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# Snow won't stop Belmont Leprechaun Leap

By TIM CAMERATO | Feb 25, 2015

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**BELMONT** — Snow isn't intimidating organizers of this year's Lakes Region Leprechaun Leap and 5K, who are planning the event for Saturday, March 14.

Gretta Olson-Wilder, Belmont's special event coordinator, said this is the race's third year. She said it was originally designed as a community event to kick off spring.

"Each year that we've run it, it's been on the cold side," Olson-Wilder said.

That hasn't stopped people from participating and dressing up in Saint Patrick's Day attire, which is encouraged but not mandatory to run the race. Unless a lot warmer weather moves in before the event though, she said this will probably be the snowiest Leprechaun Leap to date.

Olson-Wilder said that's shouldn't be a problem because the course is on mostly flat paved and unpaved roads that don't see a lot of traffic. Racers start in the Belmont Mill parking lot before turning onto Concord Street and Route 106 for a very short distance.

The course then cuts into Wareing Road, a dirt road that takes racers to South Road, Shaker Road and then Main Street. Runners end the race back at the mill.

"It's like a prefect 5K," Olson-Wilder said.

She said the event is hand timed, as opposed to Old Home Day's 10-Mile Road Race, where a timing company is paid about \$650 to track runners.

Registration forms and a course map can be found at Belmont Town Hall or the Public Library. Entry is \$10, with the first 50 pre-registrations eligible to receive a commemorative fleece headband.

Olson-Wilder said the headbands are black and are embroidered with a green shamrock at Piche's Ski Shop. She said money received goes toward running the town's special events throughout the year.

Attendance for the event has traditionally hovered around 40, with about 45 people coming out for the first race and about 36 for the second. Olson-Wilder said she's hoping for "a much better crowd this year."

"It is a really fun event," she said.

More information and a downloadable registration form on the Lakes Region Leprechaun Leap 5K can be found at the town's website ([Belmontnh.org](http://Belmontnh.org)). Anyone with questions can contact Olson-Wilder at [events@belmontnh.org](mailto:events@belmontnh.org) or 988-3525.