

SKI TRACKER

Ready, set, snow!

From the President

Mike Campbell

President's Report

Greetings ski enthusiasts! I hope everyone is healthy and happy and waiting to get out on the trails!

Sawmill Nordic Centre - Logging Recovery

Well I never thought I would wish for the snow to melt this past week, and thank goodness it did. This enabled volunteers to do a ton of work restoring the trails after logging took place. This involved renting two skid steers, a backhoe, and a bulldozer for four days. We also had over 60 volunteers out to clean up



the trails. (See Facilities Manager Fred Schlenker's report for details).

The end result is we have an expanded parking lot with fresh gravel and have made some minor improvements out of the trail to improve your skiing experience.

I would like to thank Fred Schlenker, Ron Downie and other volunteers for their many hours of hard work to restore the trail.

New Groomer Ready to Go

As we mentioned in the last newsletter our new groomer has arrived. Volunteers headed up by Fred Scheel have installed a new door at the back of the grooming shed to allow the groomer to go in one door and out the other. Fred Scheel also made the necessary modifications to the Kubota Side-by-Side to pull our grooming and track setting equipment.

We are good to go, let's bring on the snow!

AGM Returns to the Heartwood.

After a two year hiatus, our AGM returned to the Heartwood Music Hall. It was a fun night and we had about 30 people show up to share craft beer, wine, samosas and pizza. We had some really good discussions as a group about future projects the club may undertake. (More on this in a future newsletter)

We also gave special recognition to two long time club volunteers. The contributions of Harry Hong and Richard Bonert were recognized. Harry groomed Sunday mornings at the Sawmill Trail for over 20 years. Richard Bonert was trail captain at the Rankin Trail for eight years and more recently trail captain at our Colpoy's Trail.

Both Harry and Richard were presented (unfortunately, in absentia) with the coveted Bruce Ski Club Jackets.

Thanks to our Land Owners

Please keep in mind that much of the land our ski trails are situated on are privately owned, and we are guests of the land owners. Without the generosity of these owners we would not have the great trail systems we enjoy today. Please stay on the trails and leave no trace.

COMING EVENTS

Ski Exchanges with Neighbour Clubs

Jan 7 to 14/23: Sauble Beach Cross Country Ski Club

Jan 14 to 21/23: Glenelg Nordic Ski Club

Jan 22 to 28/23: Owen Sound Cross Country Ski Club

Feb 12 to 18/23: Beaver Valley Nordic Ski Club

Other Important Club Dates

Dec. 18: Jackrabbit Coaching Courses

Dec. 31/22: Enduro Race

Jan. 7/23-Mar. 4/23: Jackrabbits-Sat. mornings

Jan. 17/23: Great Wolf High School Race

January 20: Jackrabbit Hockey Day in Hepworth

January 29: Jackrabbit Colpoy's Candy Trail

February 4: Jackrabbit Sprints

Feb. 5/23: Suntrail Special Race

Feb. 14/23: CWOSSA High School Race

February 18: Jackrabbit Family Day by the Fire

Feb. 26/23: Community Classic

Mar. 4/23: Jackrabbit Carnival

Annual Ski Swap

Mike Campbell

Our annual Ski Swap was a great success, with over \$4000 in sales and a profit of \$500 to the club. I would like to thank Suntrail Source for Adventure for again hosting our club run ski swap. This is a great event that enables people to get into the sport of skiing in an affordable way.



Help Wanted

Shawn Radcliffe

Looking for Sawmill Hut Volunteers
With the Sawmill hut open again this season (yay!), BSC is looking for volunteers to help keep the hut clean. This involves sweeping the floors, wiping the tables, and tidying up. The time commitment is minimal and you can do this according to your own schedule. If interested, email Shawn (shawn@bruceskiclub.ca).



Thank you to Harry Hong and Richard Bonert

Mike Campbell

I just want to express the club's thanks for your significant contribution to the club over the years.



At the AGM these contributions were recognized by the club presenting to you (in your absence) a lovely Bruce Ski Club branded jacket.

Please check out the video links below to see Fred's comments on Harry's contributions and Andrew's thoughts on Richard's contribution.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/19QtoiGLAITVA2MjoOvqjGkW7Tx_x0E2/view?usp=sharing

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/19T-XZVi3IQ4WESb2rRHpiY2fSEOWRLfP/view?usp=sharing>

Again I want to thank each of you for your important contributions to the building of our club over these many years!

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL!

This year has proven to be a challenging start to the ski season. Due to a late start, logging activity on the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority portion of our trail system went into November. Our first access to the trails to see the damage that was left behind did not occur until November 9th. The logging company (Hayes Timber) did a good job of removing the lion's share of the tops and limbs from their operation. You may have noticed the pile of wood chips in the parking lot. They did, however, also leave behind significant ruts on the trail system and many many sticks. Unfortunately we were not able to address the ruts before our first blast of winter. Due to the unevenness of the trail surface, it was not possible to groom the abundant snow that arrived from the 18th to the 20th. We were not ready in time. Errors in our decision-making helped contribute to this missed opportunity to be on the snow that early in the year. Hayes Timber did offer to try to remediate our parking lot and the trail system as this was included in their contract with GSCA. Since we had chosen to increase the parking lot size and were obligated to complete this work ourselves, we had arranged to have a bulldozer on site. With the additional plan to make a few improvement to the trails as well, the decision was made to decline the offer from Hayes Timber. The bulldozer operator that we use (Randy Robertson) is particularly skillful and we figured that not only would he do the parking lot justice, but that he would be the best person to smooth and modify the trails. As it turns out, our choice

of bulldozer and operator were held up by ongoing delays at a different job site. Due to this uncertainty and the inevitable approach of winter, the decision was made to hold a work party on the weekend of December 3rd. With the majority of the snow melted, the work party had the goal of correcting the trails well enough to be groomed. **Thank you very much to all who braved the rain and mud and helped to fix the trails by hand.** We also rented a skid-steer and had a second skid-steer offered up by a member. Special thanks to Ron Downie, Dawson Dejeu, and Ralph Suke for their efforts with these two machines. Between shovel, rake, and skid-steer we were able to get the trail in a groomable state by the end of the weekend. Although the parking lot was still in a poor state, we would have been far enough along to open without further work. As it turns out, on Monday, December 5th, Randy and the bulldozer were

finally freed up and able to start the much needed work on the parking lot expansion. The trails also have received a second effort that not only further removed the ruts from the logging process but also made some improvements to the camber of many parts of the trail. Some of the low areas prone to collect meltwater were filled in. We also added two connectors between Paperclip and Jackrabbit. The long and the short of it is, when we finally open for the season

the trails will be in a better state than they were before the logging started. All we need now is snow! I would also like to extend a thank to Fred Scheel and Ron Downie for their ongoing efforts to get our equipment up and running for the season and for the new door and shelving that has been added to the Pistonbully Shed. **We are now ready!**



The Bruce Ski Club would like to send a thank you to all those who helped with the Nov. 12 clean-up at Sawmill. The removal of a "million" sticks made it possible for a bulldozer to do its work in the near future. This was a big step towards getting the trails right.

MANY willing and needed hands showed up to play "Pick-up-sticks"!



Fred giving instructions.

Jackrabbits

Dave White and Amy Luscombe

Registrations are in, and lists are organized, yet the Jack-rabbit Coordinators are in need of help to actualize quality programming and positive ski experiences this season. We are down to two coordinators, formerly four, and are seeking new energy for this season and onwards. Without additional coordinator support, we may have to simplify offerings so please reach out to jackrabbits@bruceskiclub.ca if you are willing.

Here are the roles that we currently need help with for 2023, otherwise we will have to forgo:

1. Carnival Organizers - 2-3 people needed (@ 10-15 hours total plus Carnival-day support)
2. One person needed to create and print name tags and attendance lists for skiers and coaches for opening day (@ 3-4 hours total)

Here are areas that we need help with for the 2024 season.

1. Lead coordinator
2. Coordinator willing to manage registration next year

On a positive front there will be Jackrabbit Playground features in the area of the Jackrabbit loop this season. Please be observant of these obstacles when skiing. Coaches instruct skiers on trail etiquette; however, youngsters do not always follow these instructions. Please be aware that young skiers may be playing on these playground features.

Events Planned for this season:

Hockey Day in Hepworth - January 20
Colpoy's Candy Trail - January 29
Jackrabbit Sprints - February 4 (special guest appearance)
Family Day by the Fire - February 18
Carnival - March 4



The Muskoka Loppet



A CLASSIC CROSS COUNTRY SKI RACE FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES.

ARROWHEAD PROVINCIAL PARK, HUNTSVILLE

Sunday, January 29, 2023

After a two-year hiatus, the Arrowhead Nordic Ski Club is excited to announce the return of the Muskoka Loppet classic ski event on January 29, 2023.

Register on-line at
[Zone4.ca](https://zone4.ca)

Registration closes Jan. 26/23

NO race day registrations!

Early bird rate until Jan. 15/23

Ski Lessons

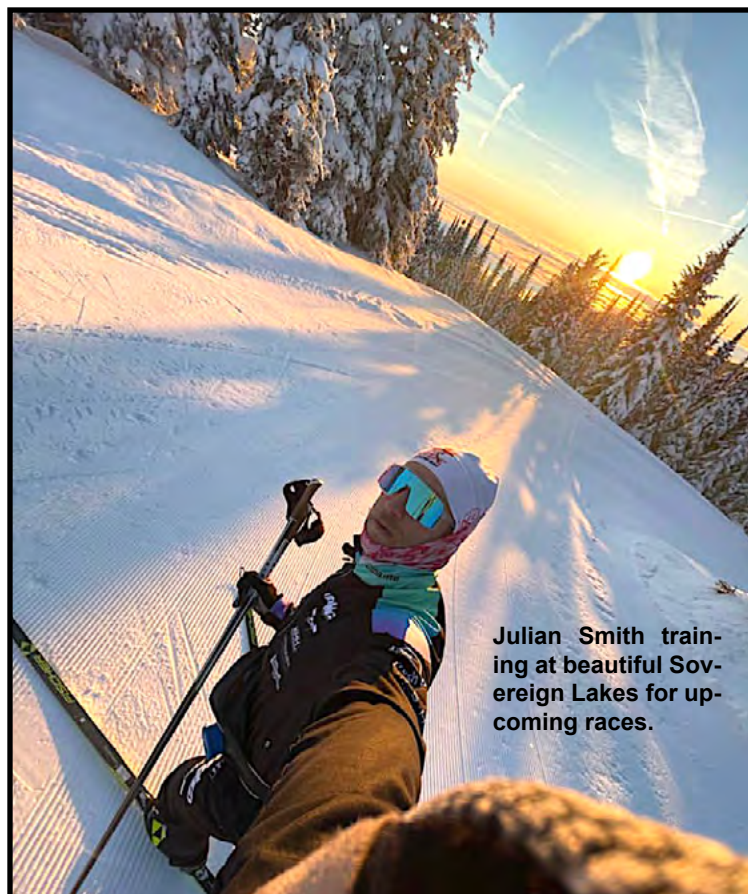
Heidi Tones

Feeling wonky on your skis? Need lessons?

If you are looking for some pointers on skiing, you can reach me at 519-477-8870 or smith.tones@gmail.com to set up lessons. I can do one-on-one or two to three people at a time. Pay by donation and the money goes to our son, Julian Smith, who is a full time skier at the National Training Centre in Thunder Bay! _____



Julian is leading the NTDC team as they train for the races at Sovereign Lakes.



Julian Smith training at beautiful Sovereign Lakes for upcoming races.

Registration

Heidi Tones

As we transition back to normal you will likely notice wonderful school groups out this year practicing for the upcoming racing season. Many schools use the trails after school and are in the hut changing. If you are looking for a quiet ski, on a weekday you may want to go before 3:00 or after 5:30 p.m. (Yes, we have a lit loop!) _____

If you are a teacher/ski coach and did not get paperwork for your skiers to use our trails please contact me at smith.tones@gmail.com. If you are a community leader and would like to bring a group to snowshoe or ski I can e-mail you paperwork for this as well. _____

See you all on the trails! _____

Special Olympics

Laura Howlett

The Owen Sound Waxwings cross country ski team joined the newly formed snowshoe team, the "Arctic Foxes" for dry land training in October and November. Welcome to our new teammate Owen and his family! Waxwings will be joining the Port Elgin Snow Gliders at Sawmill on the first Saturday in January. We will be attending a national qualifying race at Arrowhead Provincial Park in February. We look forward to seeing you all on the trails! _____





Colpoys Ski Trail

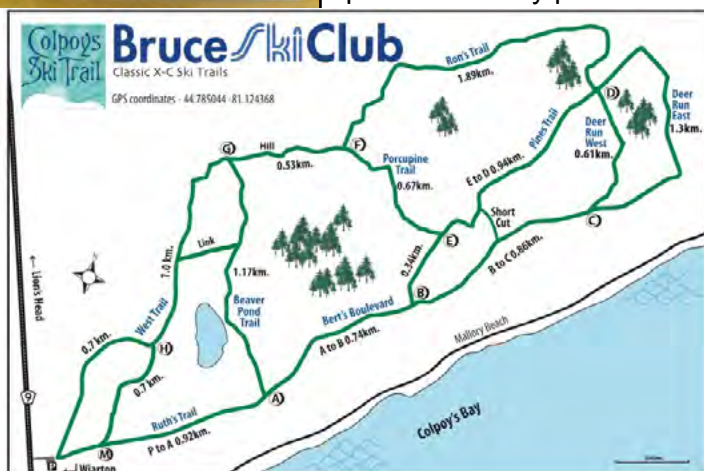
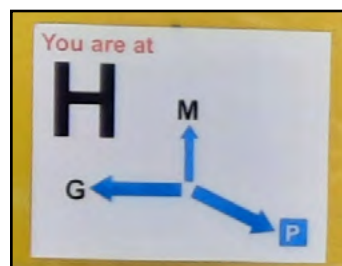
Richard Bonert

The work party on the 29th Oct went well. The turnout was less than last year but sufficient to get all the work done. Thanks to all of you who could come out.



In the last newsletter I talked about planned changes in the western part of the trails. These have been completed and the new map is posted, also on our website. Looking at the map you may notice a new name on the trail section Barn/Parking to point 'A': "Ruth's Trail." This is to honour Ruth Arnsberger who started the cross country skiing in Colpoys about 50 years ago. We hope to tell you more about that in the future in the newsletter.

Back to the trail changes, one can now ski down the hill to the final new point 'G' without a turn. New signs have been made and mounted through out the western trail system. The signs informs where one is and facing the sign indicates in which direction to go to reach the desired next point, and there is a map posted at every point.



The signs in the eastern part have not been changed as they are in good shape and provide a safe orientation where they are posted.

All trails are ready, waiting for snow and the grooming by Neil. The plowing of the parking lot is arranged and a porta potty will show up as soon as the first tracks are groomed.

Many of you likely remember the bad flooding we had at the north end of the Beaver Pond Trail in 2020/21, which resulted in the final relocation of point 'G' and some trail reroutes at the north end of the Beaver Pond Trail which are finished now. Good we rerouted as the flooding is there again. The photo from Dec. 2/22 looks north from the new G to the old G and there is definitely a problem!




WARNING (when skiing in this area):

The old trail sections are blocked off with branches and trees, but the former trails are still visible and WHEN THE water freezes over and the ice is snow covered, it LOOKS SKI-ABLE.

DO NOT TRY! THE ICE MAY BE THIN IN PLACES AND YOU MAY END UP IN UP TO 2 FEET OF ICE COLD WATER.

STAY ON THE GROOMED TRAIL!

Looking forward with you to be on the trails, and do not forget to check the website for the trail conditions, in particular if you have a longer drive to the trails. 



Race Co-ordinator Report

Marilyn Suke

Despite the greenness of our lawns, the Nordic racing season starts this weekend (Dec 10/11) with Ontario Cup #1 at Nakkertok Nordic just outside Ottawa - the Candy Cup. Five of our Georgian Bay Nordic members are traveling there for the first race of their season. Nakkertok has the capacity to make snow, so it should be a go. We wish these young racers the best of luck!

Race directors across Southern Ontario have been planning the Southern Ontario race circuit. This is the series of races that welcomes everyone of every age in a fun and low key environment. It is called the Paraffin Series as no high end race waxes are permitted (often referred to as Fluorocarbon waxes).


Bruce Ski Club will be hosting two Paraffin Series races this season. The first is the Suntrail Special February 5. This is a Freestyle race (skate or classic allowed) except in the youngest categories where classic style skiing is required. The second race will be the Community Classic, Sunday, Feb. 26/23. This will be a Mass Start or Loppet style race.

And there is the Enduro Race - Burn off those Christmas Cookies! Hosted by Georgian Bay Nordic. Open to all! Freestyle!

Saturday, December 31, 10 a.m. start. Registration opens at 9:15 a.m.

Make up a team of 3 members - must include both genders. See how many laps you can do as a relay team in 90 minutes. Course to be determined based on snow conditions.

In addition, we will be hosting a number of school races. Confirmed dates are for the Great Wolf January 17 and CWOSSA Feb 14. There are usually Elementary School races as well but these dates are not yet set.


Volunteering at races is a great way to get a boost of energy as you get to spend the day outside with wonderful people watching some great kids (and older kids at heart) race around the trails! When the call goes out please consider volunteering at one or all of the races! 

Georgian Bay Nordic

Marilyn Suke and Matt Nelson

Georgian Bay Nordic has been training hard with their team of dedicated, volunteer coaches. Due to the closure of the Sawmill Facility, they have primarily been training at Harrison Park. I know they are eager to try out our greatly improved trails this year - everyone needs


to do a daily snow dance to get the trails in good skiing shape and keep them that way!

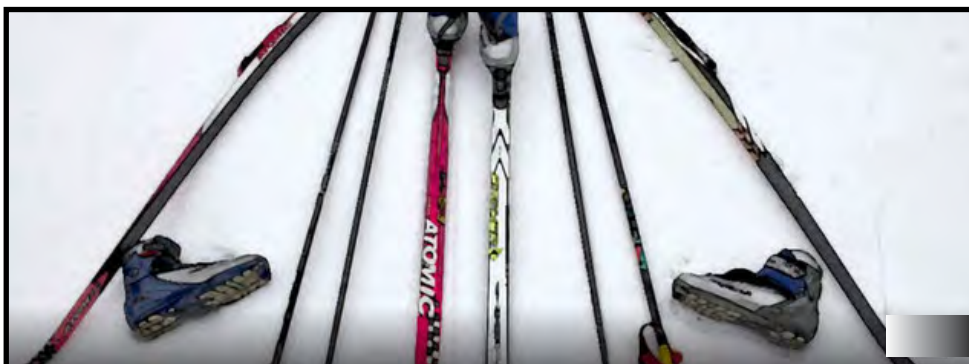
Remember, all members of Georgian Bay Nordic are also members of the Bruce Ski Club. When they travel and compete they represent both Clubs proudly. Please cheer them on as they do the hard, hard work this sport requires. 

On-Line Facebook BSC Ski Swap 2022-23

Tom Hakala

Now that the real ski swap at Suntrail is come and gone, we have reactivated the online swap on Facebook Marketplace. It will run until April and then we will pause it again until next winter. To find the online swap go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/705564346696065/permalink/731856944066805>

When posting ski stuff don't forget to include brand (if you know it), size, condition and of course price. The more information you include, the better you will find a match for your old stuff. Also, this is a page for skis, boots, poles, ski wear, snowshoes and other related things. It is not for furniture, party dresses or old all-season tires. There are other pages for that. 



Thank you to the following

December 2022



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Katelin Sims & Andrew Jeffrey
The Power Workers Union
Anne-Louise McArthur and Brian O'Doherty
Ron & Deb Downie

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The Wardell Family
Lambkin Family
The Abominable Snow Bunny
Tobin Day
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D. Barrett
Joy Ward
Ken Clarke
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Bryan & Susan Richardson
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The Davies Straby Family
Ian Thompson
Brett Sura
Carrie Currie
Neil Havens
Dawn Tremblay
Mackay Family
Margaret and Mark Whitley
Carolyn Renuz & Brian Putman
Grant Dunlop
Marg & Owen Glendon

**Here is your chance to
help our club by volun-
teering!**

Hut Maintenance

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Jackrabbits

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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 Trail Conservancy

The Bruce Ski Club would like to thank



for the printing of this newsletter.