

# SKI TRACKER

## AGM April 28/22, Heartwood Hall

### From the President

Mike Campbell

Greetings, fellow ski enthusiasts. It's hard to believe that the ski season is over. Given the small amount of snow we had, we still enjoyed a decent ski season at both the Sawmill Nordic Centre and Colpoy's Trail.



Over the last number of years we are witnessing a smaller amount of snow each season. This has presented challenges to us from a grooming perspective. So much so that we have only had the big PistenBully out on the trail twice this year and a few times in the 2020-2021 season.

With this in mind, the Executive decided that we should sell the PistenBully and replace it with a much smaller Kubota Diesel Side-by-side, on tracks. This combined with our Yamaha Quad Grizzly and Snowmobile should make us well equipped for the seasons ahead.

I am pleased to report that we are going to return to the Heartwood Concert Hall in downtown Owen Sound for our potluck dinner and AGM on April 28th, 2022.

So come on out and share some stories with fellow club members. Bring a dish to the pot luck and enjoy a glass of craft beer, wine or cider. This event is open to club members and their spouses and family.

After the Social we will have a short AGM where we will

talk about our plans for next year and listen to any ideas our members have on the operation of the club.

What should our next projects be? Expand the lit loop? Build more trails into the abandoned landfill site adjacent to the Kiwanis Campground? Expand the parking lot? Build a picnic shelter for groups to gather? We are interested in any ideas you may have. So come on out and have a good night.

Only 240 days until next year's ski season.

-- Mike Campbell

President

Bruce Ski Club



# I'M BACK!



## Heartwood Concert Hall on April 28th

**6:00 Social & Pot Luck • 7:00 AGM**

**Craft Beer • Pot luck • Free Give Aways**

**Thank our volunteers**

## Bruce Ski Club

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

**COMING EVENTS**

**Thursday, April 28, 2022, 6:00 p.m.,  
Bruce Ski Club Annual General Meeting,  
Heartwood Hall, 939 3rd Ave. E., Owen Sound**



# Sawmill Nordic Centre

Fred Schlenker

Thank you to all who helped get us through another successful season. In particular, a big thank you to our grooming team for making the most out of a season with less snow than we hoped for and for solving problems with our grooming equipment. Their efforts have kept us on the snow. I would also like to thank a group of 12 volunteers (Trail Keepers) who helped to remove fallen trees and branches after a significant wind event earlier this winter and also helped to repair the snow surface on Little Dipper using the tried and true method of shoveling snow on to the trail. I would also like to thank Deane Atherton and Dawn Hollyer for looking after the signage for our trail system for many years.

Here are the plans for the summer season to help maintain and improve our trails for next winter:

There is a plan by the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority to harvest a number of trees from their portion of our trail system. It is possible that this harvest may be postponed and not occur this summer as previously planned. There are a variety of factors involved in this, including the market value of the trees planned for harvest. If this harvest does go ahead, it will require extra efforts on our part to ensure that the trails are cleared and ready to go next winter. If logging goes ahead, I would like to plan a work day that is in addition to our normal fall trail clean up, hopefully in the warmer weather. If this is required, I will send out a e-mail request to the portion of the membership who checked the "trail clean up" box on their Zone4 BSC registration. If you are keen to help with this and want to be added to our list of regular Trail Keepers, please send me an email at [schlenkerfred@gmail.com](mailto:schlenkerfred@gmail.com) and I will gladly add you to the list.

Other over the summer plans include a general cleanup, establishing a proper storage location for Jackrabbit equipment, possible extension of the lit loop, and a good look at the possibility of creating an outside open shelter area. In addition, I am interested in investigating the possibility of figuring out possible solutions to some of the erosion issues brought about by our trail system. This would involve partnership with the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority. This is an ambitious set of plans, the success of which will depend on volunteer efforts from our ever-growing membership.



## HELP WANTED

**Signage:** We are in need of a team of two or more people to manage the signage for the ski trails. This is a two person job, but could be a four or more person job if you wish. This responsibility would require: removing signs at the end of the season (once the trails are driveable), making notes as to the location of each sign (penciled in on a map) and putting signs back in place in the fall (early November). This will require a good cordless drill. Responsibilities would also include requesting new signs to replace old and worn out signs as well as requesting new signage that may improve on what we already have.

**Lit Loop Expansion:** There is a plan to illuminate a portion of Paperclip. This is a once only job. The first step is to determine the type of lighting that will work best. There are several options available, all with different costs, installation efforts and ongoing maintenance needs. It is my hope to involve about 8 to 10 people in this undertaking. It will eventually result in a few good days of work at the trails to get everything in place. Any electricians in the membership that are willing to offer advice would be greatly appreciated.

**Natural Erosion Control:** The goal behind this is to reduce the amount of erosion of the soft and sandy soil where tree removal and bulldozing has destabilized the soil. The idea has been floated to use plants as a means to slow this process. We would get some help from the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority with this. At this point, I am curious to see if there is interest among our membership to consider taking this on. This would be a job for 10 or more people of all ages.

If you are interested in any of the above volunteer opportunities, please contact me at [schlenkerfred@gmail.com](mailto:schlenkerfred@gmail.com). I would be glad to discuss any questions or ideas that you have about these activities. \_\_\_\_\_

## FOR SALE: 2003 PistenBully The Edge 200

Most of you probably don't want to park a PistenBully in your garage, but if anyone has any contacts in the grooming world who might be interested, please let them know about this one. Contacts: Ron Downie, [rondebdownie@gmail.com](mailto:rondebdownie@gmail.com), Mike Campbell, [mike@bruceski-club.ca](mailto:mike@bruceski-club.ca) or they can check out Facebook Marketplace for more details. Click [here](#).





# Sawmill Nordic Centre--Grooming

Ron Downie

Hello BSC,

Our season began with a ski on Nov 21 and continued on and off until March 30. On six occasions we encountered a weather pattern of above freezing temps, rain, and then some snow on top. It was difficult to build a base when it kept melting.

We enjoyed 79 days of skiing on groomed trails, the third lowest in our records. Last season we had 80 days. Total grooming hours this season was 398. Our grooming team of Fred Scheel, Andrew Howlett, Harry Hong along with newcomers, Kari Shufflebotham and Kyle Court, did an outstanding job under some precarious conditions. Many days the grooming consisted of packing with the snowmobile and G2 followed by the Grizzly and Ginzu.

Our snowmobile at Sawmill had a major breakdown and we are still waiting for parts. Fred Scheel helped search online for a replacement, on short notice and in short supply. We managed to find a used Scandic snowmobile to carry us over and it is proving to work out nicely.

The club executive is discussing equipment options for next year. Once again Fred Scheel helped with extensive research.

The day pass proceeds proved rewarding to collect and provide a great way to help offset our expenses.

Fred Schlenker kept Sawmill organized with a team of volunteers that helped manage downed trees and also shovelled snow to repair a damaged trail.

Thank You ALL, Ron



How great was it to see the inside of Gerry's Place again?



## Registration

Heidi Tones

Well, once again this season saw many new skiers and snowshoers join the awesome Bruce Ski Club. We also had many groups come into the area to enjoy our beautifully groomed trails.

Thank you to Suntrail for once again housing the BSC iPad to complete registrations. As well, for handing out ski fobs, annual stickers, and administering day passes to non-members!

Remember that you can always join early in the fall and take advantage of our Early Bird discounts. Mark your cal-

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endars now for October 2022 to check out zone4.ca to join. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

See you next year on the trails!...

Heidi



Some skier comments:

"A very nice classic track set laid down at Sawmill today (Monday)... especially considering the icy condition of the base. Thank you very much."

"Hear hear!"

"It was fantastic skiing tonight!! I noticed the track was in great condition too. Thanks groomers!"





# Colpoys Ski Trail

*Richard Bonert*

As there was not enough snow, there was no groomed skiing over the year end holidays and we had to wait until the middle of January. On the 15th of January after packing we could groom and track set all trails including Ron's Trail. Due to a reroute avoiding some extremely rocky areas, Ron's Trail could be groomed as early as the other trails. Since then all trails were groomed and track set regularly, depending on snow conditions. That means once or twice per week at Colpoys. We had good skiing on all trails until the 14th of March, making 60 days of groomed skiing, often with sun – not a bad winter.

After that the snow went fast and by the 19th of March, all snow on the trails from the parking lot going east and north had disappeared, so the trails had to be closed.

Many skiers, about 200 of them day pass users, enjoyed the Colpoys trails this season -- and may have great memories.

Have a great summer and we will start thinking about the next season. Richard and Neil, the groomer, plan to be there for you again. Richard Bonert, Trail Captain, Colpoys Trail



Enjoying nature at Colpoys -- and on the way to Colpoys!





This winter brought a return to a typical 10-week Jackrabbit season. Cold temperatures were a regular occurrence. Those that persisted through the cold were rewarded with great skiing and a warm fire when needed. Only a few Jackrabbits attended the Colpoy's Candy ski, but they were rewarded with sugary treats on the trail. Next season we hope to bring this event back and that more skiers can participate. Our final Saturday was the Carnival. Thank you to Erik and the volunteers that made this event happen. It was a wonderful day and smiles were seen on the faces of all involved.

Next season we look to expand our program with an Adventurers group. This group will look to ski at a different local trail every week. The group will be for classic skiers from ages 10 – 14. It is not a beginner group and participants will need to demonstrate skills learned in level 3. The focus will be on fun and adventure. Look for more information about the program in the fall. If you are interested in helping to coach this group, contact the Jackrabbit coordinators.

Jackrabbits is a successful program because of the excellent coaches that we have. Looking forward to next season, some of our coaches will be moving on. Please reach out to your coordinators if you would consider coaching. We offer coach training for all coaches. Without new coaches joining the program, we will need to reduce the number of young skiers involved.

New volunteers can help to grow the Jackrabbit program. You do not need to be an expert in skiing to volunteer. We are looking for volunteers to keep the fire burning on Saturday, take pictures, build bicycle bumps and rollers for skiers and to help with a Jackrabbits' race. Please reach out to your coordinators if you would consider volunteering. ————



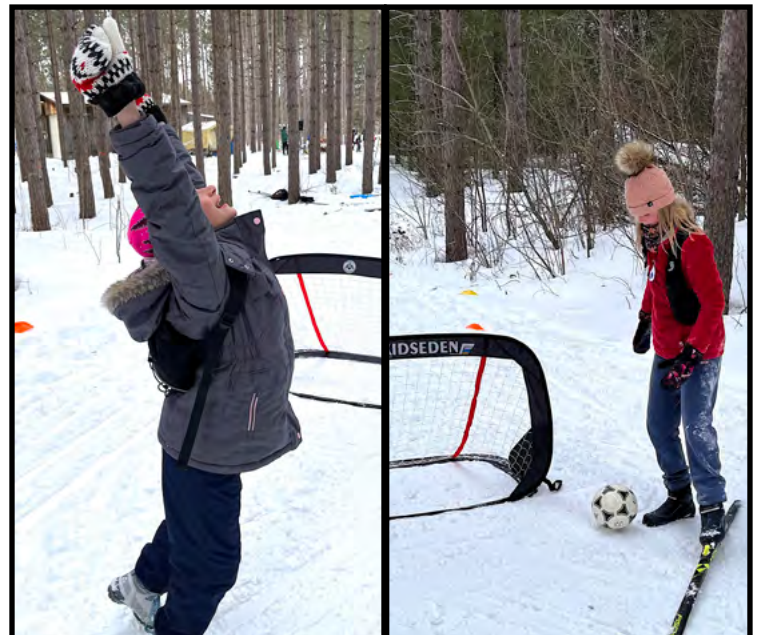
Getting advice from Ollie?



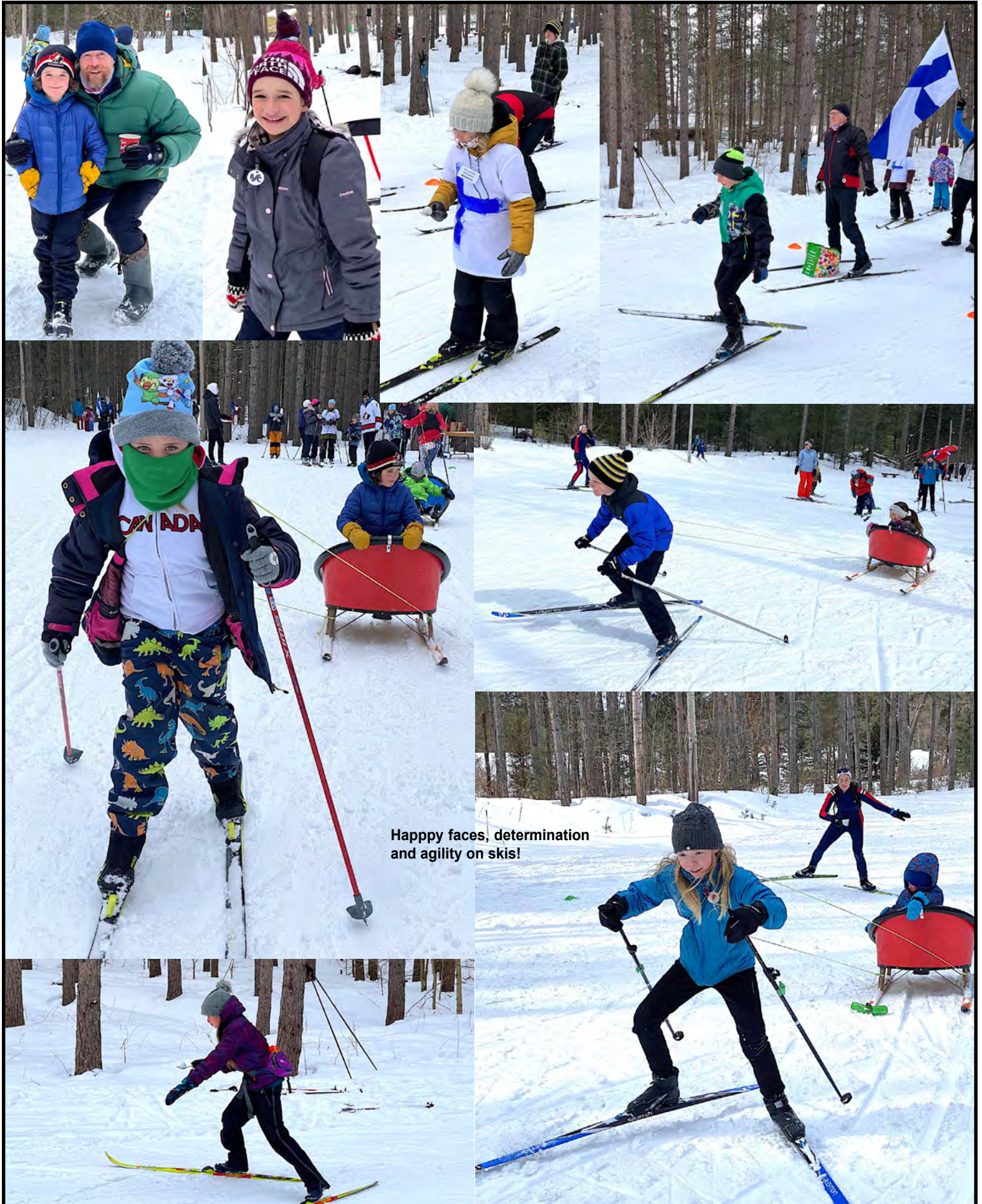
Track Attack Soccer

## Jackrabbits' Carnival

Ed. note: I was fortunate enough to be able to check out the Jackrabbits' season-end Carnival. And what a day it was! Perfect conditions—unlike some of the frigid regular sessions—perfect snow and a ton of enthusiastic people being active and having fun, kids and adults alike, maybe the adults more than the kids! It seemed to be organized as if it were the Olympics with everyone assigned to their own country and definitely showing spirit!









Georgian Bay Nordic had an active racing season this year. There was an emphasis on local, Southern Ontario races as many Ontario Cup races were cancelled and travel remained problematic.

We are lucky to have an active and enthusiastic group of volunteers who organize our Southern Ontario series. These races include Mono Nordic (Orangeville) to the south to Kawartha Nordic (Arrowhead PP) and Georgian Nordic (Parry Sound) to the north. For those ages 10 – 16 there is the added motivation of attaining a spot on the SOD team and earning an SOD team jacket. You may have noted many of these on our young skiers at the trails. Any young skier is eligible to race in this series, you do not need to be a member of a racing team. If you raced in the Suntrail Special this year you already have points on the list!. Check them out at <https://xcskiontario.ca/athletes/ontario-cup-series/>

As well, I would like to thank Bryan Dubeau, a member of our club who represents Southern Ontario on the High Performance and skier development committee. He has worked tirelessly to develop programs and events that engage and develop high level skiing among our youth.

## Some Race Results from the end of season racing.

Ontario Cup 5 – held at Lakefield College near Peterborough, attracting the best skiers from across Ontario. Representing GBN were Aleida Nelson (7th, 7km Free), Ellen Groh, Claire and Brent Day, Lorelei Angus (4th), Seraphine and Genevieve Dubeau.

A big group of our youngest GBN skiers traveled to Sault Ste Marie to compete in Ontario Youth Championships. Included in the group were Mackenzie Angus (2nd, classic), Caleb Hodgkinson, Juliette Lafleur (3rd, classic), Eloise Farla, Brennan Law (3rd, 4 km Free, 1st, 4km classic), Olivier Lafleur, Lorelei Angus and Brent Day. Coach Tim Smith led this group of fine young skiers and I understand it was a very fun event.

Midland Ski Cross was slightly modified this year to include both uphill and downhill portions. Liam Law was 1st U12 Male, Olivia Abbott 1st, and Juliette Lafleur 4th, U12 Female. Brennan Law was 2nd, U 14 male.

Our final event was the very fun team sprint held April 2 (!) in Parry Sound. With fun and whimsical team names and multiple loops of a 600 m. course this made for a great community event. Members with no partners joined with friends from other clubs to make up a team of two. Luna Abbott and Aleida (Is it over yet?) 2nd, U16 G, Sab Cipoletti-Dyke and Brennan Law (Shake and Bake) 2nd, U14B, Brent, Lorelei, Seraphine, Mac, Juliette and Olivia Abbot also competed well in this fun event. Honourable mention to team IBProFun Matt Nelson and Michael Law for being up to the challenge!



Georgian Bay Nordic entered the XCSO distance challenge again this year with Ken Clarke taking top honours – 756 km's! Impressive given the late start to our season! Check out the full results. There is a link on the BSC page under events. <https://xcskiontario.ca/events/xcso-km-challenge/> There are some people in Ontario logging some very impressive Km's on snow!


Thanks to the dedication of our lead groomer, Ron Downie, we were able to use the final March 27 snowfall to full effect and ski on good trails right until the March 31 deadline. Thanks Ron!

## FINALLY – UPCOMING!

Suntrail Pure Grit Trail Run, June 25 is now live! It is part of the race roster trail running series and they are calling for all runners to register!

<https://raceroster.com/events/2022/59714/suntrail-pure-grit-trail-race-2022> .

There are a variety of race distances and it is great to have this race available locally. If you are interested in volunteering or would like to donate a draw prize contact [puregritregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:puregritregistrar@gmail.com) .

This is one of GBN's major fundraisers and is always a fun event to kick off the running season. 



# Julian's Results

With a return, finally, to a racing season, Julian Smith has seen a wild ride. Starting out the first half of the season as one of Canada's top skiers, his second half became unpredictable. It culminated in the Canadian Ski Nationals out in Whistler, BC. In the men's 1.4 km classic sprint, Julian finished 4th Canadian. It is now time for a little rest and relaxation before hitting the dryland training May 1st. As a ski instructor, his mom, Heidi raised, almost \$1000, which has been given to Julian. Thank you for all the keen ski students who supported Julian. Julian, a GBN alumni, appreciates all the support, good wishes, emails and texts from this incredible Bruce Ski Club community and he is always proud to represent his home town on the race course and podium.



# Special Olympics

Laura Howlett

The Waxwings and Snow Gliders Special Olympics Nordic Ski Teams had their final practice on an idyllic warm, sunny day at Colpoys' Bay. Friends were happy to gather together afterward for lunch at The Top Notch in Warton. Although Annie Howlett remains disappointed at the cancellation of the World Winter Games in Russia 2023, she eagerly anticipates attending the National Training Team event in Toronto in June 2022. Dry land training will re-start in Owen Sound, late October 2022.

# XCSO KM Challenge

With only 67 Bruce Ski Club members registered, we still managed to ski an impressive 14,171 km! This well surpassed our combined goal of 9654 km. The above-mentioned Annie H. contributed her share as did her trainer, Andrew. Top of the list was Karen Ward with 861 km. -- which would equate to skiing from Hepworth to Tobermory and back five times! Since this was a do-it-yourself project, some of our skiers may have forgotten to log all their kilometers, but BSC still did very well. Thanks to Logan Hong for setting it all up. Hopefully it will run again next season with even more participation.

<https://xcskiontario.ca/events/xcso-km-challenge/>





## Summer Storage of Cross Country Ski Equipment

Well, I have finally resigned myself to the likelihood that there will be no more skiing this spring. Out to the shed to ensure that my skis perform at their absolute best next season. Here is what I will do:

1) Check that the skis, boots and poles are in good repair. Are your grips and tips well attached? Straps worn? Boot zippers good? Bindings working well? Now is the time to attend to these issues, particularly boots as sometimes they may wait awhile at the shoe repair.

2) If you need to reattach ski pole tips or grips (or shorten them) the glue should be the heat sensitive kind you find in a glue gun. Warm the grip or tip in hot water or gently with a heat gun. They will loosen and you can reapply more glue with a glue gun. If you need to shorten a pair of poles (for instance if you are making skate poles into classic) mark the cut with masking tape and cut them with a hack saw at the grip end. Take care to put the grips on the correct pole as they are sometimes left and right. Try them out before the glue sets to ensure they are correctly aligned with the tips.

3) Now clean your skis! This is vital, as dirt is the enemy of glide. Thoroughly remove every trace of grip wax – even on the side walls. A light swipe with wax remover on the glide zone will ensure no grip wax has travelled. Wipe your glide zones (or your entire base of skate skis) with a clean cloth or shop towel then brush them vigorously with a nylon brush. Wipe them again. If you are storing classic skis mark off the grip zone (fish scales and skins as well) with masking tape. Apply 1 layer of hot paraffin wax (yes – even “waxless” skis re-

quire the occasional glide waxing). If you think your skis were really dirty, scrape this wax off while it is still warm and reapply a second coat. The wax will lift the dirt out of the ski and the final coat will protect it.

4) If your skis' bases are looking rough, it is possible to have them reground several times over their lifespan. This will remove minor damage (scratches but not gouges) and open up the bases so that they are more accepting of wax. They will then glide more easily. Gatineau Nordique in Wakefield, Quebec provides this service. Wayne Johansson is the owner, and his website is <http://gatineaunordiquesport.com>. Wayne can also test skis for their weight (of skier) range and mark grip zones.

5) Tape or apply ski ties and store in a place that will not get too hot.

6) Skin skis need some special care to keep the skins in good shape. There are numerous online videos discussing this but basically, clean them carefully with a small amount of isopropyl alcohol. Allow it to dry (about an hour). Lightly rub a soft paraffin wax on the skin then iron in with an iron set at 120 degrees (no warmer!). Brush them gently with a metal brush until the hairs feel free – about eight passes. You can finish with a light application of a liquid glide wax such as Easy Glide. You need to apply product sparingly and gently. The intention is to protect the skins from dirt and moisture.

You can now rest easy through the pesky season of poor sledding knowing that our beautiful snow will return and you will be ready to go on day one! First snow--a glorious thing.


If you have questions, I will talk wax any season.

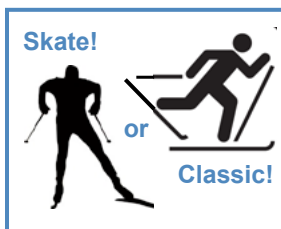
Marilyn Suke \_\_\_\_\_ 

## Time Trials

Jack Van Dorp

Whether it was the change from Thursday to Tuesday, the change of weather, or the increased availability of organized and structured events, Tuesday Time Trials were significantly less popular in the winter of '22.

Five Participants submitted a total of 10 results over the season. Kudos to Karen Ward, who was single-handedly responsible for 40% of the times posted! \_\_\_\_\_ 



## Newsletter

Joy Ward

Another newsletter under my belt and again thanks are due to all the contributors for articles and pictures: especially Marilyn Suke, Jason MacDonald, Richard Bonert, Heidi Tones, Karen Ward, Laura Howlett, and Tom Hakala.

Since I haven't seen any sign of a pink slip yet, I will be doing the newsletter next season too. I am always open to suggestions and contributions; for example, Marilyn's article on ski storage. As another example, I was wondering if this edition was too long, or had too much emphasis on Jackrabbits? Please let me know if you have any ideas for improvement. [joyward@bmts.com](mailto:joyward@bmts.com)





Team Spirit





# Even More Jackrabbit Carnival--

such a variety of activities!

April 2022





# Thank you to the following

April 2022



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**DON'T FORGET THE AGM**  
**APRIL 28**  
**HEARTWOOD HALL**  
(Most who said they were going also said they will be masked.)

## Bruce Ski Club Executive

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Newsletter Editor - Joy Ward	519-534-1296	joyward27@gmail.com

## 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

**MIDWESTERN**  
COMMUNICATIONS

for the printing of this newsletter.