

SKI TRACKER

2023-24, bring it on!

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 strong, sitting at 1300 members; we have a healthy bank balance, and a team of dedicated volunteers. Here is a quick summary of what we have been up to in the off season and looking ahead:



New Trail Expansion

We have really exciting news! For the first time in over 10 years we have expanded our trail system. A dedicated team of volunteers headed up by Dave White, have been working to expand our trail system onto the closed landfill site of Georgian Bluff. The trail is approximately 1.3 km long and has terrain similar to the Paper Clip Loop. I would like to thank Dave and all his team for the many hours they put in to make this a reality. We would also like to thank the municipality of Georgian Bluffs for allowing us access to this property for trail expansion.



Important Club Dates

Oct. 28/23: Clean-up day at the Colpoy's Trail
 Oct. 15/23: Membership opens on Zone4
 Nov. 4/23: Ski Swap at Suntrail Source for Adventure
 Nov. 4/23: Clean-up Day at the Sawmill Trail
 Nov. 20/23: Last day for Early Bird registration
 Jan. 6-13/24: Sauble Ski Club Exchange
 Jan. 16/24: Possible Great Wolf Race
 Jan. 21-27/24: Owen Sound Ski Club Exchange
 Feb. 10/24 Community Classic Race
 Feb. 18/24: Suntrail Special Race



New Jackrabbit Space

For many years, the Jackrabbit program has been in need of a space to store their equipment. A new project headed up by Fred Schlenker will enclose the lean-to at the back of the warm up hut to create the space. This will also facilitate the conversion of the heating system for Gerry's Place from propane to electricity. Part of the funding for the Jackrabbit space is being provided by the Southampton Rotary Club. in memory of Peter Day.

Membership

There will be no increase in membership dues this year. We have not increased membership fees in eight years, other than having to add on HST to our registration a few years ago. Our goal is to provide an affordable outdoor activity for the whole family.

Ski Swap

The ski swap will be held at Suntrail Source for Adventure on November 4th, 2023. Details are contained in this newsletter.

Trail Cleanup Days

Like every year we have two trail cleanup days. The first is the Colpoy's Trail on October 28th at 10:00 a.m. and second at the Sawmill Trail on November 4th at 10:00 a.m. Many hands make for quick work. Bring pruning shears, saws and for the Sawmill Trail especially we need to do a lot of raking to smooth out the trail. (Current membership recommended for insurance purposes.)

Patrons, Sponsors and Friends

Thank you to our many Patrons, Sponsors and Friends who contribute to make this club affordable for everyone. Special thanks to Suntrail Source for Adventure and Midwestern Communications. Midwestern prints this newsletter and Suntrail sponsors many of our events, including the Ski Swap, Men & Women on Skis and Suntrail Special.

Our Land Owners

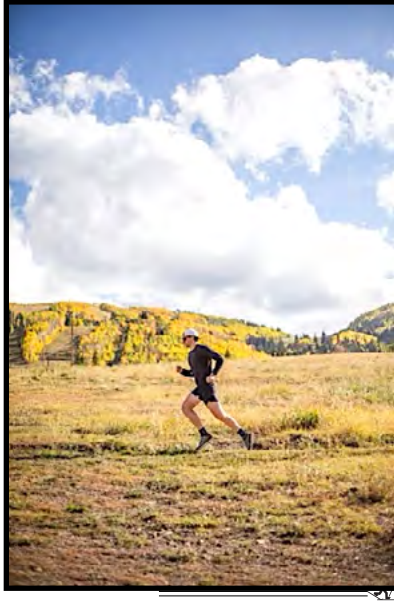
I remind you that Bruce Ski Club does not own any of the trails on which we ski. We owe a great deal to the landowners who generously allow us to ski on their property. Dogs are not allowed on our trails. Pack out your snacks and trash. If you find trash on the trail, pack that out too. If you meet any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

Ski Lessons

Heidi Tones

Ski lessons, anyone? Once again I will be offering lessons and all proceeds will go to our son, Julian Smith, who is an elite skier at NTDC TBay. He is currently in Utah doing high altitude training. In November he will be racing in Europe, then he'll be back to race at Kincaid Park, Alaska. As well, Julian has an elected position with Nordiq Canada where he represents all Canadian skiers, alongside the female athlete rep, Katie Weaver. They sit on the board of directors. Their job is to help govern Nordiq Canada and bring a strong athlete voice to the conversation.

Please e-mail if you'd like to arrange lessons.
smith.tones@gmail.com



Registration

Heidi Tones

Welcome back to another awesome ski and snowshoe season! (With the same low membership rates!)

Registration opens October 15 and the EARLY BIRD FEE ends November 20th (15% discount). You can register online through the Bruce Ski Club website: bruceskiclub.ca, or zone4.ca. You can also use the iPad at Suntrail Source For Adventure, a store in Hepworth, with friendly, helpful staff! After registration, pick up your sticker at Suntrail to put on your ski fob (new fobs still \$1.)

If you are a teacher or lead a group/community activity please contact me for paper work and pricing so that your group can enjoy our trails!

Visitors can access day passes at both Colpoy's Bay and Sawmill trails.

If you have any questions, please reach out to smith.tones@gmail.com, 519-477-8870.

See you on the trails! 

Ski Swap 2023-24

Andrew Howlett

The Ski Swap will be Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023

Bring your stuff to Suntrail between Monday, October 23 and Thursday, November 2.

Make sure all your equipment is well marked with your tag number and that your name and telephone number are on the tag.

Same procedure as previous years: we start handing out numbers at 8 a.m. Ski swap volunteers will set up the gear and groups of buyers will be allowed in to the equipment area between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. to look at the stuff, check sizes.

At 9:00 a.m., we start calling numbers.


Two sets of gear allowed per person.

We accept cash, cheque and interac e-mail transfer. No IOUs.

Read the full list of rules and conditions at Suntrail when you drop off your equipment.

Unsold gear will be available for pickup between 12 noon and 4 p.m. If you remembered to write your phone number on your tag then I will phone you around 1 p.m.

If you don't pick up your stuff, then Bruce Ski Club will dispose of it as we see fit.

Once you have your gear, go for coffee and then go to the Sawmill trail clean-up at 10:00 a.m. 


Jackrabbits

Amy Luscombe

We are proud to announce the Jackrabbits 2024 season sign-up will commence October 15 along with the BSC sign-ups. The season will run from Jan 6-March 9, 2024. Each category will be capped to ensure ideal coaching and safety levels.

To secure a spot, be one of the first 100 participants to sign up. Waitlists will be implemented for anyone not making the first 100, but you may make it in yet!

Sadly, year over year we get caregivers who sign up participants to any level just to make it 'in' (12 year old Bunnies, 4 year old L4s). If you do not sign up for the correct group, within the category cut-off, you will be added to the waitlist and refunded, with those on the original waitlist stepping in.

To make the season a proper success, we are also keen to ensure coach qualifications and numbers meet our needs for each level, as well as dividing coordinator roles into smaller bite-sized pieces by welcoming more volunteers. If you are interested in coaching, coordinating, or generally volunteering, please e-mail jackrabbits@bruceskiclub.ca with details of your interest OR click the link regarding volunteering when you sign up for BSC online. 



Sawmill Nordic Centre

Fred Schlenker and Ron Downie

October 2023

New Jackrabbits Storage:

Jackrabbits now have a new area for storage. The back left-hand corner of Gerry's place has been filled in and will now provide a good home for Jackrabbit equipment. I would like to thank Scott Turnbull, Dana Benson, and Joe Slade for their help creating an 8-inch extension/footing on the pad. One cement mixer and 30 jugs of water later we had a good place to build a wall. I would like to thank Brad Churchley for his leadership and skill in completing the enclosure. The supplies needed



to complete the storage area were donated in memory of Peter Day, an avid skier and frequent user of the Sawmill Trail, through the Southampton Rotary Club.

The completion of the Jackrabbits storage marks the final end to the propane heater that has rattled away for many years in the shelter. The exhaust from the heater does not belong in the new storage unit. After some deliberation, the decision has been made to use simple baseboard electric heat to replace the propane heater. A more efficient heat pump was considered but was deemed to lack the punch needed to overcome the demands placed on this space. All should be in place by the end of October.

The date for our **annual trail cleaning day is Saturday, November 4th starting at 10:00 a.m. in the main parking lot, rain or shine.** This is the same day as the Suntrail Ski Swap. There is a need for more shovels and pruners than usual this year. Our new section of trail on the old dump property has numerous small roots that need to be removed. **Note: In order to be covered by insurance, those planning to help are urged to be current (23-24) BSC members. Bonus-Early bird rates!**

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Colpoys Ski Trail

Richard Bonert

Thanks to our land owners, Ron Gatis, Bevan & Laura and The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC), who are welcoming us back for the winter.

The small trail changes we introduced last season worked out well and were generally appreciated. There are no new changes and the valid map is posted on our website in the section 'trails'.

The new solid shed we got two years ago is great and makes the work of the volunteers and in particular of the groomer easier and keeps our equipment well protected.

The weeds had taken over the entrance kiosk and the surroundings of the equipment shed but after the first BSC-volunteer was there, it was better.



The Colpoys Trails are generally in good shape and I will do more checks in the next three weeks.

To get the trails in top shape, a work party is planned for Saturday, October 28th, at 10 a.m., meeting at the trail parking lot. I hope for as good a turn out as last year, so we can get the work done in two to three hours.

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

More Information, parking, port-a-potty, guest payments etc., will be provided in the next newsletter and on the website.

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

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

The Fun Trail or...?


The idea for a new ski trail on the closed Georgian Bluffs Landfill came from long solo bike rides during the pandemic. In my mind I was calling it the Future Fun Trail. The trail is now ready for skiing (when it snows). We can call it the Fun Trail, that is until the club decides on an official name.

The trail is in a lovely hardwood forest with some small hills and some flat areas. I think it will be a lovely addition to our trail system.

There are a number of groups and people that should be thanked for making this adventure successful. Firstly, we need to thank the executive for supporting this project. Next, we must thank the Georgian Bluff council for supporting this plan and signing a lease agreement to ski on their land. We must also thank the Kiwanis Club for allowing us to cut a connector trail from the Kiwanis loop to the Fun Trail.

Finally, we need to thank the members of the Bruce Ski Club who worked to complete this project. I hope I have not left anyone out but please let me know if I did. When you see the following people on the trail, please say thanks.

Jason Angus	Chris Hodgkinson	Fred Schlenker
John Cameron	Bob Knapp	Fred Scheel
Ken Clarke	MacDonnell Excavating	Ruth Scheel
Bob Cureton	Anne Louise McArthur	Paul Scriver
Daniel Cureton	Matt Nelson	Marilyn Suke
Thomas Cureton	Brian O'Dorerty	Jack Van Dorp
Keith Day	DJ Penderin	Bella Wateron
Dawson Dejeu	Kim Ransom	Indy Waterton
Ron Downie	Michael Rankin	Schrivier
Ange Flynn	Marg Sanbourne	Randy Robertson
Ken Goldsmith		(MacDonnell Excavating)
Tom Hakala		

(Ed. note: And mostly we need to thank Dave White, who spearheaded and did most of the legwork on this beautiful new trail! It is so well laid out and flows through such an attractive area. Thanks, Dave et al.) 



Race Coordinator

Marilyn Suke

Once again Bruce Ski Club looks forward to an active season of racing. It is so much fun to host clubs from across Southern Ontario and hear their enthusiasm about our trails and our Club.

It is wonderful as well to provide these opportunities for our young (and not so young) members to be their very best on their very own trails! Nothing like setting a racing goal and signing up to motivate you to ski another lap and push up another hill.


Hosting races requires many volunteers. All kinds of volunteers. Those who love to be on the course, those who love to organize, those who love the excitement of the start or finish line. You do not need to have an extensive knowledge of racing or any special qualifications to volunteer. You can just tick the box on your BSC sign up form

that indicates your willingness and the race organizers will find the perfect place for you. If you want to up your game however, on-line Officials courses are available from Nordiq Canada. BSC needs more trained officials so you would be contributing in a big way if you choose to attain this certification.

The two races we are hosting as part of the Southern Ontario Race series are

Community Classic: Saturday, Feb 10 (start times will be adjusted to accommodate Jackrabbits) and
Suntrail Special: Sunday, Feb 18

In addition we will host at least one High School race (Great Wolf - early January) and possibly an Elementary race.

Looking forward to working with many of you to make these races both well run and fun. 

Georgian Bay Nordic

Announcing:

John and Yolanda Gamble High Performance Bursary

In the spring of 2023, Canada lost an amazing athlete and coach. With John Gamble's passing the Owen Sound and Bruce Peninsula Community were profoundly saddened but grateful for the service that John had provided to sport during his time here as a coach and as a teacher. In addition, his wife Yolanda, also an excellent athlete and coach served both as assistant and Head Coach to the Georgian Bay Nordic.

In recognition of their exceptional contribution to the nordic ski community, GBN has established, through Nordiq Canada, a bursary in John and Yolanda's name. The intent of this Bursary is both to recognize outstanding achievement in Nordic Skiing competition and to ease some of the financial burden skiing and competing at this level demands. We also hope that the offering of these Bursaries will help to inspire our young athletes to set and achieve outstanding High Performance goals.




The \$500 Bursary will be awarded to GBN athletes who achieve top five places at Ontario Cup races then go on to compete at Canadian Nordic Nationals.

An additional \$500 Bursary will be awarded to GBN athletes who are selected, and go on to compete at U23 World Juniors and FISU World University Games. GBN has had athletes who have been selected for these two prestigious competitions in the past and the funds required to travel and compete at these international events is onerous.

In addition, exceptional performance at these three events will be recognized with an additional Bursary: \$500 for a first-place finish, \$200 for a second-place finish and \$100 for third.

Nordiq Canada has a program through which donations can be made and Charitable Receipts Issued. Follow the link below and direct your donation to Georgian Bay Nordic.

<https://app.etapestry.com/online-forms/Cross-CountrySkidefond-Canada/club-donation.html>

We have a donor who has offered to match the first \$1000 donated so your money will have twice the impact! Thank you for supporting our young skiers and the Nordic community. 

Thank you to the following

October 2023



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Suntrail Source for Adventure
Midwestern Communications
Katelin Sims & Andrew Jeffrey
The Power Workers Union
Anne-Louise McArthur and Brian O'Doherty

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Carolyn Renuz & Brian Putman
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Shawn & Nathan Grimstead
Michael Jeavons
Bakker family
Michele Hunter
Kathryn & Steve Jarvis
Anna Roginska & Luke Bagatto
The MacDonald Family
Abbott Wouters family
The Mason Family
Donna Paterson
Meagan McCarrel

Kramar/Farrow
Kristen Pellow
Erin Stoddart
Donna Boyd
Joanne Kolomeitz
Amanda Burrows
Sue Watters
Brianna Cavan
Anne Marie & Michael Raven
Michael Rankin
Ron & Deb Downie

Volunteer to help your club!!

Check the box that's right for you on your 2023-24 Registration.

Bruce Ski Club Executive, 2023-24

President - Mike Campbell	519-477-1098	mike@bruceskiclub.ca
Vice-President - Shawn Radcliffe	519-935-9905	shawn.radcliffe@gmail.com
Secretary - Deborah Downie	519-339-0762	deborahdownie62@gmail.com
Treasurer - Andrew Howlett	519-376-2203	andrew@howlett.net
Registrar - Heidi Tones	519-534-3222	smith.tones@gmail.com
Colpoys Trail Capt - Richard Bonert	519-371-0711	richard.b-bsc@bell.net
Sawmill Nordic Centre		
Facilities Manager - Fred Schlenker	226-668-9403	schlenkerfred@gmail.com
Grooming Trail Captain - Ron Downie	226-568-2959	rondebdownie@gmail.com
Jackrabbits - Amy Luscombe, Erik Proulx		jackrabbits@bruceskiclub.ca
GBN Liaison - Matt Nelson	519-374-4562	gbnpres@gmail.com
Race Coordinator - Marilyn Suke	519-374-4227	mpsuke@gmail.com
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 Trail Conservancy

The Bruce Ski Club would like to thank



for the printing of this newsletter.