

It's Early Bird Time!



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mike Campbell

Hello fellow cross country ski enthusiasts. Another ski season is rapidly approaching, and it's time to get excited about it. Looking ahead to this coming season our club is in great shape. Our membership is sitting at 922 members, we have a healthy bank balance, and a team of dedicated volunteers.



Our executive committee planning for the coming season.

Our improvements we are making this coming season include the purchase of a quad-track groomer to replace our aging snowmobile. The advantage of this groomer is it can track in a straight line around corners, the snowmobile is sometimes difficult to turn and drifts across the trail when the snow is soft or deep. It is also a lot less physically demanding than the snowmobile. We will also be foam insulating the ceiling of the piston bully shed. This will be a two year project to insulate the entire shed. The goal is to make it easier to heat during maintenance

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and club events. It will also deal with a persistent rodent problem in the building.



We ended last year on a positive note at the club's Annual General Meeting. At the AGM we recognized long time club member, Laura Robinson, who was instrumental in starting up our club 42 years ago. Laura served many years on the executive and was the driving force behind the establishment of the Sawmill Ski Trails. Laura was presented with a custom

BSC jacket. Also recognized for their contribution to the club was Suntrail Source for Adventure. Suntrail has been a partner with the club for over 31 years. They sponsor the Suntrail Special, sell club merchandise, issue membership stickers, sign up new members and host our ski swap each year.



Again this year we have a real shortage of volunteers and coaches for our Jackrabbit program. Without coaches we cannot run this program. In order to entice more parents to volunteer as coaches this year, parents who coach and agree to take the coaching course (which is fully reimbursed) are guaranteed to have placements in the program for their children. Plus we waive the jackrabbit registration fee for coaches' children. Parents who are interested in coaching should contact our Jackrabbits Coordinator at: jackrabbits@bruceskiclub.ca


COMING EVENTS

- Nov. 9 - 8:00 am - BSC Swap at Suntrail**
- Nov. 9 - 10:00am - Sawmill Work Party**
- Nov. 16 - 10:00am - Colpoys Work Party**
- Nov. 20 - Early Bird Membership Deadline**

An initiative we are looking at this season is to extend the lit loop at the Sawmill Trail. The executive has set up a sub committee looking at the feasibility of doing this, headed by one of our directors, John Cameron. If you

are interested in helping out with this initiative please contact John at: jscameron@bmts.com .

As I say every year... Bruce Ski Club operates the most affordable, accessible and best maintained trails in Ontario. We accomplish this because of the strength of our volunteers. Regardless of how small or large your contribution, you make the club happen. Special thank you to our many Sponsors and Friends who contribute to make this club affordable for everyone. Thank you to our patron Suntrail Source for Adventure. In addition to supporting the club as a Patron, Suntrail sponsors many of our events, including the Ski Swap, Men and Women on Skis and Suntrail Special.

Lastly, I remind you that the Bruce Ski Club does not own any of the trails on which we ski. We owe a great deal to the landowners who generously allow us to ski on their property. Dogs are not allowed on our trails. Pack out your snacks and trash. If you find trash on the trail, pack that out too. If you meet any of our land owners, please thank them personally for sharing their property. _____ 

REGISTRATION


Heidi Tones

The farmer's almanac says big snow is a' comin"! So it must be time to register for the Bruce Ski Club. You can go on line to zone4.ca, click on "Register for a Club", search for "Bruce Ski Club" and register your whole family. If this does not work for you, pop into Suntrail in Hepworth, or Runner's Den in Owen Sound, to pick up a paper copy. You will need to return your paper and money to Suntrail. NOTE the Early Bird special is offered until Nov 20.



High school skiers have their own link on zone 4, if their families are not also registering:
<https://zone4.ca/register.asp?id=22137>

Remember to check off a volunteer job: help with a race, feed the birds... our club is run by volunteers just like you!

I look forward to seeing you on the snowy trails this season. Heidi _____ 

ED.

Tom Hakala

Last week as I drove along the Icefields Parkway in Jasper National Park it started to snow. Nothing heavy, just beautiful, fluffy flakes lightly floating down among the trees and peaks. I was awestruck by the mountains and inspired by the snow. Now I can't wait to get out on the trails and ski.

With that in mind, I decided to act on a few things that I have talked about in the past, after hearing from BSC members who want to be better skiers or just learn more about our trails.

First of all I plan to set up a database to match members who wish to improve their skiing technique with experienced skiers who are willing to help them ski more efficiently. So far I have a couple of very experienced skiers who have come forward to give a lesson or two.

Heidi Tones is the mother of National Ski Team member, Julian Smith, and she is willing to help you improve your skiing if you donate to Julian's travel fund. You can reach Heidi at: 519-534-3222 or email: smith.tones@gmail.com

Marlyn Suke is the Coaching Coordinator for Georgian Bay Nordic Ski Team and Marlyn will give you a lesson if you make a contribution to GBN. You can set up a lesson with Marlyn at 519-374-4227 or email her at: mpsuke@gmail.com.

If any of you wish to add your name to the database, either as an instructor or a student, email me at: hakalathomas@gmail.com. It is up to each instructor what and how they will charge for their services.



My other idea is to offer group tours of our trails. Last season, we tried to take part in World Snow Day... two times... and both times we were shut out by ridiculous high winds and cold. This coming year

World Snow Day will be on January 19th and I think we should celebrate in a more low key way.

So throughout the winter we will post on our Facebook page and website that a tour is being offered and all you have to do is show up. If you would like to be a tour guide, please email me at: hakalathomas@gmail.com.



SAWMILL NORDIC CENTRE

Fred Scheel

Our equipment and groomers are ready for another ski season. Here are some things that we are working towards:

1. Our Fall work party will be on Saturday, Nov. 9th from 10 am to 1 pm. (right after the ski swap at Suntrail)
2. We are upgrading the insulation of the Pisten-Bully shed in 2 stages. Stage 1 is to foam the ceilings. Stage 2 will be to foam the walls, probably next year. Stage 1 will occur on Oct. 21 and 22nd.
3. Our Equipment shed was broken into in August, the thieves cut a hole in the back wall and stole two trolley jacks and 1 bottle jack. Please feel free to report late at night visitors if you are driving by the trail. We will be upgrading our security with motions sensors and cameras.
4. We will be upgrading our grooming equipment by selling our 800 Skidoo (9 years old) and replacing it with a quad tracked ATV. We also hope to purchase a second groomer to accompany our 15 year old Tidd Tech G2.



Sample of what a quad-track looks like.

Last season was our second longest number of grooming days with 136 (longest being 141). Hopefully, Mother Nature will provide us with another long season in 2019/20.

On Behalf of your groomers, Happy Skiing, Fred  3



COLPOYS SKI TRAIL

Richard Bonert

After taking over successfully last season, your team of Richard, the trail captain and Neil, the groomer are looking forward to a new season 2019/2020. Thanks to our land owner Ron Gatis, who is welcoming us back for the winter.

To get the trails in shape, a work party is planned for Saturday the 16th November at 10:00 am, meeting at the trail parking lot. I hope for a good turnout as last year, so we can get the work done in 2 to 3 hours.

If you think of helping at Colpoys, please send me an e-mail - richard.b-bsc@bell.net - so I can plan the work party a little bit - thanks.

As usual the BSC website will post the trail condition: when we start grooming, plowing the parking lot etc. Please check the website, in particular if you have a longer drive to Colpoys, to know what to expect.



Looking forward hopefully to a good steady winter with lots of snow and sunshine and skiing in a wonderful, natural winter landscape.

See you on the Colpoy's Trails,
Your trail captain, Richard 


A reminder: The parking lot and trails are open for the ski season on permission of the owner: they are not public trails and this is private property. Please stay on the ski trails. If you know the Bruce Trail, you may venture out on them but they are not groomed and mostly not very suitable for skiing in this area. Again, the same rule, stay on the trails.

RACE REPORT

Ken Clarke

Even before the leaves fall we are planning for the snow to fall. We are also planning to host three races this year at Sawmill trail. The process of choosing race dates is ongoing. The Great Wolf Invitational will once again start things off in early January. We will host Cwossa in early February and finally The Suntrail Special.



Though we have many experienced volunteers whose dedication has made our races so successful in the past; with three races we will need even more to join the team and select Race Volunteer when registering as BSC members. So please consider this your invitation. And remember: no experience necessary. Thanks, Ken 

JACKRABBITS

Jason MacDonald


In the last three years our program has reached a level of unparalleled growth. Given this growth, last year we had to limit our enrollment to 85 kids. This was reached in a mere two weeks and we could have had many more kids in the program if we hadn't chosen to limit it.



With all of this growth, though, we continue to have difficulty seeing a corresponding increase in the number of parent volunteers willing to coach. Coaching entails 2 hours on Saturday mornings for a 8-9 week session. We take coaches at all levels of ex-

pertise and even offer a community coaching course that is fully paid for by the club. Please consider joining our ranks! I really feel that we are lucky to have such an excellent program in one of the best ski facilities in the province. If you are interested, please contact me at jackrabbits@bruceskiclub.ca soon.

Given these circumstances, Jackrabbits enrollment for the 2020 season will be limited to 70 spots open to the general public. Coaches with children in the program will be guaranteed spots beyond that number. No waiting list will be maintained this year.

Looking forward to another exciting season! 

GEORGIAN BAY NORDIC

Marilyn Suke

As always, GBN has started training hard for the upcoming season, looking forward to the challenges ahead. We are currently a team of about twenty keen athletes ages 10-18 years, but we have room for more! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would just like to try us out for a few weeks. Currently we train Tuesday's and will add Thursday's after Thanksgiving. For our younger skiers, only one session per week is obligatory, and members who have school team obligations may also miss practices for a short period of time.




As many BSC members are now aware, we have a National Team Member who calls our club home! Julian Smith has been named to the National Team for the upcoming season. This is an amazing achievement as there currently are only seven men in all of Canada chosen for this team. Congratulations Julian.

We finished last season by hosting "Pure Grit"- our trail running race - now an annual event. It has seen a steady increase in numbers every year, gets rave reviews and there is even a 50km option. It has been an excellent fundraiser for our team. Something to look forward to when you are mourning the loss of snow this spring!

Once again, we have a strong group of well qualified and enthusiastic coaches leading our team. Thanks to Matt Nelson (also our president), Ken Clarke, Tim Smith and Jack VanDorp. Brent Beck has agreed to return as a consultant on equipment selection and waxing magic.

Several of our senior athlete-coaches will be bringing their enthusiasm and love of skiing to the Jack-rabbit program again this year.

We look forward to seeing you all on the trails (hopefully soon) this season. _____ 

SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE


Laura Howlett

It was a tricky season weather wise for the Owen Sound Waxwings and Center Bruce Snow Gilders who bravely coped with frigid temps, storms and ice... and that was just two days in Sault Ste Marie!

After a mad midnight ride from Owen Sound to the Soo, 7 athletes and 2 coaches attended the Provincial games with lots of personal bests and medals achieved. Skiers Jaqueline Gravel, Katie Lesperance, Derek Morton & Anne Howlett all qualified for the National Games at the end of February in North Bay.



Our success is both blessing and curse: we are attracting new skiers and need more coaches/assistants. Our Nordic Skiers in SO ski with a 2:1 or 1:1 athlete to coach ratio. Any BSC

members who may be interested in assisting with athletes on a regular or occasional basis, please email head coach Laura Howlett: owensound.nordic@specialolympicsontario.ca . = 

Donate to the Bruce Ski Club



When you donate to the Bruce Ski Club, you are supporting its mission of providing well-maintained cross-country ski and snowshoe trails. Our trails are open to members and the public. Donations help us keep our membership and day pass fees affordable so more people can use our trails.

Donations supplement the membership fees and enable the club to maintain and upgrade the grooming equipment and ski trail facilities.

Donations can also be made to the Jackrabbit cross-country ski program for children. This all-volunteer program is a great way for children to learn ski technique, build lifelong friendships and have fun.

The Bruce Ski Club would like to thank all the patrons, sponsors and community partners who have already donated. Because of their financial and other support, we are able to keep our cross-country ski and snowshoe trails accessible and affordable.

You can submit a donation to support the Bruce Ski Club mission or the Jackrabbit program at the same time as your membership application. Donations can also be mailed to the Bruce Ski Club any time during the year.

Thank you to the following



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Kiwanis Club of Owen Sound/Whispering Pines Campground

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Our Landowners

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(<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-natural-resources-and-forestry>)
The Spencer Family
Laura McNamara & Bevan Ratcliffe

LET'S MAKE A DEAL
THE BSC SKI SWAP
is Nov. 9, 2019
@ SUNTRAIL
SOURCE FOR
adventure

Numbers will go out at 8am. SALE STARTS @ 9am! Each number allows 2 sets of skis. Bring your old equipment to Suntrail between Oct. 20 and Nov. 7 for the swap.

Call for more details 519-935-2478

Bruce Ski Club

The Bruce Ski Club would like to thank



for printing of this newsletter.