olivier Bédard	-0.242
3) Valérie Limoges	-0.260
4) Stefan Rzdzinski	-4.132
5) Jean-Michel Isabelle	-6.302
6) Metod Topolnik (S)	-12.894
7) Jake Exton (R)	-31.016
8) Stéfán Gauthier	Penalty
9) Normand Boyer (S)	-32.048
10) Fadi Mourad (R)	Penalty
11) Vincent Doyle (R)	-31.144
12) Austin Riley (R)	-33.451
13) Nicolas Touchette (S)	-33.833
14) Nicolas Barrette (R)	Penalty
15) Keishi Ayukai	-34.483
16) Frédéric Bernier (S)	-35.163
17) Mario Berthiaume (S)	-38.518
18) Peter Dyck (S)	-1:07.700
19) Mario Charette (S+R)	-1:33.832
20) Alex Habrich (S)	-1:42.625
21) Simon Charbonneau (R)	-1:57.402
22) Sylvain Ouellet (S)	-1 lap
23) Michael Habrich (R)	-1 lap
DNS) Martin Barrette (R)	-----
DNS) Kevin King	-----



### DRIVERS STANDINGS

1) Olivier Bédard	402 points	18) Fadi Mourad (rookie)	57 points
2) Xavier Coupal	317 points	19) Alex Habrich (Senior)	53.5 points
3) Kevin King	316 points	20) Nicolas Touchette (Senior)	50.5 points
4) Valérie Limoges	242 points	21) Jesse Lazare	48 points
5) Jean-Michel Isabelle	237 points	22) Michael Habrich (rookie)	34.5 points
6) Normand Boyer (Senior)	225 points	23) Mario Berthiaume (Senior)	28 points
7) Stéfán Rzdzinski	203 points	24) Martin Barrette (rookie)	27 points
8) Stéfán Gauthier	199 points	25) Luc Richard	26 points
9) Keishi Ayukai	184.5 points	26) Michel Barrette (Sen.+rookie)	23 points
10) Metod Topolnik (Senior)	145 points	26) Edward Wong (Senior)	23 points
11) Marc-Antoine Cardin	130 points	28) Vic Simone (Senior)	22 points
12) Jake Exton (rookie)	102 points	29) Mario Charette (Sen.+rookie)	20.5 points
13) Frédéric Bernier (Senior)	98 points	30) Sylvain Ouellet (Senior)	17 points
14) Vincent Doyle (rookie)	84 points	31) Jeff Boudreault (Senior)	4 points
15) Peter Dyck (Senior)	81 points	32) Simon Charbonneau (rookie)	3 points
16) Nicolas Barrette (rookie)	66.5 points	32) Brian Makse (Senior)	3 points
17) Austin Riley (rookie)	59 points	34) Samuel Rowe (rookie)	0 point

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