



SKITRACKER

From the President

Andrew Howlett

I am writing this message in Timmins as the 2014 Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations Nordic Championships draws to a close. Our club's young skiers have done very well, bringing home medals and some personal bests. More important than the medals, I see six hundred young people joining our community of nordic skiers. We are all very fortunate to belong to a strong community of skiers in Ontario and Canada. Skiing at our club trails we meet friends and enjoy time with our family. Visiting other clubs I enjoy great trails, renew friendships and learn new things. By working together at our club and through Cross Country Ontario and Cross Country Canada, we make great things happen in our nordic community.



Congratulations to our high school skiers at OFSAA — with Emma Howlett, Logan Hong, Emily Weaver and Deanna Oliver at Porcupine Ski Runners.

We had a great 2014 season featuring new events, the return of old events, races, games, jackrabbits, new trails and old friends. We had an early start to the season and will enjoy a late close. Thank you to

all the volunteers who make things happen at our club. Thank you to the groomers who rise at 5am in a snow storm to ensure that our trails are ready for the earliest early-bird skier. When I visit other clubs I remain convinced that we have the best trails in Ontario.

Our club's Annual General Meeting takes place on Thursday April 17th, 2014 at 7pm at Gerry's Place at Sawmill Trail. As President I will introduce two motions for approval and ratification at this AGM. The first motion is to change our day pass fees to \$5 per person per day with a special elementary school rate of \$2 per person per day. We intentionally keep our day rates very low in order to encourage new and occasional skiers. We will continue to keep our day rates low, this motion only eliminates the family day pass rate and the weekend rate which are no longer required. The second motion is to accept the draft By-Laws for acceptance as our new Bruce Ski Club Inc. By-Laws, replacing the By Laws registered with the club's original incorporation in 1987. We need to revise our By-Laws to conform to the new Ontario Not For Profit Corporations Act and to reflect how our club's operations have changed since the original By-Law was registered. The revised by-laws will be posted at bruceskiclub.ca/by-laws on March 21st or you can request a copy by contacting me via email or telephone.

Many of you have remarked about our newsletter's new look. Thanks to the talents of our newsletter editor Tom Hakala and the generous support of Midwestern Communications (www.midwcom.com) we have a fantastic full colour newsletter. These improvements arrive at the same time that Canada Post is reducing letter post services and increasing prices. Over the next few years the club will start phasing out our printed newsletter and we will reduce our mailings. DON'T PANIC! We will continue to mail


COMING EVENT

Thursday 17 April Annual General Meeting
7:00 p.m. - Gerry's Place - Sawmill Trail

newsletters to any member who requests delivery. Next year you will see optional electronic delivery (i.e. email) of our newsletter for those who request email delivery. This will coincide with a rebuild of our website to embrace Facebook, Twitter, etc. You can already keep up with trail reports and events at our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/bruceskiclub>). 

Ed.

Tom Hakala

I think I have skied almost every day since November... in one form or another. Either skate, classic, bush-whack, alpine or snowshoe, I was out having fun in the snow. This season has been a make-up for all those lean years of mixed precipitation and mild spells. Though there were some challenging days of extreme cold and storms, we survived and in the long run had fun. Again, toques off to our grooming crew for keeping our trails in great shape. 

Race Report for 2013/14


Ruth Scheel

The 2013-2014 ski season has been a great winter for hosting races. We always had great snow and grooming; so no anxious time worrying about canceling due to poor conditions. The club sponsored two races, the Suntrail Special and BSC-WHSS High School Invitational. Both of these races were well attended and it was great to see so many young Jack Rabbit Skiers at the Suntrail Special.



Suntrail Special Race at Sawmill.

Two other school races were also run at the Sawmill Trails, so it has been a fairly active season of racing. The great group of volunteers from within the club who donate time and energy to make these events successful are invaluable and very much appreciated. These races are a very important aspect of the activities offered by the Bruce Ski Club and provide another level of involvement for anyone who enjoys nordic skiing.

I would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped with the race venues this year. I feel very fortunate to have such a large group of enthusiastic and competent individuals willing to help. Looking forward to another great season in 2014-2015. 

Colpoys Trail

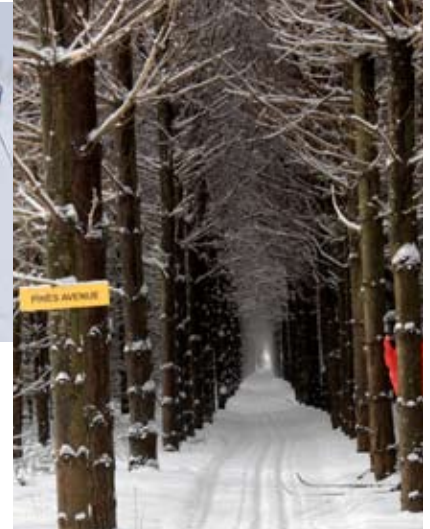
Martin Kerr

Wow! What a fabulous ski season this has been. Skiing at Colpoys began on December 14th and we have had great conditions consistently since then for a total of 71 straight skiable days as of today (Feb. 25). I imagine that we'll all be skiing well into March providing we aren't tired of it by then!



Above: Colpoys Loppet

Right: Straight through the pines.



The trail has been groomed on 33 occasions to date and that meant that the trail had good tracks available on most days. The enlarged parking area was well received and skiers seemed to use good judgment when they parked their cars close to the edges of the lot to allow maximum use of the area. The new bridging installed at the end of Deer Run was not needed this year as we had a hard and fast freeze up in the fall, allowing us to use the traditional routes. The lack of volunteer help in the fall was evident in the number of small bushes and branches that protruded onto the trail and had to be gradually removed by the groomers as they made their rounds.

Thanks go to Zane Davies for his grooming expertise, Keith Butchart for keeping our lane and parking lot clear of snow, and Ron Gatis our principal landowner for sharing his beautiful property with us all. Enjoy the rest of the season and be sure to attend some of the trail clipping sessions next fall to ensure that the Colpoys trail remains operational. 

Sawmill Trail


Fred Scheel

2013-14 has been a long ski season with vast quantities of snow. In 2012-13 we had 99 days of skiing and to date in 2013-14 we have had 96 ski days with March still to come. I predict we will have 130+ days of skiing this season. Our grooming equipment has served the club well this season, requiring only the usual maintenance and some minor repairs. Trail events were well organized with positive feedback from groups involved.



The Snowshoe Rush at Sawmill Trail.

Our grooming crew of Zane Davies, DJ Perrin, Harry Hong, Reg Martin and Fred Scheel met the challenges of this seasons weather and snowfall by always having the trail groomed to the best of their abilities. Our volunteer groups, the shelter cleaners, the bird feeders, the trail clean-up people, the snowshoe group, the Lit Loop group have all done great work. Ian Stewart opens the shelter every day while the High School groups, GBN, and Suntrail lock up every night. Special thanks to Andrea Graham for being back-up for shelter opening or closing.


It's been a great season to date with more to come. Enjoy, later Fred 



Don't put your skis on in the parking lot.

I cringe every time I see skiers park their cars in the middle of the lot, take out their skis, put them on and proceed to ski through the lot to get to the trails. There are a number of reasons why this makes me cringe, but first and foremost is that it is dangerous. As I was backing out of my parking spot the other day I noticed a little boy and his daddy ski-

ing across the lot. I waited for them to pass, but thought how difficult it would be to move quickly on skis if someone backed out and didn't notice them.

The other thing is that the parking lot is not good for the bases of your skis. Even if it seems to be covered with snow, there is salt, sand, gravel and ice below that will mar your bases beyond repair. No matter if your skis are waxable or no-wax the chemicals under the snow will also dry out the bases so they won't glide on the trails. The bottom line is this... carry your skis to the start of the ski trail and enjoy the effortless glide in the tracks. 

Rankin Trail at Red Bay

Richard Bonert

We got the winter we wished for, great skiing at Rankin since December 15th on all loops. The reroute of the Beattie Ridge loop in the South West turns out to be a lovely 400m sections leading to a wide open often sunny area, try it and just return the same way, if you do not want to get into the bigger hills of the ridge.

A big thank you to our patron John A. Tamming who provide the resource to rebuild some of the trail sections. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped in fall to prepare the trails and last but not least to all our generous land owners.



Before the Ridge at Rankin. by Richard Bonert

A big thank you to Peter our tireless groomer who had extra work this season and keeps us well informed by posting the trail conditions promptly on the BSC website.

The port-a-potty at the Red Bay Lodge parking for skiers was well received, the snow ploughing works well. If it is busy on a nice weekend day, please park close together as the parking space is limited. Please do not block the drive way to the back of the Lodge.


Good news, the safety at the Rankin Trails at Red Bay has greatly increased regarding cell phones with the Bell network. A new tower at the Lodge provides finally cell phone service in the Rankin system. Excellent to good signal levels are on the core loops, Red Bay Lodge loop, Fun Hill loop and Beaver pond loop as tested. Coverage on other sections not yet tested.

The Geocaching event had only a few skiers, may be the rain on Thursday scared some away, but conditions were good with fast skiing on hard packed but not icy trails. We had fun again and all caches were found this time.

Grooming? We groom typically twice a week, Fridays for the weekend and in the beginning of the week Mondays or Tuesdays. We groom extra after really big snowfalls. If you want to know the state of grooming before you come out to the Rankin Ski Trails at Red Bay, check our website www.bruceski-club.ca. Going to the website look for the Rankin Trail report. The report is updated immediately after grooming by our groomer Peter, look at the date and time of the report and you get an immediate picture about the state of grooming at Rankin, before you set out for a longer drive to Red Bay.

If you skied on the Rankin Trails at Red Bay this season and have suggestions and feedback let your trail captain know at richbonert@gmail.com, the planning for the 2014/15 season has started.


We look forward seeing you on the Rankin Trails at Red Bay, as we with the snow base we have there will be many weeks of skiing left, trust Warton Willy and do not forget, snow conditions in Rankin and in Owen Sound might be quite different.

See you at the annual general meeting in April and after that have a great summer. 

Come Ski at the Lindsay!

Jack Van Dorp, Zane Davies & Graham Thomas

Grooming (and skiing) the Lindsay Trails has been a bit of a challenge with Highway closures but we are aiming to have them groomed for weekends and after snowfall. We're pleased that "Harvest Moon Graham" has joined the grooming team. There's lots of hard base, and once we get just a little more fresh snow on top there will be a fresh track set.

Should be good spring skiing on these trails for some time yet. Just remember that we share trails with the snowmobiles and the new ones are quiet, so leave your headphones at home! 


Jackrabbits

Keith Day & Aimee Vereecke

We have had a great 2014 season. Memorable moments include bumps and jumps- we love the bumps and jumps, new wildlife sightings- thanks Keith for the ski mounted creatures, keeps us on our toes, watch out the moose moves once in a while, Suntrail Special - 30 spectacular JR skiers took part, our new Wolverine group helping older new skiers learn some skills, obstacle courses, we can't forget the bunny masks, pirate themes - thanks Bunny group, you look marvelous. The season wraps up on March 1st with our Carnival and Award banquet. We wanted to take the time to thank all of our volunteer coaches. Parents, club members, race organizers all agree- you are doing a great job at sharing your love of skiing. Thanks for all the time and energy you put in to JR. We can't do this without you. A special shout out to our new leaders - your enthusiasm has been great.

Parents, you have been a great group to work with. Thanks for volunteering your time with JR events and weekly duties. You make our job much easier. We are always looking for new ideas and leaders. If you are interested in sharing some of your skills or talent, please let us know.

Thinking ahead, next year we are making plans to provide some adult instruction during JR sessions. Stay tuned for more info.

Although JR might be coming to an end, we look forward to seeing you out there on the trails, looks like we could be skiing for a while. 

Georgian Bay Nordic

Marilyn Suke, Head Coach

Georgian Bay Nordic is in full season with many upcoming events in our schedule.

Seven fine young athletes are traveling to Temiskaming to take part in Ontario Midget Championships March 1 & 2. These races place the emphasis on fun competition and encourage our skiers to strive for excellent technique while forming friendships across the province with others who love to ski.



The 2013/14 Georgian Bay Nordic Team.

March 4 (skate) and March 6 (classic) are our 'Try us out – bring a friend to GBN days'. This is a time anyone – y.o.b. 2004 and older- are welcome to join a practice. These will be low key practices where those who are considering joining our team next season can try us out. Our only criteria for new members is that they are keen to ski and train and that they have some interest in racing. Our mission statement is A fellowship of skiers in pursuit of excellence ..new members are welcomed regardless of their skiing ability. You can check out some of our club activities on our web-site [georgianbaynordic.webs.com] if you think you or your child would be interested in joining. Our members a dynamic, fit group of young people who love the outdoors and the challenge of improving our abilities in a lifelong, family centered sport. Please email me at mpsuke@gmail.com if you would like to come.


March 15 – 25 four athletes (Julian and Simon Smith, Logan Hong and David Askwith) will travel to Blow Me Down Nordic Center in Newfoundland to compete at Nationals. GBN has achieved some top results provincially and we are looking forward to

some excellent results on the National stage.

Our final race for most of the team this season will be the Leprechaun Loppet at Highland's Nordic on Saturday Mar 15. Check out this fun event – a great race for all.

Don't forget to 'Love Your Skis' at our final fundraising event. It is essential to clean and apply storage wax to the glide zones of your skis. They will run so much better when they hit the snow next season. We have not yet set a date – it will be once the trails close – and we will keep you posted via the BSC website. All funds raised help with the considerable expenses of traveling and racing at Nationals.

Dryland training for our older athletes will resume in May. Stop and say hello if you see us out running or rollerskiing on the roads of Grey Bruce – we are always happy for your support and encouragement.

Finally I would like to thank all the parents and volunteers who work so hard to make our team run so well. A special thanks to the tireless patience, enthusiasm and encyclopedic knowledge of Ken Clarke. His dedication to young skiers is amazing and so appreciated. _____ 



17 year old Georgian Bay Nordic and Bruce Ski Club Member, Logan Hong with Chandra Crawford at Frozen Thunder this past October. Before we had snow!



Colpoys Bay view by Martin Kerr.

Thank you to the following



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Midwestern Communications

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Bruce Ski Club Executive

President - Andrew Howlett	519-376-2203	andrew@howlett.net
Vice-President - David White	519-378-9917	dhlwhite@hotmail.com
Secretary - Ella Lund-Thomsen	519-371-0711	
Treasurer - Hector Lazzarotto	519-371-5696	lazz@bell.net
Registrar - Barbara Gray	519-376-6928	

Trail captains

Colpoys - Martin Kerr	519-534-0799	Martin_Kerr@bwdsb.on.ca
Rankin - Richard Bonert	519-371-0711	
Sawmill - Fred Scheel	519-376-1484	fscheel@bmts.com

Jackrabbit Coordinators

Keith Day		jackrabbits@bruceskiclub.ca
Carlo Oblillos		
Aimee Vereecke		

GBN Liaison - Joanna Bottrell	519-371-8431	joannabottrell2@gmail.com
Race Coordinator - Ruth Scheel	519-376-1484	fscheel@bmts.com
Newsletter Editor - Tom Hakala		hakalathomas@gmail.com



On the Fun Hill Loop at Rankin. by Richard Bonert

The Bruce Ski Club would like to thank

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