

# Ski Tracker

## Digging up the Past!

### From the President

**Mike Campbell**

Forty years ago a group of far sighted ski enthusiasts met at Duffy's Tavern in Hepworth to talk about creating cross country ski trails in the area. Flash forward forty years, to a club that has almost 900 members, maintains two trail systems and has state of the art grooming equipment. We have achieved so much and it has all been done with our hard working volunteers as well as our generous patrons, sponsors, friends, and of course our land owners. It's time to give yourself a pat on the back.



how the club was formed. As the evening unfolds there will be a few surprise presentations as well.

Last but not least we want to make special recognition of the over 100 club members that volunteer their time to making our club a great success. If you have volunteered for the club in the last year, come on out and pick up your custom Bruce Ski Club (small) gift.

This event is open is open to all members and their families. At the start of the Social we will have a short AGM where we will talk about our plans for next year and listen to any ideas our membership have on the operation of the club.

So come on out and have a good night and recognize our volunteers. Only 240 days until next years ski season.



I'm sending a personal invitation to each club member, to attend the Bruce Ski Club's 40th Birthday Party at the Heartwood Concert Hall in Owen Sound on

April 19th, 6:00 pm. The party will start off with a pot-luck, where your bring an appetizer to share with fellow club members and enjoy craft beer and wine at the cash bar. Then we will recognize some of the club's pioneers, hear some stories of the old days and hopefully find out

## Coming Events

### Knee Socks & Knickers

BSC 40th Birthday Party, Volunteer Night & AGM - Apr. 19

6:00 pm - Social

7:00 pm - AGM plus recognition of our founders and leaders.

**Wear your 70s ski gear if you dare.**

## KNEE SOCKS AND KNICKERS

Bruce Ski Club is 40 years old  
and we decided to have a party to celebrate our success.

**Wear your 70s ski gear... If you dare.**

**Heartwood Concert Hall**  
**6:00 Social • 7:00 AGM • April 19, 2018**

**Cash bar • Pot luck • Great music**  
**Thank our volunteers**  
**and tell ski stories from the past.**

For more info go to: [bruceskiclub.ca](http://bruceskiclub.ca)

**Tom Hakala**

It was the best of times... Forty years of great skiing right in our back yard. My skiing memories go back even further than that to over sixty years ago when I received new skis for Christmas. As a child, I was more interested in sliding down hills then gliding through woods, but by the seventies, when my family moved to Owen Sound, I fell in love with cross-country skiing.


In those days the Owen Sound Cross-Country Ski Club maintained the trails between Harrison Park and Inglis Falls. The trail system required a big dump of snow to cover the jagged outcrops of rock, and the downhill at the best of times were a choice of terrifying to downright dangerous. To make the situation even more challenging were very long wooden skis, three-pin bindings, and low cut squishy boots. The 'uniform' above the boots consisted of colourful patterned knee socks, corduroy or wool knickers, a bulky reindeer sweater, topped with a striped toque with a big ball. A split leather wineskin over the shoulder added a flair of Scandinavian panache.

We began to seek other places to safely ski. Someone suggested the Owen Sound Country Club, so we headed across the bay on a stormy, windy day. A poor choice on those open fairways. On a bright sunny, calm morning the skiing was quite pleasant. On the other hand it was not very interesting. Another spot were the trails

between Jones Falls and the Drive-In road (You can still see the ski trail markers on trees along the hiking trails.) Though the trails were not as difficult as those at Inglis Falls, there was still a lot of rock to contend with.

While driving around one Sunday, we discovered a little ski shop in Hepworth run by Laura Robinson. She had good quality equipment and clothing (some we still have) and was very knowledgeable on the subject of X-C skiing. Laura said she and some friends cut some trails down from the store. We could access the trails next to the dump and ski along the treeline. We found the trails fun with many rolling hills through hardwood and Christmas trees. The ground underneath was sand so there were no rocks to contend with. Over the years the trailhead moved to the Whispering Pines Camp Ground entrance, then down the road where the Sawmill parking lot and cabin sit today.

A few years later while staying at a B&B in Purple Valley, we discovered the trails at Colpoys and Rankin. Both were fun to ski in very different ways. If there was new snow the dipsy doodling trails at Rankin were a blast to ski, but we opted for Colpoys if the snow was firm. We feel very lucky to have such wonderful skiing so close to home.

Here are some photos that friends have sent or that we took ourselves over the years. 

*Top left photo is O.S. Golf Club. Below is near Inglis Falls*



*Bottom photos: When Kiwanis still cut Christmas Trees*



Top photos: Laura and Freefall at early Sawmill



Above: Skating through the campgrounds.  
Right: B&B weekend at Colpoys.



Above left: van Dijks skiing at Sawmill.  
Above right: Richard, past Trail Caption at Rankin.



Above left: Another B&B weekend at Colpoys.  
Above right: Trying out the Rankin Trails.

# Race Report

**Ken Clarke**

Once again thank you to all our amazing BSC race volunteers for all your efforts!! You've made 2018 another successful on snow race season.

There is of course racing in the 'green' season as well. Our trails are beautiful in summer and if you want to soak in some natural splendor and help a good cause on June 23rd, Sawmill trail is the site for the Pure Grit trail race. Anyone wishing to race or help out should contact Ken Beauclerc [kenbeauclerc@gmail.com](mailto:kenbeauclerc@gmail.com) (Pictured here with Kelly Rogers modelling the latest ski attire for 2005).



I am very grateful to Ken and family (and Kelly) for encouraging my family and me to become involved in the jackrabbit program and all that has followed. Thanks!!




## Sawmill Nordic Centre

**Fred Scheel**

February and March of 2018 turned out to be quite challenging at the trail. A lack of snow and mild conditions created a closure of some trails and difficult grooming. Our aim was to keep the Sawmill skiable till the end of March Break.



Thanks to the efforts of Zane Davies, Harry Hong, Neil Sim and especially Ron Downie who acted as trail captain while I travelled to Arizona. We have a wonderful member operated ski club, thanks to everyone. Later, Fred. 




## Colpoys Ski Trail

**Martin Kerr**

Well a great season came to a sudden conclusion on or about Family Day of this year, after such a great and early start in December it was a little sad to see the skiing vanish so early. There were however lots of high notes, tons of snow, 65 ski days and many great ski outings.



Thanks once again to our principal landowner Ron Gatis for sharing his beautiful property with us this winter and Keith Butchart for keeping the parking lot clear.

I am looking for a person to replace me as trail captain next year and for people to groom as well. If you're interested in either of those roles, please drop me a line. Until next season... Cheers, Martin 

## Jackrabbits

**Jason MacDonald**

Once again, another outstanding season! We are so lucky to have a wonderful group of coaches supporting our many JR kids. We had many new coaches join us this season and they have all brought such wonderful enthusiasm to our program. Mark and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their time. The partnership between Georgian Bay Nordic and our Track Attack program continues to facilitate a smooth transition for our developing skiers into the realm of competition.

A big thank you as well to all of our parent volunteers. It is great to see so many of you stepping up to support the program in a wide variety of ways. Help is always welcome....and don't feel that you need to be an Olympic-level skier to help out! We ask only for a willingness to share your love of skiing with our youth, and an ability to

work cooperatively with a team of fellow coaches. If you are interested in sharing some of your skills or passion for skiing next season, please let us know. We can be reached at jackrabbits@bruceskiclub.ca

Mark Avery and I have enjoyed our second year as Jackrabbits coordinators. As Mark will be stepping aside from the coordinator role next year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark for his commitment to growing and improving our Jackrabbits program. I would also like to welcome coach Andre Steinman, who has agreed to assist as a co-coordinator next season.

Looking forward to seeing you all out on the trails in 2018. Remember to sign up early in the fall, as we filled our 100 spots quickly this year!

*Below: The 2018 Jackrabbits*



Fingers crossed for another excellent season of skiing! == 

## Georgian Bay Nordic

*Marilyn Suke*

The season ended for us with an amazing "uphill legs only" practice, an improvised hockey/soccer game and a group ski on March 21. A long and excellent season. With the focus this year on rebuilding the team and local races, we had many top ten finishes in the Southern Ontario Paraffin series. Ellen Groh and Claire Day were 1&



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"often copied but never duplicated"

2 with Aleida Nelson taking 6th place. Genvieve Dubeau was 3rd in her age category. Aiden Nelson took 10th place in 2005 boys. Sarah Groh and Anna Zandvliet were 2nd and 7th in 2004 Girls. Joel Zandvliet was 7th and finally, Wesley Schlenker and Spencer Vreugdenhil Beauclerc both won their age categories. Lila Yuhasez Bell raced (and won) her first 15 km classic, Emile Rose raced at Eastern Canadians for the first time and Lily Robinson attended her first Midget Championships in North Bay.

In a few weeks our older skiers will start their off season dryland training primarily running, biking and roller skiing.

We look forward to seeing you at Pure Grit in June.

Don't forget to clean and storage wax your skis! \_\_\_\_\_ 

*Below: Pictures from Suntrail Special Cookie Crunch*





**I WANT YOU**  
**FOR COLPOYS TRAIL CAPTAIN**  
**We are also looking for a BSC director!**

If you are interested in either position email Uncle Mike at: [mike@bruceskiclub.ca](mailto:mike@bruceskiclub.ca)

# Thank you to the following



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## Our Landowners

Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (<http://www1.greysauble.on.ca/>)

Ron Gatis

Kiwanis Whispering Pines Campground (<http://www.campondario.net/>)

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(<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-natural-resources-and-forestry>)

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