



## 2023 Road Season Report

As Ontario Cycling Association (OC) closes off the 2023 Road Season we wanted to provide some statistics from this year.

The 2023 Ontario Road Season was composed of 2 OCups and a triple-header Provincial Championship weekend in North Bay. Unfortunately, due to the wildfire situation, which resulted in poor air quality warnings in Ontario, we had to make the difficult decision to postpone the Northumberland OCup #2, which was scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup>. We were able to reschedule OCup #2 at a new location in Harrisburg for September 17<sup>th</sup>. However, due to low registration numbers (42), we were forced to cancel the event. This was not an easy decision, and we were incredibly disappointed to have to cancel the last road event of the season, but it was not feasible from either a financial standpoint or a meaningful competition experience for those who would have attended.

For the second year in a row, OC, in collaboration with Greg Rawson of Performance Driven Events (PDE), and hosted by the City of North Bay, held a provincial championship triple header on the Civic Holiday weekend. The three-day weekend began with the Individual Time Trial Championships held just 20 km south of North Bay at the Municipality of East Ferris. Race Day #2 saw riders participating in the 2023 Road Criterium Provincial Championships, held on the Canadore College/Nipissing campus. The 1.3 km course offered two intense turns and numerous twists, creating fast-paced and exciting races. The final event of the weekend was the 2023 Road Provincials Championships, which saw riders returning to the same course from last season. Riders battled on a 15 km circuit that featured rolling hills with approximately 150 meters of elevation per lap. OC would like to thank Greg Rawson, the City of North Bay, Canadore College and all the racers and their supporters for an amazing weekend of racing!

This year also saw the addition of a new challenge within the Road OCup races. The MONTU OCup Segment Challenge, sponsored by MONTU Bikes, involved a 300–800-meter segment in each Road OCup course that tested different skills. The top ten males and top ten females who completed the designated MONTU OCup Segment Challenge section of each race the fastest, accumulated points throughout the OCup series. Unlike race results, this challenge was based on overall male and female results and not separated by age categories, meaning there was a fierce battle to win the coveted MONTU OCup Segment Challenge winner jersey and bragging rights for the year. OC would like to congratulate Matthew Sherar in the Men's category with a total elapsed time of 3 minutes and 50 seconds and Skye Pellerin in the Women's category with a total elapsed time of 4 minutes and 39 seconds both winning the 2023 MONTU OCup Segment Challenge.



On the Youth side, the Youth Road Development Series consisted of 3 racing opportunities for youth riders. These were located in Flamborough, Delaware, and London. A huge thank you to KW Cycling Club and Off The Front Sports for hosting these youth events and providing fabulous experiences for our youth riders.

Ontario Cycling saw the return of sanctioned weekly series, Regional and Cycle for All events on our calendar, including the Midweek Crit Series, Ciociaro Thursday Night Race Series, P2A, and new for 2023 the 7 Days – Cycling for Survival, Melrose Gravel Tour, Grey Highlands Gran Fondo, Tour de Dundas, and the Eastern Ontario Gravel Series. Thank you to all of the clubs, volunteers and organizers who ran these events. We know how hard it is and we truly appreciate their hard work and dedication to road racing.

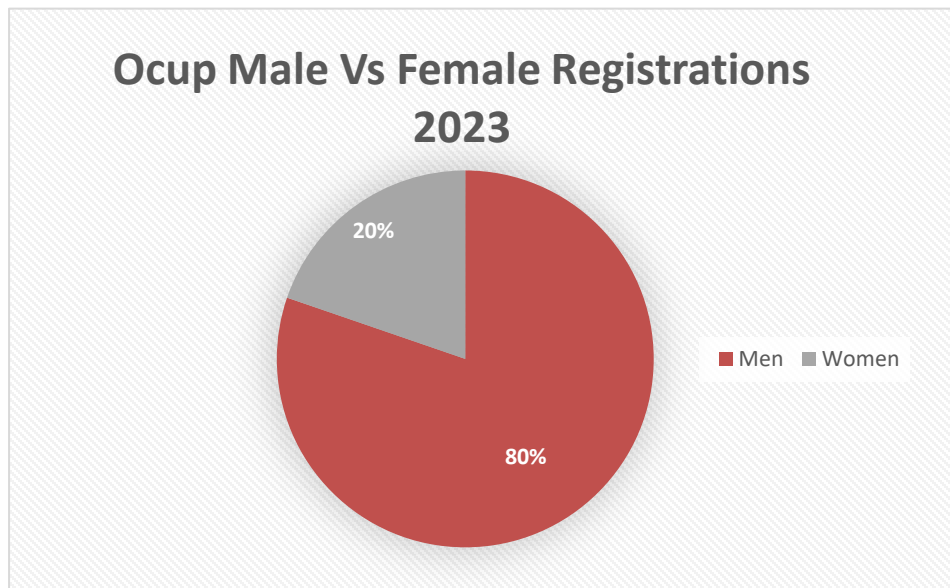
## Series Winners

Ontario Cycling would like to congratulate the following OCup series winners:

Name	Event
Carley Somerset	Master A Women
Kim Cheston	Master B Women
Jean-Paul Tesolin	Master 3 Men
Ali Zaad	Master 2 Men
Justin Kitney	Master 1 Men
Ryan Mak	Elite 4 Men
Cassidy Smyth-Robinson	Elite 3 Women
Max Bradwin	Elite 3 Men
Serena Grodski	Elite ½ Women
Simon Daniels	Elite ½ Men

## Event Registration

The 2023 season continued to see a major gap between female vs male registrations. OC formed a Gender Equity Steering Committee in 2022 comprised of members and OC staff to find ways to address this gap over the next 5 years. There is still a lot of work to do, but we are hopeful that we will be able to close the gap and increase equity at our road events.

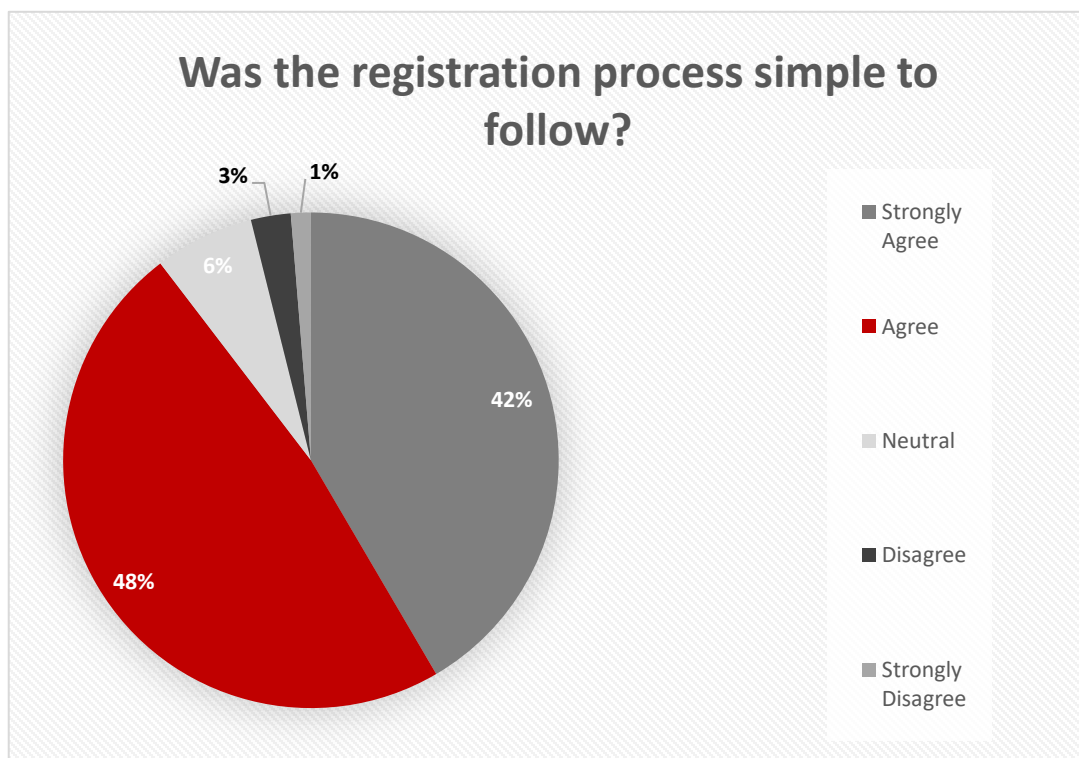


## Event Participation Survey

In 2022, Ontario Cycling created a season long Event Participation Survey in order to provide ongoing feedback throughout the season by event participants. We continued to offer this through 2023. The survey is accessible for all disciplines and anyone who attended an OC sanctioned event is encouraged to provide their feedback after each event. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to participate in the survey and we have pulled the survey results as they directly related to Road events for this report. Submissions could add additional comments within the survey, and these comments were provided to the events department as part of the season debrief. OC will use the data and feedback to help us improve our members' event experience in the future and the survey will continue to run next season, so please make sure to fill it out after each event!

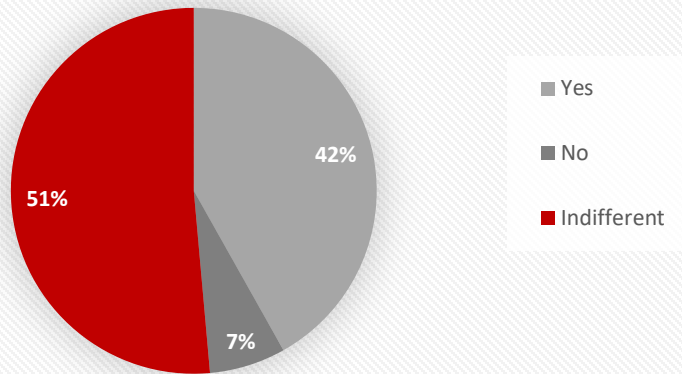
## Event Registration Process

The registration process for 2023 Road events was regarded as simple to follow for most riders, with over 80% of the participants agreeing or strongly agreeing that the registration process is easy to follow. Under 20% of the riders were either indifferent about the process or found it hard to follow. The survey responses show that there is rider satisfaction that support the processes and systems that are currently in place for the registration at sanctioned events.



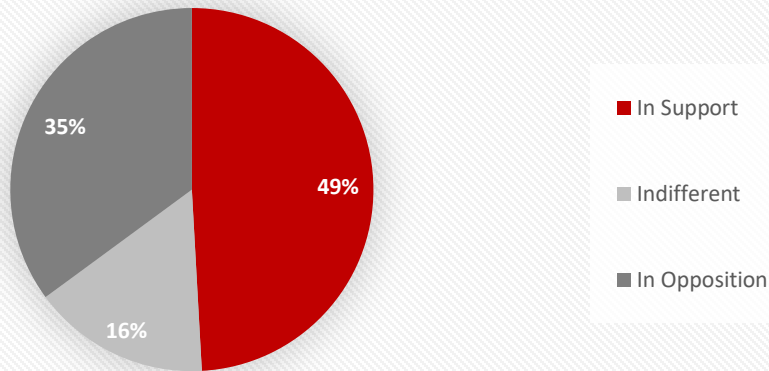
The introduction of the option to register for the entire series being introduced for this Road season, riders were asked to provide feedback on this option being included. The feedback received was relatively balanced between positive and negative feedback, with a slight majority being either in support of or indifferent to this new option. Additionally, we received a lot of great feedback and ideas in relation to this new option and the events department will review the feedback and use it to look at how we can improve riders' experiences next season.

### Did you like the option to register for the entire Series?



## Opinions on New Requirements

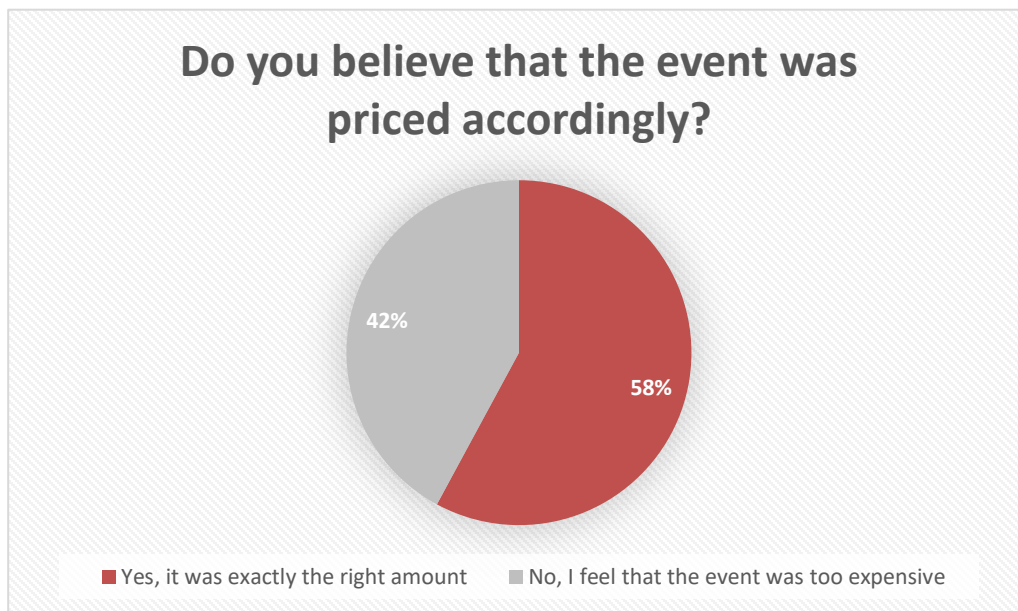
### Riders Opinions on new YTDS Finals & Provincial Championship Requirements



In addition to the series registration option, Ontario Cycling also introduced the requirement for riders to have participated in at least one OCup in order to participate in the Provincial Championships. Positive and negative comments were received in roughly equal measure, with a slim majority either supporting or being indifferent to this new requirement. In addition, we received a lot of excellent feedback and ideas in relation to this new requirement. The events department will evaluate the feedback and utilize it to determine how we can enhance riders' experiences over the upcoming season.

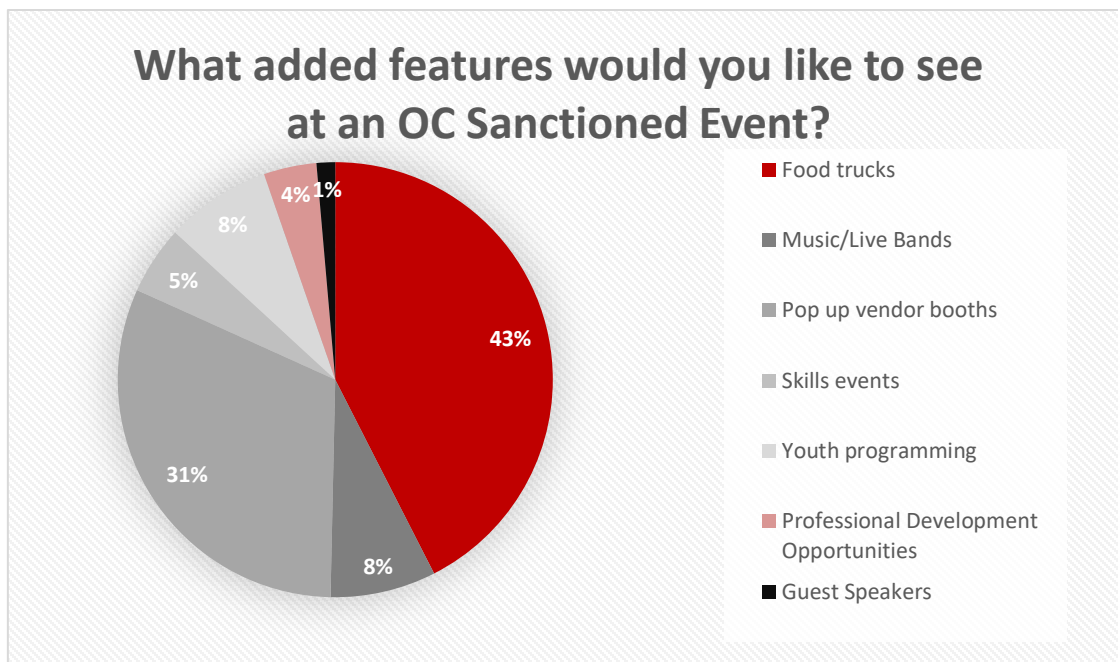
## Event Pricing

Riders in the 2023 Road season are divided on whether events hosted this past season were priced accordingly. A slight majority of riders favour that the events were priced correctly. The results of the survey are representative of what we hear while at events, with 42% of riders claiming that events were too expensive.



## Event Features

Most riders that participated in a Road event in the past season have highlighted that they would like to see features that would resemble a festival. Above 80% of participating riders highlighted that they would like to see these events include more food trucks, pop up vendors, and/or some music/live bands. 18% of the riders highlighted that they would like to see the inclusion other cycling activities such as skills events or youth programming for attending families. The creation and inclusion of these potential features would increase the incentive for riders to participate in our events in a way that is not only on the course, but with our sponsors, local businesses, and community partners that make these events possible.



At the time of writing this report, we had received 269 responses.

The events department at Ontario Cycling will use the feedback and ideas received from the comments section and will be added to the end of season debrief. This information will be used to help improve riders' experiences for the next road season.



## Partners

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all the partners who have contributed to making the Road OCup races a success this past season. We would like to thank:

**| Government of Ontario | City of North Bay | North Bay Tourism |  
| SRAM | Montu | The Biking Lawyer LLP | CLIF Bars | HOJ | Ontario by Bike |  
| Performance Driven Events | Pedal Power Photography | Ivan Rupes Photography |  
| Tunes on Wheels | Odyssey Medical | Stage 21 | Comfort Inn Newmarket |**

Your support has been invaluable in ensuring that each event follows a consistent framework and experience for all participants. We appreciate your commitment and contributions to road cycling in Ontario and look forward to working with you at future events.

## Volunteers

Ontario Cycling would like to take the time to thank all our dedicated volunteers who worked so hard to make these events a success! We could not put on these events without each of you, and we truly value your generosity with your time and the passion you have for our sport! We encourage all our participants to please remember to take the time to thank a volunteer at the next event you are at!

## Commissaires

We are very fortunate to have a great group of commissaires for our road events in Ontario. We wish to extend our appreciation and gratitude to each of them for their professionalism, dedication, and passion for our sport. Being a Commissaire can be a challenging one and we cannot have our sport or events without them. Please make sure to thank a Commissaire for their time and generosity at each event you are at.

## Clubs & Teams

A final Thank You to all the clubs, teams, and coaches who continue to support our Road Cycling programming and events in Ontario. It's wonderful to watch the development of their athletes and see their smiles and excitement as they hit the road.