

SKI TRACKER

Changes A-foot--or A-ski

From the President

Mike Campbell

President's Report

Greetings, ski enthusiasts. I'm staring out the window looking at a foot of snow in the ground. It's hard to believe that five days ago there was no snow outside, but I'll take it. It's definitely been a challenging year for the club. Having said that, we have managed to have a few weeks of good skiing.



There's a lot to go over in this newsletter, so I may as well start off by letting you know that I am retiring as president from the club. It's been nine years since I took up the position, and I think it's time for someone else to take over the reins and guide the club into the future. It's been a real pleasure working with my fellow executive and the many volunteers it takes to keep a club like ours running.

I'd also like to recognize two other Executive Committee members who are retiring:

Richard Bonert has been the Trail Captain at Colpoy's for the last five years and prior to that was Trail Captain for many years at the Rankin Trail which used to be run by the club. Richard made many improvements at the Colpoy's trail and was also instrumental in updating the clubs by-laws.

Joy Ward has been our newsletter editor for the last three years, Joy has done a great job with the newsletters adding lots of content on what was going on at the club.

We will miss them both.

Looking For Volunteers

If you have enjoyed our trails for many years, perhaps it's time to give back to the club. Don't worry too much about whether you have any experience; heck, I was recruited as president without any prior experience on the executive. For any volunteers that take over the positions of President, Colpoys Trail Captain or Newsletter Editor, the previous members who had these duties are willing to stick around to help you transition into these positions. If you are interested in more information please e-mail me at mike@bruceskiclub.ca. Our club cannot survive without volunteers.

Time for our Annual General Meeting at Heartwood Hall.

It's that time again! We're going to hold our Annual General Meeting at the Heartwood Hall in Owen Sound on April 3rd with social time at 6:00 p.m. and the AGM at 7:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity to socialize with fellow club members, enjoy craft beer, cider and pizza, and find out what projects the Club will be working on in 2024-25. At the AGM you will also have the opportunity to vote on a name for the new loop that the Club has on the former Georgian Bluffs landfill site.

New Trail Name Contest

I have been really enjoying the new trail that Dave White and his team built on the former landfill site. It is a fun twisty turny trail. We are running a contest to name the trail. If you have an idea for a name, please e-mail it to newtrail@bruceskiclub.ca. We will have a vote on the new name at the AGM. The winner will receive a surprise prize from Suntrail Outfitters.

Accomplishments this Past Year

This has been a very busy year for the club with some major improvements being carried out. We expanded our trail system onto the Georgian Bluffs property; we upgraded the electrical and heating system at Gerry's Place; we enclosed the back end of the warm-up hut to provide a storage area for the Jackrabbits; we have upgraded our signage on the trails and we cleaned up the logging on



Important Club Dates

Feb. 23/24: Moonlight Ski at Sawmill
Feb. 25/24: Community Classic Race (Note change!)
Mar. 2/24: Jackrabbit Carnival
Apr. 3/24: Annual General Meeting
Social at 6, meeting at 7
May 4/24: Pure Grit Trail Race

President's Report (con't.)

February 2024

Sheldon's Loop. I want to thank Fred Schlenker, Ron Downie, and Dave White for heading up these projects as well as the many volunteers who helped out.

New Trail Expansion Phase II

Dave White and his team are eager to add another loop on the former landfill site; he has estimated it at 1.6 km. If you are interested in helping Dave and his team out with this project please email him at newskitrail@gmail.com.

Possible Expansion of the Lit Loop

At our last executive committee meeting, the executive approved the hiring of an electrician to review the possibility/feasibility of expanding the lit loop. This will involve some significant work on the Club's electrical system and building infrastructure for the lit loop expansion. Fred Shlenker, our facilities manager at the Sawmill Nordic Center is



**Sawmill
Nordic
Centre**

Facilities Manager

Fred Schlenker

Are you aware there is a defibrillator (AED) in the hut? Now a sign has been placed on the outside of the building to indicate it is inside. Hopefully it will never be needed.

The trail known as Chute has been closed until further notice due to safety concerns for the groomers.

Input regarding signage or any other suggestions to help things run smoothly at the trail are always welcome. Contact schlenkerfred@gmail.com.

Grooming Report

Clare Matthews

Well it has been a bit of a ride from no snow, some snow, uh-oh too much snow, just enough snow, uh-oh no snow.

Our first day of grooming this year was January 11. We then received an abundance of snow the next week which had the groomers doubling up to get the snow packed. This great snowfall played havoc with roads and sadly the Great Wolf Invitational was cancelled when the school buses were cancelled.

And then lately, with this crazy warmer weather (at time of writing it is 8C) and no snowfall, we have been nursing our base. It is a wonderful thing that the snow has held and skiing has been good if oddly a bit spring-like. With no snow on the ground south of us, WOSSAA held their event at the Sawmill on Feb 8 and there were lots of positive comments from the attendees that we actually had snow and that the trails were in good shape.

looking to build a team of volunteers to carry out the work required to build the extended lit loop. If you're interested in helping Fred out, please e-mail him at schlenkerfred@gmail.com

Special Thanks

And finally, I would like to give a special thankyou to our many Sponsors and Friends who contribute to make this club affordable for everyone. Thank you to our patron, Suntrail Source for Adventure. Lastly, 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.

It's been a fun nine years! See everyone out on the Trails and at the AGM.

Mike _____

Gerry's Place Maintenance

Shawn Ratcliffe

BSC is still 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, e-mail shawn@bruceskiclub.ca.

Good Neighbours

Last fall it did not go unnoticed that during the logging that took place on the Spencer property, which contains Sheldon's ski trail and part of the snowshoe trail, great care was taken by the loggers not to damage the trail. We believe this would have been at the direction of the property owners, Jewel Spencer and Lynn Tabourda. This made the pre-season clean-up go much better. Thank you to the Spencers.

Their operation next door called Pura Vida Ranch is quite interesting. You might like to check out their web site: <https://www.puravidaranch.ca>

Registrar

Heidi Tones

Trails have been pretty darn good, thanks to our amazing groomers! Hope you've been out enjoying them!

Due to the late-arriving snowfall we extended our Early Bird rates. We currently have 942 members. Which is amazing in our small community, and for a club run by volunteers! A newsletter is posted on the bulletin board inside the hut if you want to see what the club has been up to!

If you have any questions, please e-mail smith.tones@gmail.com.

Moonlight Ski

Heidi Tones

February 2024

Come on out for a beautiful night ski on Friday Feb 23, 6:30-8:30 pm. There will be a warm fire burning in the fire pit, and hot apple cider. Bring your own cup and a nibbly to share with others. Wear a headlamp to go off the lit loops. Come meet the wonderful people in our ski community!

MOONLIGHT SKI & POTLUCK


Sawmill
Nordic
Centre

Friday, Feb. 23
6:30 to 8:30 pm

Bonfire, moonlight ski, snowshoe,
hot drinks (Bring your own mug)
Potluck - sweet or savory finger food

Special Olympics

Laura Howlett

The Owen Sound Waxwings and Central Bruce Snow Gliders Nordic ski teams gathered for another day of dry land training on January 6, pretty disappointed with the non-existent snow cover. We were happy to be on skis by the next weekend and every weekend since, skiing on everything from powder to ice. Lately the athletes have been working on double poling a lot, and not falling. Athlete Anne Howlett travelled with her family to the Arrowhead Loppet January 28 and came in 1st in the women's 4km SO category. Soon Central Bruce skier Mike Bailey will be representing Team Ontario at the National Games in Calgary, February 27 - March 2. Waxwings athlete Aimee Gilchrist will also be representing Team Ontario in curling. We wish them both well. Follow the games here: <https://calgary2024.specialolympics.ca/the-games> We all hope that we will have more snow for our annual end of year Colpoy's Bay ski, but it may be a hike. 




Editor

Joy Ward

New Editor Still Needed!

There must be one of (or more) of our many highly capable members who would be interested in refreshing the newsletter.

If that's you and you would be willing to take on this position--editing the newsletter and serving on the executive-- please contact Mike Campbell: mike@bruceskiclub.ca 

Julian Smith Update

Heidi Tones

Julian Smith, a GBN Alumni, has had a good 2024 race season, placing 3rd in two SuperTours; one in Lake Placid, New York, and then again at Craftsbury, Vermont!

Julian also qualified for the North American World Cup races. He'll proudly be racing two sprint races in Canmore, Feb 9-13 and one in Minneapolis, Feb 17. We held a fun fundraiser to help with his associated costs for travel and race fees. Soup For Julian was started by his GBN coach, Marilyn Suke in 2015. We've been holding it ever since! It took place at Sawmill Trails, Sat. Feb. 10, from 11:30-1:00 p.m. Many of you came out and signed the Canadian flag, ate a delicious hot bowl of soup, a biscuit and cookie! (GF and veg. options were available.)

If you could not attend but would like to contribute, or would like a ski lesson, e-mail smith.tones@gmail.com.

Cheers, Heidi, Timothy and Marilyn _____



**Flag for
Julian**

Editor

Joy Ward

If this seems like a blatant proud mothers' page, it is! But it is also a plea/threat for a new editor, or you may be seeing even more bias! (Or nothing at all.) _____

February 2024

Another BSC/GBN Grad

Joy Ward

This year and last, Karen Ward-Churchley, has been racing on the Masters circuit. Karen started skiing at about three years old, following in her older siblings' tracks. She participated in Bruce Ski Club Jackrabbits, Skiarama and other club activities, and then raced with Georgian Bay Nordic for a number of years. As a Warton District High School skier, she also raced at OFSAA multiple times. Karen has come back to nordic skiing with a passion, now skiing most days, coaching the Peninsula Shores District School secondary team (which includes her 15-year-old son), taking her four-year-old to Jackrabbits and racing herself.

Cross-country skiing really is a life-long family event.

Due to the shortage of snow and travel distance, this year Karen has raced in only the Ontario Masters Championship at Arrowhead, placing first in her age category and third overall for women. She placed first for Open Women at the Suntrail Special.



Jackrabbits’ “Rabbit Report”

Erin Scheel

The Jackrabbit season is nearing the end of its 9-week session with our ever-loved year-end Carnival on March 2. If you want a taste of the Jackrabbit spirit, make your way out to the trail that day from 10-12 and you’ll see our kids in action! (Along with Mascot Olli!)

Though the snow has been light, we’ve skied all but one week of our season. Big thanks to everyone for rolling with us through this bizarre winter.

This season has seen 80 jackrabbits on the trails, supported by 13 volunteer coaches and our epic tribe of high school coaches—Tom, Ewan, Ellen, Teagan, Ian, Elizabeth, and Emilie! We love having you involved in running this program.

If you missed registration this season, mark your calendars for October 2024 when next season’s registration will open.



Race Co-ordinator

Marilyn Suke

February 2024

We did it!

Despite a challenging year we hosted a very successful Elementary ski race on Friday, February 9. Five local schools attended and there were more than enough smiles to go around.

Thanks to careful grooming and a little snow shoveling we had safe and fun trails. Thanks to our enthusiastic and competent volunteers, no one got lost and the results were accurate and timely. For many young skiers it was their first Nordic ski race, and it is wonderful Bruce Ski Club was able to provide such a positive and fun experience.

The day before, WOSSA, the London area school district, brought about 75 high school skiers to compete for their regional championships. Again, so many excited kids, some very good skiing and it is thanks to our club's

volunteers that we have such a good facility for these young skiers.

On Sunday, February 18, we host Suntrail Special then Community Classic the next weekend. We need a little more snow before we can host another race but with our current base we have a good start.

Coach Development

At the beginning of January, Claire and Brent Day, Simon Farla, Teagan Cunningham, Tara Harpur, Andrew Jeffrey and Ian and Tom MacKay all completed their Community Coach Certification. As a Coach Facilitator, I am pleased we are able to offer this certification at BSC. Having knowledgeable and certified coaches helps promote a high level of skiing and enthusiasm within the club. Teagan, Tara, Ian and Tom are volunteer coaches with our Jackrabbit program so the benefit to the club and our youngest skiers is immediate. _____





Colpoys Ski Trail

Richard Bonert

Colpoy's on Feb. 12.


So far an unreliable winter, no holiday skiing due to lack of snow. Only in mid-January could we groom and then we had two weeks of skiing with good turn-out. Then the conditions deteriorated slowly and not enough new snow has fallen as of today, Feb. 11th.

So the trails are waiting. We are ready to get out and groom again at Colpoys and still hope for snow.

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

Sorry for the short and sad report.

Hopefully see you again on the Colpoy's Trails,

Your trail captain, Richard, and groomer, Eli. 

Hiking, anyone?

But there is still lots of winter left. Keep doing your snow dances!



"A sad state of affairs."

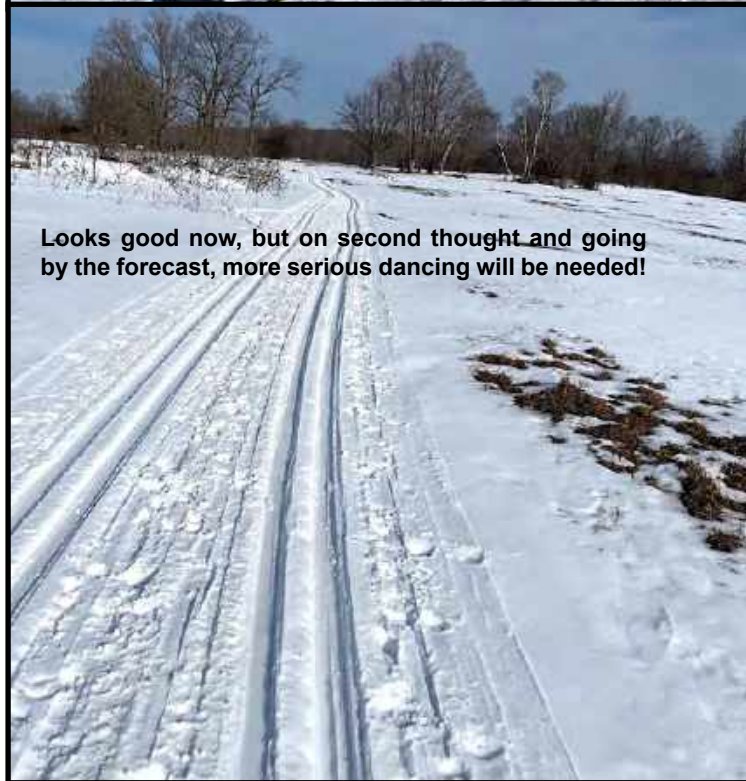




Colpoys on Feb. 18!




Colpoys on Feb. 20!



Looks good now, but on second thought and going by the forecast, more serious dancing will be needed!

Naming Contest for the New Trail

Kelly Rogers

By now many of you will have had a chance to ski Sawmill's fun new trail on Georgian Bluff's old dumpsite property. All we need now is a new name, something a bit more imaginative than the current "new trail" or "dump trail." Put your creative juices to work and submit your suggestions to newtrail@bruceskiclub.ca by March 16th. Members will be able to vote on the short list of names in person at the AGM April 3rd at 6:00 p.m. As an added bonus, the winner will take home a mystery prize donated by Suntrail Outfitters! 

BAA Race/Time Trial



Oops!

Pure Grit Trail Race

Matt Nelson

Just a reminder to the BSC group that the annual Suntrail Pure Grit Trail Race is on May 4. Proceeds go to support the youth of Georgian Bay Nordic. Info can be found at <https://raceroster.com/events/2024/86148/suntrail-pure-grit-trail-race-2024>




Some local OFSAA-bound skiers.

Julian's Latest

Heidi Tones

Julian Smith had three amazing World Cup races this past week. On Saturday Feb 10th, in Canmore, in a field of the very best: Kalebo, Chanavat, Valnes, Amundsen (world leader in sprints), Pelligrino and Schumacher, Julian raced a 1.3 skate qualifier finishing in a time of 2:31.36 placing 40th. Then he raced a 1.3 classic qualifier on Tuesday, Feb 13th in a time of 2:59.58, finishing 37th, a personal best.

Smith and the Canadian Team travelled to Minneapolis where Theodore Wirth Park put on an amazing weekend of racing under sunny blue skies. Julian skied a 1.5 skate qualifier in a time of 3:00.64, finishing 39th. Being only 1.07 seconds from a top 30 has been very motivating for Julian. Julian thanks the BSC for their continued support of his pursuit of excellence!

Julian's next stop: keynote speaker at OFSAA Nordic Championships in Lakefield. 



Julian at Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. (photo credit Timothy Smith)

Suntrail Special

Marilyn Suke

What a beautiful day! Perfectly groomed trails, enthusiastic volunteers, and friends coming from far and wide to engage in the fun of seeing who is the fastest on that day. Not to mention the fun of hanging out before and after catching up on what has been happening in everyone's lives. Friendships made at ski races often are lifelong, with kids from different teams meeting, making friends, reconnecting at High School meets, then maybe being on the same team at University! The benefits of just going outside and playing in the snow.

The Suntrail Trophy for the fastest male and female skier completing the longest distance race at the Suntrail Special has been resurrected. All you need are fast skis and a membership in the BSC to win this. Happy to announce that a sister and brother won it this year! Aleida

and Aidan Nelson stood together at the top of the podium to receive the trophy.

Check it out in Gerry's place – there are a few names on there besides Martin Kerr. I added all the past results I could find – but if you know of more, please let me know.

Sunday, February 25 is our final race – Community Classic. This is a wave mass start and has a 1 Km, 3 Km and 5.5 Km course (2 x to make an 11 Km as well)

This is a really fun race to watch as skiers are competing head to head and mass starts are just really great. Results will still be generated by individual category (U6, U8, U10, U12....)

Hope to see you there! And if you could volunteer please let me know.

Next year, when you register for BSC, please check the box that says you can help at races. They are a fun way to see some great skiing and meet new wonderful people.

Below: Suntrail Trophy Winners



Suntrail Special-A Great Day!

February 2024




Suntrail Special Thank Yous

From Marilyn Suke, Race Co-ordinator to the volunteers


What a great day - seeing old friends (and their racing kids) and making new ones! So many smiles! What a great community. Could not have done it without every one of you!

Big thank you to Al White who made the trip up from Orangeville to bring the race equipment and help with technical aspects of the race. Al has volunteered at races longer than I have been involved and has given so much to the Nordic community.

Great to see athletes who raced with my son either still racing or coaching young racers (or both!) What you did today was so valuable to so many people - you should be proud! 

From Matt Nelson, GBN

What a great day all around. Thanks to everyone who supported the racing today. Lots of young racers out there ripping around the trails but more importantly lots of smiles and comradery.

These races are important to keeping the energy and progression of the competitive side of sport. 



FOR PRESIDENT


We are also looking for a Colpoy's Trail Captain and a Newsletter Editor

If you are interested e-mail Uncle Mike at mike@bruce Ski Club.ca

Georgian Bay Nordic

Keith Day

February 2024

The team has been driving all over Ontario and Quebec chasing snow and racing well! Racers have been at East-erns in Sherbrooke Quebec, the Parry Sound Loppet, Mountainview in Midland, Mono in Orangeville as well as racing the local school races at Sawmill and Highlands, Many of our athletes have qualified for Ontario Winter Games in Thunder Bay. Next on the roster is Walden Nordic in Sudbury, Youth Champs in Sault Saint Marie, OFSSA in Lakefield and the Canadian Ski Nationals at Nakkertok. Thank you for all of the local support!!! 



Thank you to the following

February 2024



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Linda Mason
Ian Thompson
Kristen Pellow

Rodriguez Family
Rusk Family
Anonymous
Christina Milani
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Volunteer to help your club!!

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The Bruce Ski Club would like to thank



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