

SKI TRACKER

♪ Let it snow, let it snow.... ♪

From the President

Mike Campbell

As I sit here in the spacious president's office surveying my domain. I'm thinking what can I possibly say in this newsletter that has not been said before? Then it occurred to me, we have great news: **THE PORTA POTTIES HAVE RETURNED TO THE COLPOY'S TRAIL!** This may not sound like exciting news to you, but to someone with a weak bladder, this is heaven on earth and for that I am deeply grateful.



By the way, I know many of you have not skied the Colpoy's Trail, Your membership gives you access to two trails. If you have not skied Colpoy's, you should! It's a gem! Richard and Neil keep it in tip-top shape. To me the Sawmill is like a 401 highway and Colpoys is a country road. Both are great depending on the headspace you are in.



Great views at Colpoy's!

By the way have you guys seen the completed Information Kiosk at the Sawmill? It looks fantastic. It adds a warm welcome feel to the trail and vital information on ski registration and safety tips to skiers who have not skied the trail before. I would like to thank Gregg and the students of Owen Sound District Secondary School, Cole Brown and Landon Heathers, for constructing this marvellous post and beam structure; Tom Hakala for designing the graphics; and Fred Schlenker for putting it all together. It never ceases to amaze me what we have accomplished over the years with volunteers. This is a classic example and I would like to thank them for all their hard work.

Hey, can you believe we hosted our first ski race in two years? It was a stripped down Suntrail Special. The race had some COVID related challenges (vaccine passports, social distancing, etc.) It was all worthwhile to see those happy faces of all the kids that participated in this well organized event. I would like to thank Marilyn Suke, our race coordinator, and all the volunteers who helped make this event memorable for all the participants.



Phew, made it to the bush.

I like to think of our club as a happy family of people with a common love of skiing, and I encourage you when out on the trails to say hi to your fellow skiers and offer help if you

see a new member or someone just visiting for the day staring blankly at a map of the trails. At the end of the day it makes our club an important part of our lives. Especially given the really difficult two years it has been. I can hardly wait until the warmup hut opens up again next year where we can get together in a warm environment to share our love of skiing.

Enjoy the trails! Have fun and when you see them, thank all our volunteers and land owners for their generosity and dedication to the club..



13-19 Feb 2022 - Trail Exchange BVSC



Colpoys Ski Trail

Richard Bonert

February 2022

Finally there is some good skiing at the Colpoys trail again. After some snow on December 7th, we started packing and hoped for a holiday season with skiing but it was not to be. We had to wait until the 12th of January to have the first trail sections packed and some tracks set. Soon after, on the 14th, we got more snow and could pack and track set all trails including Ron's Trail. We have been skiing now for nearly three weeks with good conditions. There are some small changes which can be seen on a [new map](#) posted on our website and at the trail entrance. (**Hint:** Take a shot of the large map at the trail entrance with a cell phone to take with you. Some of the maps on the trail may not show the changes.)

The changes are a **reroute** at the north end of the West Trail and the Beaver Pond Trail, point 'G', to avoid the flooded area, which forced us last season to do an unpleasant detour. **Caution:** the wet area looks like a pristine path now, but I tested it on the 31st January and got a wet ski so please stay away from it.

The other change: we opened a **short cut** between the Pines Trail and Bert's Boulevard and put signs in place for orientation. This provides a short loop to turn back on Bert's Boulevard coming from the Barn. The loop is point 'B' to point 'E' then on Pines Trail toward 'D' to the short cut (a gentle pleasant down hill) to Bert's Boulevard and back to point 'B' and back to the Barn.

Some of you may remember a photo of the Pines Avenue in the far east of the trails system. I like another trail stretch on the west, which I call the 'Cedar-Pine-Tunnel' on the loop Barn to G to A, back to the Barn, clockwise or counter clockwise.

A word regarding the pandemic with regard to skiing at the Colpoys Trails:

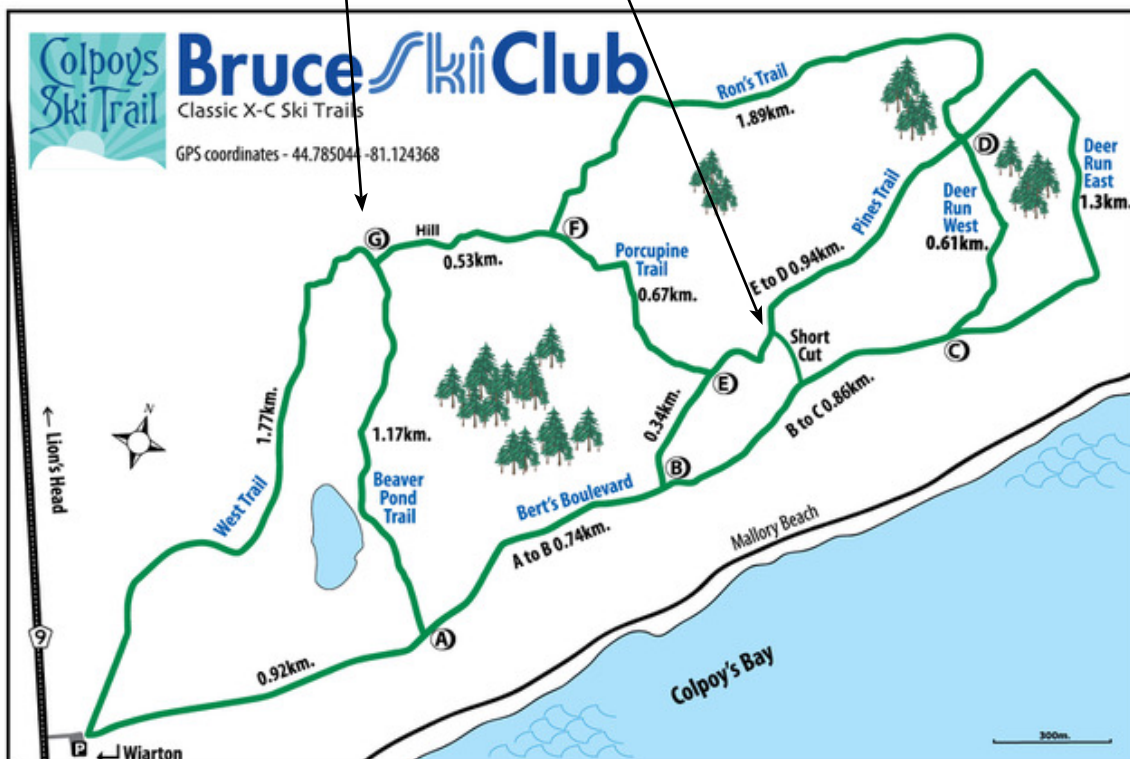
Please keep the 2 m distance, on the trail it means one party stepping aside, or if you wish to pass someone, announce it so that passing with distance is possible. As distancing in the small parking lot might be difficult we ask you to wear a mask in the parking lot, if other persons are around.



The Cedar-Pine-Tunnel

Regarding a porta-potty - I just got the good news. We can have a porta-potty and I ordered it right away!!!

Hoping for steady snow and for a long skiing winter to enjoy the wonderful winter landscape at the Colpoys Ski Trails.



See you on the Colpoys Trails,
Your trail captain, Richard



The Cautious Skier

Tom Hakala

February 2022

After about 70 years of skiing, I have learned to take it easy and enjoy the fact that I am still able to take part in this wonderful activity. If I do try to push too hard, my body soon tells me, "Enough already!" I have become more cautious as well! When descending large downhills like Freefall that name sort of sticks in my brain and I snowplow the first bit to cut my speed. I handle it at my comfort zone.

The other day as I was finishing skiing Easy Street, a friend came through the gate and met me for a chat. She said she had just skied down Freefall and was about to move back on to the trackset when someone directly behind her yelled, "TRACK" and zoomed by. She is a very good skier and was able to deke back off the track. Nonetheless, it really frightened her. We both said that when we come to the top of steep runs like Freefall we wait until other skiers

descend at least the drop of the run before pushing off ourselves. For me, there is always the risk that the skier ahead may fall and I would end up on top of them if I went right behind them. Even when I was young and reckless, I gave space between myself and the skier in front. It just seemed to make sense.

I know there are many potential racers at Sawmill and with the advent of 'Smart' watches, many time themselves trying to improve their time around the course (myself included). On the other hand, unless you are in a closed race on the trail remember the trails are open to everyone. Not all people on the trails are able to manoeuvre like a seasoned skier. Some may be trying a more difficult trail for the first time or because of age may be taking it with more caution. The 30 seconds that you wait on the top of a downhill will not change the world or your time all that much. You are not in a race, stop and check out the beautiful view around you. Then fire down as fast as you like.



Ed. note: I'm sure there have been some pile-ups during a race, but for recreational skiing, it would seem to be safest to let the skier ahead of you clear the hill and the run-out before you take your turn, and if you wipe out, get up and out of the way quickly. For a refresher on skiing etiquette, check out <https://www.ramblers.ab.ca/Reference/SkiEtiquette>

Adult Ski Lessons

February 2022


For those of you who would like to improve your skiing technique, here is your chance. The list below includes some of our most experienced instructors and coaches. Don't be shy. They are happy to help you ski more efficiently. Just call or email.

Heidi Tones – is the mother of Julian Smith, who trains at the National Development Centre in Thunder Bay, and she is willing to help you improve your skiing if you donate to Julian's travel fund. Heidi will do individual or small group lessons. You can reach Heidi at: **519-534-3222** or smith.tones@gmail.com.

Marilyn Suke – is the Coaching Coordinator for Georgian Bay Nordic Ski Team and Race Co-ordinator for Bruce Ski Club and Marilyn will give you a lesson if you make a con-

tribution to GBN. You can set up a lesson with Marilyn at **519-374-4227** or mpsuke@gmail.com.


Dr. Don Eby – he would be happy to provide free advice and or mentoring to anyone interested in pursuing a passion for long-course loppets. He has completed the Canadian Ski Marathon four times, the long course Gatin-eau loppet about 12 times and has been recognized as a 'master' (completing 10 long course loppets in 10 different countries) by the World Loppet association. **519 371-2720 (H) or 519 373-2535 (C)** or d.eby@sympatico.ca.

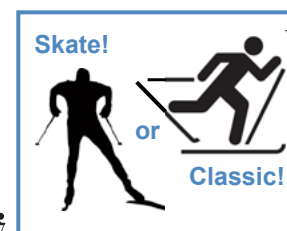
Dawn Williams – Qualifications: Cansi Level 1, Level 2 NCCP, Coached GBN and Saugeen District Secondary School team, competed at the Masters level for 15 years provincially, nationally and internationally. Any contributions to supporting youth in the sport: Jackrabbits, GBN, Julian Smith. Email: dawnwilliams@bmts.com 

XCSO KM Challenge

So, once you have had your adult ski lesson and are out there skiing every day, why not add your kilometers to the XCSO Distance Challenge under Bruce Ski Club? Actually, it is for everyone, not just adults, and collectively Bruce Ski Club members have skied from Hepworth to Whistler and almost back to Wawa! Help get us home. Add your

kilometers [here](#). To see how far fellow club members have skied, check [here](#). You can set your own goals and hope the snow stays as good as it has been so far.

If you are into skiing fast and comparing yourself to others or just to yourself, check out the [BSC Tuesday Time Trials](#). 



Registration

Heidi Tones

The trails are groomed up beautifully and the skiing has been fabulous! We currently have 1259 members and it has been delightful to see so many families with young children out enjoying the trails!

If you have a school ski team, or a community group that would like to use the trails to ski or snowshoe for one time, day passes can be purchased and filled out at the hut. You can deposit cash or e-transfer (etransfer@bruceskiclub.ca).

Passes can also be purchased at Suntrail Source for Adventure, Hepworth, where they take all forms of payment (for an additional administrative fee of \$2). If you plan to take your group routinely, please contact me smith.tones@gmail.com to get forms for a discounted price. It is important that everyone is covered under the insurance.

Finally, a reminder that if you would like to exchange your old ski tag for a new one, pop into Suntrail and do so.

See you on the trails, Heidi Tones 

Did you know we have a Code of Conduct?

From the web site:

(Just kind of sounds like being a good person. :-))

CODE OF CONDUCT

- All members of the Bruce Ski Club members have a responsibility to promote a safe environment.
- No member of the Bruce Ski Club will participate in activity that endangers the safety of other club members.
- All members of the Bruce Ski Club are to be treated with respect and dignity.
- All members of the Bruce Ski Club are to treat others fairly, regardless of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, creed, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status or disability.
- All members of the Bruce Ski Club have a responsibility to resolve conflicts in a way that is civil and respectful.
- All members of the Bruce Ski Club will show care and respect for Bruce Ski Club property and the property of others.
- All members of the Bruce Ski Club are expected to be aware and knowledgeable of Bruce Ski Club's Members Code of Conduct.

Jackrabbits


Jody MacEachern

February 2022

The Jackrabbits season is off to a strong start. All lessons are full and we were able to accommodate most families who placed kids on the waiting list.

There will be one more moonlight ski, taking place on Saturday, Feb 12th. The event is informal. There will be a fire burning in the fire area if we need to get warm, and of course the Jackrabbit loop will be lit (as it can be at any time). Otherwise, we simply encourage you to get out and enjoy skiing after hours. Skiing at night during a full moon really is a wonderful experience.

We will be looking for volunteers to help organize and run our carnival (March 12.)

Also, we always have a need for coaches and assistants to run lessons. If you would consider volunteering your time to ensure lessons can run, please get in touch with the Jackrabbits coordinators at jackrabbits@bruceskiclub.ca. 



Two Jackrabbit families enjoying a ski at Colpoy's on Jan. 30.



The Kiosk (continued) The next steps





The Final Product!

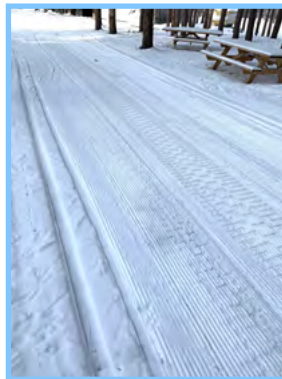
Thanks to all who had a role in creating this stunning statement for the club.



Sawmill Nordic Centre

Fred Schlenker

I have seen many very happy people at Sawmill who are totally enjoying the exercise and the out of doors. I have had random conversations from people who are from away. ("Away" is my take on the Newfoundlander's description of people who are not from the Rock!) Lots of people from the city. _____



Ed. note: Glad there are lots of people enjoying the trail from near and far and hope they appreciate the effort it takes to keep the tracks in this pristine shape. Last month one of the grooming machines broke down and it was discovered that a replacement was not easy to come by. New ones are about \$20000 and have to be ordered by March for fall delivery. Our amazing crew located a used one in Callander, ON, and drove about four hours to check it out and bring it back. Today I saw Ron lugging in heavy containers of gas after he had already been out early in frigid temperatures. A huge thanks to the groomers! _____

Lit Loop Timer Button

- If lights are off, press once to turn lights on and start 90 minute countdown timer to automatic off.
 - If lights are on, press once to turn lights off.
 - If you wish to reset the 90 minute countdown timer, press twice (once for off, once to turn back on and reset timer) - *Be aware of other skiers on trail*
 - If you are finished, you may turn the lights off.
- PLEASE DO NOT TURN LIGHTS OFF UNLESS YOU ARE CERTAIN THAT NO ONE IS ON THE LOOP.** If in doubt, leave lights on. The timer will look after it.

Note: The timer button is located on the south side of Gerry's Place (the warming hut) near the south west corner at about head height.

GBN athletes have been hitting the trails hard. We are thankful for the recent snow and good conditions and most importantly, the return of our racing. In the absence of racing, we initiated our own internal club racing. On January 22, we had 14 athletes compete at Mono Nordic ski race in Orangeville. It was great to be out having fun and skiing fast. We had several podium finishes on the day, Sydney Snelling, Brennan Law and Genevieve Dubeau among



Mono Nordic start line.



GBN's internal Corona Cup race series.

year is coming up at Nakkertok (Gatineau), the Eastern Championships. We have three athletes planning to attend. The race distances are typically between 1.5 and 10 km long depending on the age category and vary between

them. We are getting for a busy race weekend, with the Sounder (at Georgian Nordic in Parry Sound) and our home event, the Suntrail Special. One of the biggest races of the

classic technique and freestyle/skate.

See you on the trails! 

Suntrail Special

Marilyn Suke, BSC Race Co-ordinator

Suntrail Special 2022


We shook off our Covid despondency and resolved to put on a fun event for our keenest Southern Ontario Skiers. Focusing on providing an opportunity for the ages from 10 to 18 years, we assembled our large team of experienced volunteers and set to work.

With the Bruce Ski Club executive behind us, graciously agreeing to close the trail for part of the day, we posted our race notice and went full steam ahead. Cross Country Ontario requires us to welcome only spectators and racers who are fully vaccinated, so Andrew Howlett, Race Secretary, set up a system for both to download their proof of vaccination. Mike Campbell and his parking lot team made a list and checked it off as each car arrived. Smooth as silk. Our guests were so excited to have a race to attend and the kids were raring to go!

Fred Scheel and Ron Downie had the course in perfect condition, signs and barriers in place. Dan Purdon and Tim Smith ran the start perfectly and the racers were off, completing a 9km, 5.5km or 3.5 km course. Fred Schlenker set up and ran the stadium area and his team of finish line volunteers and their eagle eyes recorded the exact time of each and every one of the 115 competitors. We are lucky to be able to rent high end timing equipment from Highlands Nordic to make our results accurate, almost instant and hassle free.

Jill, from Suntrail, greeted each finisher with a sweet treat and provided draw prizes to many of the competitors. Suntrail also generously donated prizes to First and Second place racers in each category. We had spectator services that moved people away from the stadium to more favourable cheering areas and snacks and warm drinks for our volunteer team.

So many expressions of gratitude from so many athletes and coaches and requests to run another (classic) race soon. Before even considering that, there are bibs to sort, pencils to sharpen and sleep to catch up on!

Thank you so much to each and every one of our volunteers. I hope you all had as much fun as I did! 

For race results, click [here](#).



U12-U14 Start line-up



Eager skiers



Ian MacKay



Olivia Abbott

"It was a great day for a race. Conditions were perfect, skiers were smiling and parents weren't too cold! Thanks to organizers for putting on a safe and fun event. We really appreciate it!" *Parent Michelle Lafleur*



Olivier Lafleur



Aiden Nelson



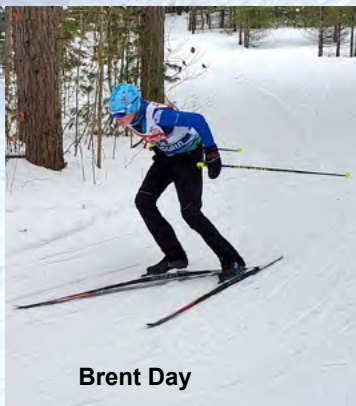
Genevieve Dubeau



Luna Abbott



Sebastian van Wieringen



Brent Day



Cameron Ward



Grace Wheeler



Claire Day

More Local Racers

Special Olympics


Laura Howlett

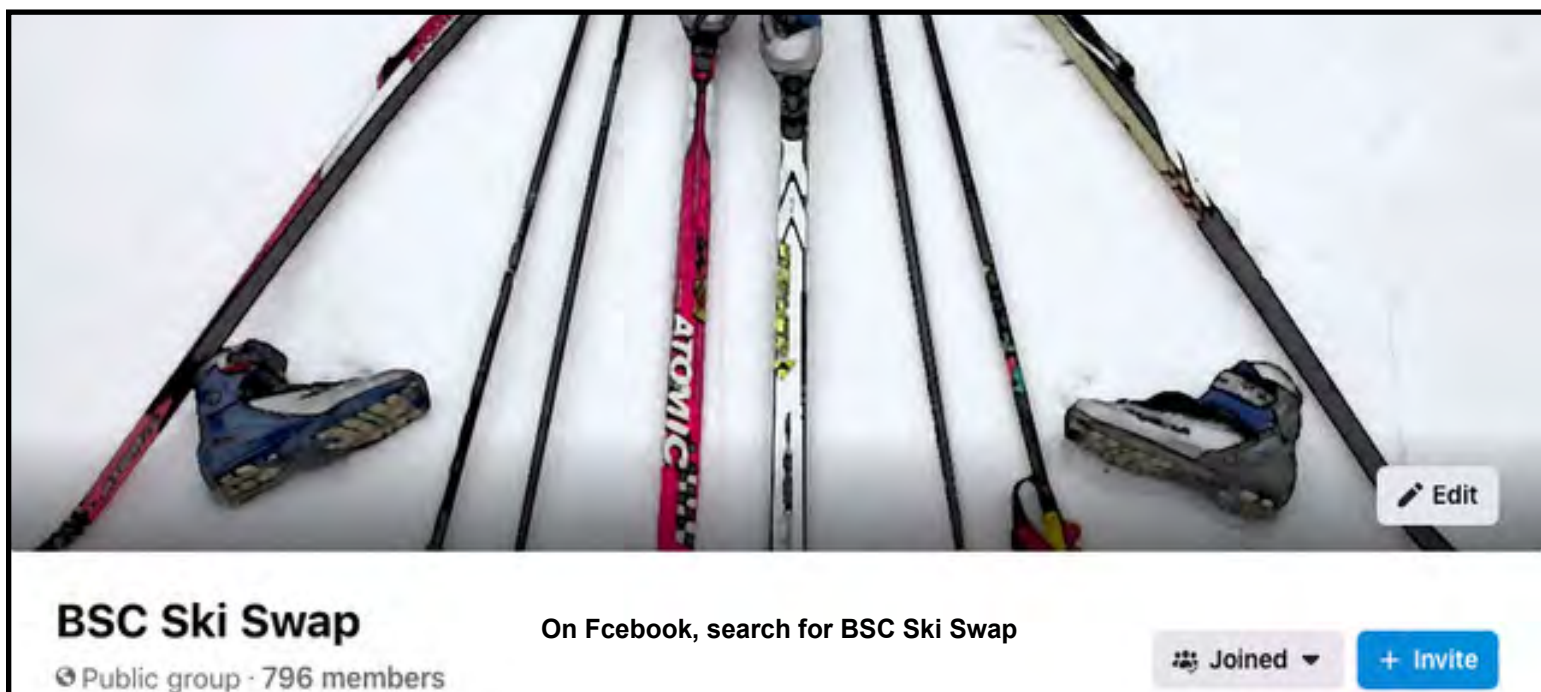
The combined Owen Sound Waxwings and Central Bruce Snow Gliders met to train together the first Saturday in February, after having been separated by the pandemic for 23 months! Most athletes have done some skiing on their own, and everyone seems to remember how to ski. The weather was cold but glorious! The team really appreciated the new camp fire at the end of their training. Five Stars! Definitely recommend! It was also pretty cool to have Olli the Otter drop by for some selfies. We plan to ski until at least the first Saturday in March, and will take part in the Virtual Games.



Almost every day I get a message that 13 new members have joined the BSC Ski Swap. I check the site most days to see what activity there is. As of January 30, 2022 there are 796 members. Checking through the membership, most reside in our region, but there are a few that live in the Toronto area as well as Kitchener, London and even Ottawa. There was a new one from Texas today. I checked her Facebook page and she seems legit. I can only surmise that some of these people are students, ex-pat Grey-Bruce or have lived in the area at one time. So far I have not come across the scammers from overseas that I found and deleted last season.

Most of the items for sale are related to skiing and specifically cross-country skiing. There are some downhill skis and equipment, but I decided to allow that (being that I sold some downhill skis on the site earlier). Ski clothing, parkas, mitts and gloves are okay too. But if you have a screen door, a dresser, a pair of women's size 30 dress slacks, a dentist's chair or a snowblower, place your ad in the Grey-Bruce 24/7 Marketplace or one of the other sites. The items at BSC Ski Swap should be related to skiing or snowshoeing. I hope the guy looking for size 14 three-pin boots finds his gold; so far I think most people are connecting with what they need or selling what they list.

We will shut the site down at the end of the ski season and will most likely rejuvenate it again next winter. 




Professional Ski Waxing Service by Isaac Shouldice

Attention all skiers in Grey-Bruce! I am offering my professional ski waxing services. With snow here to stay, please consider treating your skis to a professional wax job done by yours truly. (Details below.)

I grew up skiing; my mom jokes that I could ski before I could walk. I learned how to ski thanks to the folks over at Bruce Ski Club (BSC), the Jackrabbit racing program and my friends at GBN. My interests became invested in biathlon, where I went on to become ranked nationally and internationally, racing throughout Canada and the United States. Needless to say, thanks to my many life experiences racing, I learned from the best on how to wax professionally and appropriately for the right conditions.

I am advertising my ski waxing services starting this winter (skate skis, classic glide wax and downhill skis as well). I am charging \$30.00 for a race-series professional wax. **Contact me at 226-668-6913.**

I am going to be donating a portion of my proceeds from every ski set waxed to the BSC so as to give back to the people who helped build my skillset from the very beginning. 



Thank you to the following

February 2022



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Miller Family
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Lloyd Lewis
Jones Family
Grant Dunlop
MacDonalds
Carrie Currie
Shawn Grimstead

Newsletter

Joy Ward

Didn't leave myself much room in my second attempt at a newsletter! Just want to say thanks to everyone for your submissions and pictures! It's a team effort.

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Our Landowners

Grey Sauble Conservation Authority
Ron Gatis
Kiwanis Whispering Pines Campground
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
The Spencer Family
Laura McNamara & Bevan Ratcliffe

The Bruce Ski Club would like to thank



for the printing of this newsletter.