



# MICRA CUP

## M A G A Z I N E



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**RACES 11 AND 12**

CIRCUIT MONT-TREMBLANT  
SEPTEMBER 21, 22, 23

**THE FINALE OF THE  
2018 SEASON!**

**ROUND  
6**



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Mobil 1

PIRELLI



# OLIVIER BÉDARD BAGS FINAL NISSAN MICRA CUP VICTORY AND 2018 CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

– Olivier Bédard claimed his third Micra Cup Championship title at the Circuit Mont-Tremblant series' finale; Normand Boyer claims the Senior Class champion title and Fadi Mourad named Rookie of the Year; Ontarian Jake Exton wins the final race of the 2018 Micra Cup season –

This weekend, the Nissan Micra Cup hosted its final races of the 2018 season as part of the Fall Classic at Circuit Mont-Tremblant. The grand finale event saw Olivier Bédard bag a victory on Saturday, and make a bold move to claim the 2018 Championship title by earning pole position, ahead of Normand Boyer, Jake Exton, Kevin King, Fadi Mourad and Valérie Limoges. Jake Exton also concluded his season with a victory on Sunday – all witnessed by an exuberant crowd of spectators.

Limoges (307). Normand Boyer finished sixth (219) and earned the 2018 Senior Class champion title. Fadi Mourad finished seventh (214 points), bagging the Rookie of the Year spot.

This weekend marks the end of the 2018 Nissan Micra Cup season. The next season will commence in the spring and will once again be comprised of six weekend events, each made up of two races respectively.

Before the race, approximately 50 Nissan Micra and Z owners were given the opportunity to drive the Circuit Mont-Tremblant track as part of a parade. After the Nissan LEAF pace car completed the two formation laps and subsequently released the peloton of Micra's, Bédard solidified his lead over the drivers to earn his seventh victory of the season. Behind him, a battle ensued between Limoges, Exton, and King, with Limoges ultimately claiming the second-place spot. King, Mourad and Exton followed suit across the finish line.

Jesse Lazare, IMSA series endurance driver and 2017 winner of the 24 Hours of Daytona, was back competing this weekend at the Micra Cup and completed the top six amongst a squadron of eight drivers.

On Sunday, the grand finale saw Jake Exton qualify in pole position, before leading the race despite constant pressure from Bédard or Limoges. Multiple passes later, Exton was ultimately victorious in claiming his second win of the season and placing third overall in the final championship standings. Lazare was next across the finish line, followed by Bédard, Limoges, Marc Héroux, Nicolas Barrette, Éric Chaput, Austin Riley, Alex Habrich and Peter Dyck.

The 2018 season had 34 drivers compete overall. In the final drivers' championship standings, Olivier Bédard finished first with a total of 472 points and seven overall victories during the season. Following Bédard in the standings was Kevin King (350), Jake Exton (316) and Valérie





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# QUESTION AND ANSWERS

## WITH JONI PAIVA, NISSAN CANADA PRESIDENT

### **What are your thoughts on the outcome of the 2018 Micra Cup season?**

Extremely positive! The series is becoming more and more attractive, and every season we see an increase in spectators around the track. It's evolving from a closed club of racing enthusiasts to touch a broader audience and there have been several moments throughout the season that proved this. For example, the concert in downtown Trois-Rivières or the Nissan Micra and Z owners' parade in Ontario and at Circuit Mont-Tremblant. The word-of-mouth and the media attention are paying off which has resulted in the Nissan Micra Cup's continued growth. When we confirmed that the series would be back for seasons 2018 to 2020, we told ourselves we had to do better than the previous seasons. I consider the objective fully achieved this year, congratulations to all.

### **The parades that allowed Micra and Z owners to do laps around the championship tracks were very successful. Is it an important priority for Nissan Canada to involve their customers?**

Yes, absolutely. It was important that Nissan customers feel involved in the Nissan Micra Cup events. The parades are a wonderful idea and I'm proud that it has been put in place through the collaboration with local promoters. Don't forget that the Nissan Micra Cup is already a very original series in and of itself. Three years ago, if we had to choose a model in the Nissan range adapted for motorsports, we would not have chosen the Micra. The idea had to be original with a nice, efficient and reliable car that would allow you to race at a very affordable cost. Involving the public and our customers with these ingredients was a priority.

### **We even saw owners decorate their Micra's in a very original way during the parades!**

Indeed! There is a very important likability factor for Micra in Canada. It's a real pleasure to see that these customers love their Micra and are so proud to personalize it.

### **The arrival of the all-electric Nissan LEAF mid-season as the pace car sparked a lot of interest and curiosity. Aside from the image, what did the Nissan LEAF bring to the Micra Cup?**

Beyond generating conversation about the series, it's a way for us to demonstrate that the Nissan LEAF fits perfectly in a motorsport's environment, specifically its performance and not just on the road for your everyday drive. This is a very positive

message that I'm proud to promote. And let's not forget that the Nissan LEAF is our flagship vehicle in terms of technology. It was a bit like having the little kid, a simple and affordable Micra, trail behind the epitome of Nissan technology, which the LEAF represents with its 100 per cent electric motor, Pro Pilot system, connectivity, etc. It's fabulous to have the strength and originality of a Nissan LEAF in front of the race-ready Micra field.

### **Has the Nissan Micra Cup reached its maturity level?**

Absolutely! 2018 was the fourth season of the series, which is not a lot, but the level I saw this year was very high. The Nissan Micra Cup started from a blank page and it's become a really great success.



Joni Paiva, here with Olivier Bédard Series promoter, Jacques Deshaies.



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## 2... 3 QUESTIONS WITH **JACQUES DESHAIES**

**Nissan Micra Cup promoter Jacques Deshaies, gives a positive review of the series' fourth season and talks about next year...**

***Jacques, how do you evaluate the 2018 season, the fourth for the Nissan Micra Cup?***

The season was very positive all around. I am satisfied by the participation rate, despite the challenge of attracting drivers to Ontario events. Ontario hosts 50 per cent of Micra Cup races so I would like to have more drivers in the series that come from the province. I'm hopeful for next season because we met many Ontario drivers during last month's NASCAR weekend at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, who showed a lot of interest in the series. A few have already contacted me to ask about available cars for next season or the price of a new car, so I am very positive!

We also have interest from new Quebec teams who want to join the series, so I think 2019 is going to be even better. The work of the whole organization and the competition level of the series this year were simply incredible. There were spectacular races this season, like we've never seen before. Most excitingly were the battles we saw at every level in the field: for the victory, in the middle of the pack and even at the back. We can see that our drivers have gained experience since the beginning of their Nissan Micra Cup adventure!

***Was it a memorable season on the track for you?***

Absolutely! We saw a lot of action all season long but I'm most happy to see that the drivers brought their cars back practically in one piece. There were some incidents, such as Frédéric Bernier unfortunately hitting the wall at Trois-Rivières, but this was a pure

racing accident that is part of the risks of an urban race. Aside from that, there were no other problems with the cars or with the drivers' conduct. In a series where the drivers are battling as close as within tenths of a second from each other, contact is hard to avoid, but during the 2018 season there were very few incidents thanks to our talented and disciplined drivers. Congratulations to all of them!

We also streamed six of our 12 races live from our YouTube channel, Micra Cup TV, which allowed many fans to follow the series. In addition to the clips on TSN and RDS, these features are important for the series' notoriety.

***Let's talk about the future: have you already started thinking about next season and can we expect any new features in 2019?***

We have been thinking about 2019 since this year's mid-season point, but because of the availability of the tracks, we cannot make a lot of changes. If we had 15 different tracks in Ontario and Quebec, we would have more flexibility and could play around with the calendar. It is important for the Nissan Micra Cup to be seen by a large audience and we only find this kind of interest at less than 10 Canadian racing events. If we receive offers to participate in new events, then we will consider them, but for now we are really happy with our calendar and the 2019 one should remain more or less the same.





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# FALL CLASSIC POSTCARD





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# **Q&A** WITH THE 2018 NISSAN MICRA CUP CHAMPION, **OLIVIER BÉDARD**

***Olivier, how are you feeling after winning the 2018 title, your third in the Nissan Micra Cup?***

I am very happy to have won the championship again. It was a great season with the SolidExpert team, including Alex Habrich, his son Michael Habrich, Ed and my father. From the beginning of our partnership, the chemistry between this team has been fantastic. I enjoyed racing in each of the Nissan Micra Cup races, and I must admit that my motivation was even higher than other seasons because I was fully happy with my team. I think that was the key to our success: the support and positivity of the team motivated me on the track and the results showed with victories coming one after the other. All of this made for a very enjoyable 2018 season.

***As a spectator, this year's title seemed to have been easier compared to your 2015 and 2017 championships; is that really the case?***

No because the level of competition was superior this year. Kevin King was really fast and other drivers made incredible progress throughout the season. I think it was mostly the team that made this year so successful for me; as I mentioned, the positive atmosphere made all the difference. If we took the good synergy from this season and applied it to other seasons, I think we would have had the same results. Of course, in 2017, there were more drivers able to win the race, but I had to compete against a teammate. Inevitably, that did not provide the same positive atmosphere and it was the big difference for me. However, winning a race is never easy when you all race with equal cars.

***You have participated in all the 52 races in Nissan Micra Cup history so***



***far. Is there one in particular that is your best memory?***

To choose only one would be difficult – I have had so many good times! I remember the battles at Calabogie in June with Normand Boyer. Every time you compete with such an experienced driver, it's very rewarding because the dynamic is not the same as when you compete against another young driver. In Calabogie, we had to adapt to wet and dry track conditions and I had to

battle against a driver who used different trajectories based on his great experience in the rain. It was a challenge, but I persevered and won the race as part of a perfect weekend. Sunday's race in Trois-Rivières this year was another great memory. At the start, I found myself in second and I had to work hard to recover first place. Once again, winning both races during the same event was a high moment... I really have fond memories of this 2018 season!



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# CIRCUIT MONT-TREMBLANT RACE 11 AND 12 RESULTS

ROUND  
**6**

### QUALIFICATION RACE 1

- 1) Olivier Bédard ..... #1
- 2) Normand Boyer ..... #11
- 3) Jake Exton ..... #00
- 4) Kevin King ..... #40
- 5) Fadi Mourad ..... #77
- 6) Valérie Limoges ..... #220
- 7) Jesse Lazare ..... #21
- 8) Marc Héroux ..... #24
- 9) Austin Riley ..... #20
- 10) Éric Chaput ..... #116
- 11) Sylvain Ouellet ..... #98
- 12) Mike Ogren ..... #17
- 13) Alex Habrich ..... #75
- 14) Peter Dyck ..... #73
- 15) Michael Habrich ..... #88
- 16) Mario Charette ..... #728
- 17) Perry Wener ..... #86
- 18) Nicolas Barrette ..... #427

### QUALIFICATION RACE 2

- 1) Jake Exton ..... #00
- 2) Olivier Bédard ..... #1
- 3) Valérie Limoges ..... #220
- 4) Jesse Lazare ..... #21
- 5) Mike Ogren ..... #17
- 6) Kevin King ..... #40
- 7) Fadi Mourad ..... #77
- 8) Austin Riley ..... #20
- 9) Marc Héroux ..... #24
- 10) Alex Habrich ..... #75
- 11) Éric Chaput ..... #116
- 12) Mario Berthiaume ..... #728
- 13) Nicolas Barrette ..... #427
- 14) Peter Dyck ..... #73
- 15) Manuel Boyer ..... #11
- 16) Michael Habrich ..... #88
- 17) Sylvain Ouellet ..... #98
- 18) Perry Wener ..... #86

### RACE 1 RESULTS

- 1) Olivier Bédard ..... 17 laps
- 2) Valérie Limoges ..... -0.289
- 3) Kevin King ..... -0.621
- 4) Fadi Mourad ..... -1.205
- 5) Jake Exton ..... -3.737
- 6) Jesse Lazare ..... -3.785
- 7) Éric Chaput ..... -7.903
- 8) Austin Riley ..... -8.683
- 9) Nicolas Barrette ..... -9.511
- 10) Sylvain Ouellet ..... Penalty
- 11) Mike Ogren ..... -10.931
- 12) Alex Habrich ..... -13.383
- 13) Mario Charette ..... -14.308
- 14) Michael Habrich ..... -18.054
- 15) Perry Wener ..... -36.552
- 16) Marc Héroux ..... -1 lap
- 17) Peter Dyck ..... -7 laps
- 18) Normand Boyer ..... -14 laps

### RACE 2 RESULTS

- 1) Jake Exton ..... 17 laps
- 2) Jesse Lazare ..... -2.137
- 3) Olivier Bédard ..... -2.432
- 4) Valérie Limoges ..... -2.668
- 5) Marc Héroux ..... -3.054
- 6) Nicolas Barrette ..... -3.838
- 7) Éric Chaput ..... -4.092
- 8) Austin Riley ..... -4.716
- 9) Alex Habrich ..... -6.826
- 10) Peter Dyck ..... -7.264
- 11) Mario Berthiaume ..... -7.699
- 12) Manuel Boyer ..... -8.237
- 13) Michael Habrich ..... -9.310
- 14) Fadi Mourad ..... -15.260
- 15) Perry Wener ..... -41.297
- 16) Mike Ogren ..... -3 laps
- 17) Sylvain Ouellet ..... -11 laps
- 18) Sylvain Ouellet ..... -16 laps



### FINAL DRIVERS STANDINGS

- 1) Olivier Bédard ..... 472 points
- 2) Kevin King ..... 350 points
- 3) Jake Exton ..... 316 points
- 4) Valérie Limoges ..... 307 points
- 5) Normand Boyer (Senior) ..... 219 points
- 6) Fadi Mourad (rookie) ..... 214 points
- 7) Mike Ogren ..... 201 points
- 8) Sylvain Ouellet (Senior) ..... 154 points
- 9) Austin Riley ..... 152 points
- 10) Frédéric Bernier (Senior) ..... 132 points
- 11) Marc Héroux (Senior) ..... 115 points
- 12) Éric Chaput (S.+R.) ..... 112 points
- 13) Peter Dyck (Senior) ..... 109 points
- 14) Alex Habrich (Senior) ..... 104 points
- 15) Michael Habrich ..... 85 points
- 16) Nicolas Barrette (rookie) ..... 74 points
- 17) Mario Berthiaume (Senior) ..... 62 points
- 18) Jesse Lazare ..... 56 points
- 19) Nicolas Touchette ..... 52 points
- 20) Mario Charette (S.+R.) ..... 50 points
- 21) Jean-Michel Isabelle ..... 30 points
- 22) Edward Wong (Senior) ..... 22 points
- 23) Carl Wener (Senior) ..... 21 points
- 23) Peter Cohen (Senior) ..... 21 points
- 25) André Lapointe (S.+R.) ..... 20 points
- 25) Frédéric Bouthillier (rookie) ..... 20 points
- 25) Perry Wener (S.+R.) ..... 20 points
- 28) Vic Simone (Senior) ..... 15 points
- 29) Roger Champoux (rookie) ..... 10 points
- 29) Martin Barrette (rookie) ..... 10 points
- 31) Manuel Boyer (rookie) ..... 9 points
- 32) Michel Barrette (S.+R.) ..... 6 points
- 33) Josée Samson (S.+R.) ..... 5 points
- 34) Yves Lévesque (S.+R.) ..... 4 points

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