

SKI TRACKER

(Snow) Season's Greetings!

From the President

Mike Campbell

Hey Ski Enthusiast,

Just a quick note to let you know we are ready for this season. It has taken many people and many hours of work to get to this point.

And I can't wait to get out on the snow and see everyone's happy faces.


A couple weekends ago, we had a group of hardy volunteers that went out to Sheldon's Trail and did some restorative work on the Loop after logging took place on the property.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who cleared the trails, helped with the new Jackrabbits' building, built our new trail through the old landfill site, converted our heating system in the warm-up hut to electric, placed large amounts of wood chips over exposed road and wet areas to keep the snow from melting, etc. etc.

Many hands make light work.



Fred, our Sawmill facility manager, and Ron, our head groomer, have been busy on many projects, which we will outline in our next newsletter, just to keep you in the loop.

Now everyone get out there and do a snow dance. 

Canadian Ski Marathon


Don Eby

Are you looking for an adventure, a winter holiday, a challenge? Maybe all three? If so, consider taking part in the 58th edition of the legendary Canadian Ski Marathon on February 10-11, 2024. It is not a race against other skiers. It is a friendly ski tour, held over two days and divided into five sections each day. It is well-supported, with check points, food, fluids, bus transportation, and first aid readily available. Each section is approximately 16 kms long.

The CSM offers something for everyone. The event has multiple categories of participation. Some people want to experience a 'taste' of the event and do one section per day. Others will ski two, three, or four sections per day. Skiers in the Coureur des Bois category ski all 160 km over two days. The Gold Courier des Bois participants carry a pack with their equipment and food to camp outside on the Saturday night.

The event is held in the Laurentians, on the north shore of the Ottawa River. The trail runs mostly through rolling, forested hills and across small lakes in beautiful rural Quebec. Many of the well groomed trails are skied on only once a year.

The Bruce Ski Club Sawmill Trail was designated an official Ski Marathon training trail two years ago. I am one of the CSM volunteer "ambassadors" who have agreed to help promote the event. I have participated in the CSM more than 10 times and really love it. A long way to go, but it is really a unique event that quite a few BSC members have participated in over the years.

For more information check out the Canadian Ski Marathon web site: <https://skimarathon.ca> or contact Don Eby at d.eby@sympatico.ca or 519 373-2535. 

COMING EVENTS

Important Club Dates

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. 11-17/24: Beaver Valley Nordic Ski Club Exchange
Feb. 18/24: Suntrail Special Race
Feb. 25/24 Community Classic Race (Note change!)

BSC Jacket Recipients

John Cameron by Heidi Tones

I don't know if you are like me, but when I go for a ski, I go to relax and exercise, see friends. Rarely do I take time to think about all the people who run our club! Let me clarify, **all** the amazing people who volunteer to run our club.

John Cameron is one of those long standing, knowledgeable and quietly humble BSC members who has done a lot for us, for you. In fact, he missed the presentation at the AGM as he and Laura were in BC at the Human Rights hearing for the Lake Babine First Nations. We wish them luck.

John, who has skied all his life, used to ski at the Sauble trails, but John Gamble and Doug Cunningham in-



troduced him to the Sawmill trails decades ago. John became a BSC member in the early 1990s. Over the years he has helped with the following by bringing his engineering mind to...

-cutting many new trails... trails you might not think about as being new! Way back when, with Reg Martin and Fred Scheel he cut Sheldon's extension, more recently he helped on Paper Clip, Hair Pin and Grunt, to name a few.


-John helped plan and execute the lit trails, both the first set and the extension. He recounted to me how he and Fred went down to Orangeville to see how they laid out their lights, in minus 20 degrees weather!

-Every year he has helped with fall trail clean up.

-John also enjoyed racing. If John was not racing, he helped run races at Sawmill.

-John has sat on the Board for over 10 years giving his knowledge and guidance on many issues including purchasing large items, etc.

-As well, with his partner Laura Robinson, they co-coached young skiers from Neyaashiinigmiing from 2005-2012.

We thank John for being an integral member of the Bruce Ski Club for a very long time and I will be honoured to give him this jacket, when he returns from BC! 

Marilyn Suke

 by David White

It is a great privilege to recollect the many ways Marilyn Suke has benefitted the Bruce Ski Club and Georgian Bay Nordic!

On top of being a long-standing member of the Bruce Ski Club executive, and highly involved in helping to run races, Marilyn has been the race co-ordinator for many years. Marilyn has also run coaching clinics and encouraged BSC members to take part in workshops. She has not only coached adults, she also brought muffins and coffee and her big, infectious smile. Marilyn has also been a Jack-Rabbits coach on Saturday mornings for many, many years.



Marilyn has coached GBN since about 2000, and has been passing on her wonderful philosophy ever since:

"Develop well-rounded individuals that search for excellence in all parts of their lives." Indeed, many of Marilyn's athletes have gone on to pursue excellence in their work, have skied at a very high level, and continue to give back to the ski community through coaching and helping run ski events!

We reached out to some athletes and here is what they have to say about her: a BIG heart, optimistic, encouraging; she would sacrifice her hot coffee to keep Klister tubes warm; knew exactly what each athlete wanted for a snack or drink; always smiling and laughing; no problem was too big; she is a strong female role model for all; she has a love for the sport and is always bettering her skills; the podium is a small place, but you can achieve your goals without receiving an award; she always took such good care of athletes whilst on ski trips; she had the car warm and cozy with blankets and breakfast to start long drives; and she always showed up to the start line with perfectly waxed skis.

To sum up, as one athlete said, "She has shaped my life in a wonderful and positive way." What could be more meaningful?

Marilyn's main reason for coaching is because she likes being involved and she loves the athletes' energy, loves to watch them grow and achieve their goals. It is with great honour that we acknowledge Marilyn's contributions to our ski community.


Heidi Tones

The BSC is for a range of skiers, young and old, recreational and competitive. Some stay in our area, but some leave and take their roots with them. Julian Smith and Laura Robinson proudly represent the BSC whenever and wherever they travel as they continue to make a positive difference in the world of skiing.

In 1992 a small group of retired athletes, including Laura Robinson, met to discuss how wonderful and terrible sport can be. Whether it was track and field, rowing, cycling, swimming or field hockey, there was a common theme: Opaque decisions about the future of an athletic career were made by senior board members or Ottawa-based administrators--who rarely even met those for whom they could open doors--or ensure they were slammed shut. Thus the Canadian Athletes Association--now AthletesCAN was formed. To list just a few changes since those early days: Decisions about who makes national teams can be brought to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre, national team contracts can be reviewed by legal counsel and challenged--including Non Disclosure Agreements, and the voices of Canadian athletes have rung out in the halls of power--most recently to the House of Commons Heritage Committee and Status of Women Committee

where all forms of abuse in sport were exposed by a myriad of courageous athletes. As a founding member, Laura says, "It's exciting to see someone like Julian Smith as an integral part of such a hard fought for organization."

Having sat on NTDC's board or directors for five years, Julian felt that he had gained the insight and experience to help represent not only his teammates but all Canadian skiers. He wanted a collective voice to ring loud and clear for the decision makers to hear. He ran for the Nordiq Canada Board of Directors and was elected as the Male Athlete Rep. It was not long before he again felt that he had the opportunity to do more. He recently ran for and was elected to the AthletesCAN Board of Directors. In the complex world of high performance sport, decision making demands people who are willing to share, listen, take the road less travelled and stand up for the right decision. Julian says, "I am proud to be a part of an organization, like AthletesCAN, that is doing just that."

Our small and local club can be proud to know that our members are making a difference, both here and away! If you know of other BSC members who are supporting the ski community, please email Heidi Tones, smith.tones@gmail.com. 

BSC on Facebook


Tom Hakala

Bruce Ski Club has three pages on Facebook; each one serves a different function. Our official club page "Bruce Ski Club" or <https://www.facebook.com/bruceskiclub>, posts general information about our club as well as updates to ski conditions and grooming. It is a spot where someone can send a message to the club and hopefully get a reply in a timely manner. Contributors can also post pictures or stories of ski adventures.

On the other hand, Bruce Ski Club Friends was supposed to be an open ended forum where club members or friends could post requests to meet friends or other interested parties to join them in a ski outing. You could also write about a recent ski experience that may be relevant to other skiers. That seemed to work well until this fall when some unscrupulous person or persons decided to post gross and indecent images. As fast as I could remove the offending photos and ban the perpetrator, other photos would appear using a different person's name each time. Finally I had enough and shut down the page. When I posted that the page was removed, a number of club members commented that they liked the page and wanted to see it active again. One member stepped forward to say they would take over and monitor the page. That was

Brad Churchley. I contacted Brad and he indicated that yes, he was interested in taking charge. So I re-activated the page and made Brad administrator.


One of the first things that Brad did was make the page private. So now if you would like to see the page or make contributions on the page you will have to be approved by Brad or myself. If you are already a member of the page you do not need to do anything; you should be able to use it as before. To find Bruce Ski Club Friends go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/805082283241957>.

The last page that is connected to the club is BSC Ski Swap <https://www.facebook.com/groups/705564346696065>. This would seem to be fairly obvious as to what it is... A virtual Ski Swap. Though some stretch the concept of posting skis or ski equipment with posts of a woman's dress in size 6 or a like-new chesterfield in beige. This is supposed to be forum for selling ski related items... A roof rack for skis - YES... A 2005 Toyota half ton - NO! Pretty simple I would think. We pause the Ski Swap every spring and do not turn it back on until after the live ski swap at Suntrail in the fall. Suntrail would still like to see your business for new ski stuff and clothing, but for someone wanting old rock skis with three pin bindings look at the BSC Ski Swap on Facebook. 

Sawmill Hut Gets Deep Clean

Shawn Radcliffe


Last month, as snow fell gently through the pines outside, BSC President, Mike and his wife, Jean, and VP Shawn cleaned Gerry's Place (aka the Sawmill hut) from top to bottom. They dusted and cleaned the walls (which is not too easy when you're in a log cabin), ceiling, fan, photographs, tables, and floors. Some areas may have gotten their first deep clean since the hut was built.

As we approach the opening of ski season, BSC is looking for a few volunteers to help keep the hut sparkling. Don't worry, ongoing cleaning mainly involves sweeping the floors, wiping down the tables and benches, and tidying up. But if you're an expert cleaner and get an urge to do more, we always welcome your energy. The time commitment is minimal and can be done on your own schedule. If interested, email shawn@bruceskiclub.ca. 

Thank you!!

Ron Downie

A huge thank you to all members who came out for another workday on Nov. 25 to clean up Sheldon's Trail.

We thought Sheldon's and the corresponding snowshoe trail would have to be closed this season, but, thanks to you and to the careful loggers, Sheldon's ski trail got repaired and will be able to be used this season when snow comes. The snowshoe trail received a major cleanup as well. 



Facilities Manager

Fred Schlenker

All work on Gerry's place has been completed.

The change over to electric heat is in place. I will be looking for feedback as to the warmth. There are two 2500 watt heaters installed, with a rough in for a third if needed. I thought it would be good to test out two first to see if it's sufficient. Thermostat is set at 18°, same as last year.

The Jackrabbit storage shed is complete. (See article below.)

We have been given permission by GSCA to have a fire for Jackrabbits on Saturday mornings. You will notice the fire pit not too



far from the parking lot in its new more visible location. This is thanks to the efforts of Dave White and Amy Luscombe. Erik Proulx built and delivered the wood box and Bob Curreton, Amy, Erik, Ange Flynn and families moved the wood.

Leo Verschuren has volunteered to take the lead role in our signage, both for the Ski Trail and the Snowshoe Trail. The Snowshoe Trail signage in particular is/was in need of some updating. His efforts are greatly appreciated.

A final effort by volunteers on Saturday, November 25th has made it possible to have all trails open for the season. This includes both the Ski Trail and the Snowshoe Trail. This required some work in the vicinity of Sheldon's to help recover from the logging activity. We also had some very useful mechanical assistance from Eli Hayden-Thomas to get the trail surface back into shape.

All we need now is snow! _____



Peter Day Memorial

Fred Schlenker and Bob Speicht

On Thursday, November 2nd, a \$2000 cheque was presented to Fred Schlenker of the Bruce Ski Club in Hepworth by Mary Ellen Harrigan, chair of the Youth & Vocational Committee, of the Southampton Rotary Club. The funds were given by family and friends in memory of longtime Rotarian, Peter Day. He was an avid cross country skier. The Ski Club used the funds to build a shed to store the ski equipment for the Jackrabbit program. Attending were Ron Downie, John Conlin, Mary Ellen, Fred, Bob Speight, Rotary President Dave Bertrand and Brad Churchley (and Sasha).

Peter Day was a dedicated member of the Southampton Rotary Club for 15 years. Peter was very active in the Winterama program and enjoyed being part of presentations at G.C. Houston school in Southampton. Peter was active in the club's annual golf tournament, collecting prizes for the event and showing his golfing skills on the course. Peter was a member of the Friday Golf Group, donating a Loonie each week to purchase an item for the Rotary Dinner Auction.

In the winter, Peter very much enjoyed cross country skiing. The Southampton Rotary Club feels it is only appropriate that the donations in memory of Peter be put towards a new storage area for the Jackrabbit Program. Peter will be missed by many Rotarians and friends, but this storage shed will continue as a memorial to Peter.





Colpoys Ski Trail

Richard Bonert


A big thank you to the volunteers who came out for the October 28th work party at the Colpoy's Trails. All trails have been worked over and all helpers were out by 1 p.m., as I had hoped for.

So the trails are waiting for snow. The equipment is ready to go, everything is marked and the entrance kiosk has been set up. So far we have left the now outdated COVID signs in storage. We have arranged for the snow ploughing of the parking lot.

The entrance signs at County Road 9 will be mounted when the first tracks have been set. Shortly after, when most tracks can be set, the usual port-a-potty will be ordered.

It is recommended that you check on our website or Facebook under [TRAIL REPORT](#) to be informed what snow and grooming you can expect setting out, in particular, if you have a longer drive.

Many thanks to our land owners who welcomed us back for the coming winter. We are 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 Colpoy's Trails,
Your trail captain, Richard
and our new groomer, Eli Heyden Thomas 



A Great Crew--inspired by cookies!



Editor

Joy Ward

New Editor Needed!

As much as I have enjoyed assembling the BSC newsletter the past three seasons, it is time now for fresh blood. I am committed to finishing this season, but no longer. If you are interested in this position--editing the newsletter and serving on the executive, please contact Mike Campbell:

mike@bruceskiclub.ca 

Jackrabbits'

"Rabbit Report"

Erin Scheel

Jackrabbits is excited to resume (with full enrolment again) at Sawmill Nordic Centre this January with the session planned to run from Jan 6 - Mar 9, 2024. All registered skiers will hear from the coordinators this week and can expect more specific details the week leading up to the first session.


Jackrabbits is a volunteer-run program and we're thrilled to welcome a new group of Coordinators this year: Marianne Waito (Skier), Renee Ouellette (Coach), Neil Gray (Equipment), Katie Lind (Volunteer), Erin Scheel (Communications), Tara Harpur (Support).

December 2023

A huge THANK YOU to the Coordinators who've laid the tracks for us to ski in, Dave White, Amy Luscombe, and Erik Proulx; we appreciate you so SO much.

Fun Fact: Jackrabbits takes its name from 'The Jackrabbit' Herman Smith-Johannsen, an engineer who traveled by X/C skis from village to village to consult with forestry companies. Get your Jackrabbits to guess how old he lived to be, in part thanks to his love of this lifelong sport (hint: $100 + 10$).

For questions or to raise your hand to coach, coordinate, or volunteer, drop us an email at jackrabbits@bruceskiclub.ca. Many hands make light work.

Now let us all do our snow dances over the holidays; see you on the trails. 

Georgian Bay Nordic

Keith Day

Georgian Bay Nordic has been training hard with their team of dedicated, volunteer coaches. The recent snow at Sawmill made for excellent early season skiing. I know they are eager to try out the new trail this year! The team had a phenomenal on-snow camp at Temiskaming Nordic in Cobalt, Ontario. It is a great club worth visiting with rich local history. The first race of the season is the Candy Cane Cup at Nakkertok, December 15 through 17.

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.



Thank you to the following

December 2023



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Brian O'Doherty
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Trevor Stokes

Volunteer to help your club!!

Jackrabbits: jackrabbits@bruceskiclub.ca
Races: mpsuke@gmail.com
Gerry's Place Upkeep:
shawn.radcliffe@gmail.com

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

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The Bruce Ski Club would like to thank

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for the printing of this newsletter.