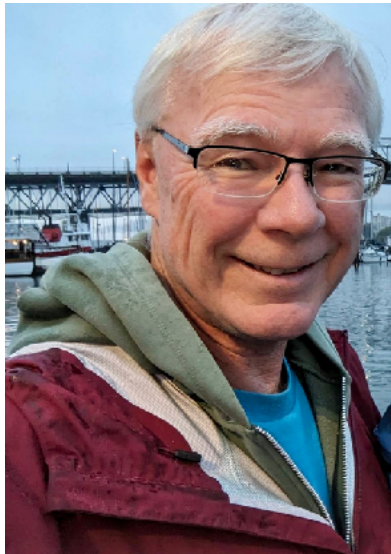


SKI TRACKER

The 2025/2026 Season Prep Work From the President

Dan Purdon



As I write this President's report on the train from Warsaw to Sopot, winter and the cross country ski season seem far away. However the Directors, Executive and volunteers of the club have continued to plan, build and prepare over the off season period for the upcoming 2025/26 winter while our skis have been "resting". This first mailed newsletter is an update on this work and link to renew your membership

for the upcoming season. Subsequent newsletters to members will be emailed in December, January and March as the season progresses, to keep everyone in the "loop".

In this preseason newsletter you will read more information from our volunteer Executive members on; registering for the Jackrabbit program, dates for the fall trail cleanup at Colpoys and Sawmill, the fall Ski Swap date, winter race dates and trail exchange dates with our partnering local ski clubs. Very exciting is an update on the two new trails being added at Sawmill for this season and much more.

The club remains in a good financial position entering into this year and once again we will not change our current membership fees for 2025/26. A good winter last season increased our membership numbers and day passes income. Of course, the work and resulting expenses needed to maintain our trails and parking lots increased as well. While we spent more than our revenue last year, much of this was a result of one time costs such as; a new trail, a replacement groomer, better electrical service and enhanced security for our facilities and trails. For now we are in a sound position.

As a non-profit volunteer based club the continued support of our members, land owners, municipal partners and community remains the strength of the club and allows us the opportunity to provide great trails, facilities and programs for the cross country ski community. My thanks to all of the volunteers past and present who make the club one of the best experiences and values in our area. Volunteers are always welcome so if that's you, please contact me at my club email president@bsc.ca

Looking forward to another "real winter".

Dan Purdon

President Bruce Ski Club



Upcoming Events

Registration

Oct. 18, 2025 - Early Bird Registration

Nov. 30, 2025 - End of Early Bird Registration

Trail Clean Up

Nov 1, 2025 - Colpoys trail clean up 10:00am

Nov 8, 2025 - Sawmill trail clean up 10:00

Ski Swap

Nov 8, 2025 - At Suntrail Source for Adventure

Ski Exchange Dates

Stay tuned

Interclub, Southern Ontario District Races

February 1, 2026 - Community Classic

February 15, 2026 - Suntrail Special

Registrar

Heidi Tones

It's that time of year again, where you start getting itchy for snow! Online registration opens on October 18th, with the Early Bird Fees ending November 30th. You can register on zone4.ca: search for Join Bruce Ski Club 2025. We will also have an ipad set up at Suntrail Source for Adventure, in Hepworth, where their friendly staff can assist you. All skiers should wear their BSC ski fob when at the trails. If you need a replacement, they can be purchased at Suntrail for \$2. Visitors can access day passes at both Colpoys and Sawmill trails.

When registering, be sure to check off some volunteer activities. It is a nice way to get to know other members, give back and keep our fees down (note: the fees have stayed the same for many years now !!)

If you are a teacher or community leader please contact me for paperwork. No skier/snowshoer may be on the trails **without the signed** paperwork.

Lastly, if you plan to help with any trail clean up, you **must be registered for insurance purposes**, before you can be on the trails.

If you have any questions please email me at smith.tones@gmail.com.

See you on the trails! _____



Jackrabbits'

"Rabbit Report"

Erin Scheel

Jackrabbits 2026 is gearing up for another snowy ski season 🐰, with the program launching Saturday, January 3. As is tradition, Jackrabbits will ski from 10 AM - 12 PM on Saturday mornings, and we're looking at a 10-week season this year the way the calendar falls (recent seasons have been 9 weeks long). The program is well-suited to children at least 4 years of age, spanning skiers up to the early teen years. We focus on the classic style in the first four levels, then introduce freestyle ("skate") skiing in Level 4. We're excited to welcome back some of our beloved volunteer coaches and coordinators, and will be looking for a few new leaders in the group as parents graduate out alongside their children each year.

Email jackrabbits@bruceskiclub.ca to share your interest in coaching, or to nominate someone who would be a great fit. All coaches are asked to complete some online courses through the Coaching Association of Canada; we will ensure you have clear direction and the BSC will cover any costs to pursue coaching credentials. _____





At Colpoys there was an idea put forward to bring back one of the trails used in the past. We would like to get the trail revived for skiing. It will require some work to clean it up but it is looking promising.

There is a plan to make upgrades to the groomer to keep it serviceable through the coming season.

This year, the Trail clean up day is scheduled to take place on Nov. 1, 2025 beginning at 10:00. There may be an additional day of clearing needed but that will be determined at a later time. Please take some time to register with the Bruce Ski Club prior to participating in the clean up day to meet the club's liability requirements.

Hope to see you there! _____ 



Facilities Manager

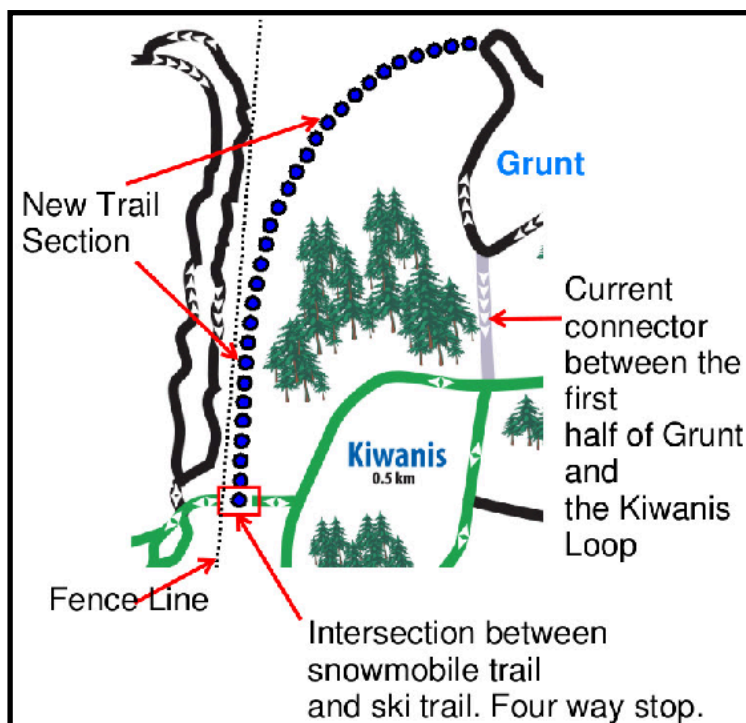
Fred Schlenker

Thanks to a change in the routing of the snowmobile trail, we have gained a short section of new trail. The new trail section joins the former snowmobile trail, where it comes into contact with Grunt. From there it runs with a gentle arcing downhill curve to the left coming out at the intersection to the Georgian Bluffs Municipal property. This new section of trail will be green (easier) in level of difficulty and is approximately 350 meters in length. We are also widening the small connector that leads from the start at the Kiwanis Loop to Grunt. This short section of trail will become two-way. The thought is that you can use this connector to access the bottom of the first hill on Grunt (the one with the sharp right hand curve at the bottom), ski the gentle lower loop on Grunt, and then find yourself on the new trail section before Grunt heads back to higher ground. The new trail is well protected and has mixed hardwood forest and if I am not mistaken, follows along side an esker. Before long you will be back at the Crossroads by the municipal property.

Please see the map. At the time of writing, this Trail has not been properly prepared for the season, but will more than likely be in place for first snow. On behalf of our club I would like to thank the Kiwanis Club of Owen Sound for making this possible for us.

More trail changes. There is a slight rerouting of the Kiwanis Loop. For any of you that have ever experienced the puddle at the bottom corner of the Kiwanis Loop you will understand the reason for this. That section is going to be let go in favour of a higher and drier route. This will shorten the Kiwanis Loop but only by a few meters and will help ensure dryer passage when we have wetter than usual weather.

Our trail clean up day this year is on Saturday November the 8th, the same day as the Ski swap at Suntrail Source for Adventure. Please take advantage of our early bird special and become a registered member before this date (early bird special ends November the 30th). Being a member will ensure all liability obligations are met. The cleanup will start at 10:00 a.m.. Please meet in the main parking lot. The focus of the day will be primarily on the Kiwanis Loop. Greg Roger, the Whispering Pines caretaker has widened the trail system in that area. This is excellent as it promises to allow in more snow. The widening has left behind some debris. The remainder of the trail system is actually in extremely good shape. This is thanks to the efforts of Mark Powell and Rick Graham and their ongoing work with the flail mower to keep the plant life low and compliant for early snow! Please save the date! _____ 



New Trail Phase 3

Dave White

Call it Garbage Mountain, Sunset Peak or Phase 3 but the latest section of new trail is now complete and ready for skiing. Thanks to Brent and Keith Day, Chris Poole and Ken Clarke for getting the trail ready for skiing. Georgian Bluffs was happy to allow us to proceed with this third phase. There were more restrictions on the layout of the trail because it goes over the cap that contains the closed landfill. It is a short trail that runs parallel to Snakes and Ladders before climbing to the top. There is a loop at the summit before returning to the junction of trails on the landfill. Hope that you enjoy! _____ 

Ski Swap 2025

Andrew Howlett

This year's ski swap is on Saturday November 8th. Bring your stuff to Suntrail between November 1st and November 7th. 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 the equipment area between 8:30 a.m. and 9 to look at the stuff, check sizes, etc. At 9 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 unsold stuff then Bruce Ski Club will dispose of it. Cheques for sold stuff can be picked up at Suntrail between Sunday, November 9th and December 31st. _____ 



Race Director Report

Marilyn Suke

Looking forward to hosting our ski community at Sawmill trails for some exciting racing this season. Bruce Ski Club hosts many races over the season. Some, such as Great Wolf and the Elementary races (and CWOSSA this year) are the initiative of our local schools who provide some of the volunteers but are also supported by our generous Club volunteers. The Community Classic race and Suntrail Special are the initiative of Bruce Ski Club and are fully organized and run by our Bruce Ski Club volunteers. In the past few years we have also hosted London area schools for their regional racing. These schools provide their own volunteers and pay for the use of our trails.

So! Volunteers are at the heart of our ability to run fun and fair races. Volunteers start now to set the dates of the races, ensure they are posted on the Southern Ontario Website, attend (virtually) Official clinics, ensure our signage, timing equipment and race boxes are ready to go and - not to forget our essential groomers - ensure our grooming equipment is in good shape and ready to lay down a perfect track! As race day approaches, races are posted, registrations received, race courses set and Race Bib are cleaned and sorted. Race day, volunteers ski the course for safety, set up the start and finish area, distribute (then collect) bibs, welcome racers, parents and coaches, work as controllers on course, start crew, finish line crew, volunteer support, race results and finally handing out awards and clean up! The reward for all this effort is the smiles on the faces of the racers young and old as they test themselves on the course, meet friends new and old, and generally have a great day outside! Please consider becoming a volunteer with our racing crew. No particular skiing ability is necessary. It will enhance your experience if you understand the format and structure of the race so an Officials Course is offered by Nordic Canada. The Level One is available online. Any fees will be reimbursed by BSC. Becoming a trained Official will make your volunteer experience more fulfilling as well as making you a valuable asset to the Club.

- Officials Level 1 online in Locker, \$25:

When you sign up to be a BSC member please check off the "willing to help at races" box and if you choose to take the Official Level 1 course, please email me at mpsuke@gmail.com

Looking forward to meeting many new members on our Racing Crew. _____ 

Georgian Bay Nordic

Michelle Lafleur

Back on Track: GBN Skiers Kick Off Training Season

Georgian Bay Nordic (GBN) is excited to welcome four new young skiers to the team this fall! All of these athletes got their start in the Bruce Ski Club's Jackrabbits program and are now stepping up their training with GBN. Dryland workouts are already underway at Sawmill, and the team is gearing up for snow season—ready to hit the trails as soon as the first flakes fall!

Earlier this year, four GBN athletes—**Olivia Abbott, Santiago Guzman, Juliette Lafleur, and Liam Law**—were named to the Southern Ontario District (SOD) Team based on their results in the SOD Paraffin Series races. As part of the SOD Team, these skiers will have access to training camps, nutrition workshops, and other valuable resources to help them progress in the sport and compete at higher levels. **Liam Law** has also earned a spot in the Team Ontario Development Program and will take part in the Ontario Excellence Camp later this fall.

GBN is also proud to celebrate our graduating athletes. **Aleida Nelson** is now skiing for the UBC Thunderbirds Nordic club while attending the University of British Columbia. Her brother, **Aidan Nelson**, will be racing for the Carleton Ravens Nordic Team in Ottawa—setting up a fun family rivalry between the Thunderbirds and the Ravens! Joining Aidan at Carleton is GBN alum **Sebastian Van Wieringen**, who previously coached Track Attack for the Bruce Ski Club. **Alex Scheifele** is racing with the Lakehead Thunderwolves Nordic Ski

Team in Thunder Bay and recently completed a tough 80-km trail running race in Minnesota. Congratulations to **Janna Wardell**, who graduated from the University of Guelph where she raced with the Guelph Gryphons team.

Meanwhile, **Julian Smith**, a proud Oxenden native and long-time GBN athlete, continues to represent Ontario, SOD, and GBN on the international stage. He is currently training with the National Team Development Centre (NTDC) in Thunder Bay. He has recently been elected to two national boards as an athlete representative—a testament to his leadership in the sport.

At GBN, we love seeing our athletes thrive long after they leave the club. Whether they're racing at the university level or representing Canada internationally, they prove that skiing truly is a lifelong sport!

Pure Grit Trail Race: A Community Favourite

Last May, GBN once again hosted the popular **GEI Pure Grit Trail Race** at Sawmill Trails. The annual fundraising event featured distances for all levels, from a fun 2.5 km kids' race to a gruelling 6-hour ultra. The race was a big success, drawing many familiar faces to run, volunteer, or cheer on participants. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make it such a great day!

Want to Join GBN? Registration Is Open!

If you're a skier **born in 2015 or earlier**, have experience with both classic and skate techniques, and are interested in racing, we'd love to hear from you!

Our head coach, **Matt Nelson**, is happy to meet with prospective skiers and their parents prior to registration. For more details or to set up a meeting, please contact Matt at gbnpre@gmail.com.



Come
ski
with us!



Volunteering

Paula Wilcox

The Bruce Ski Club offers several opportunities to volunteer, as you may have read about in the newsletter, and we can always use more help. You will see the options available when you complete your registration but also feel free to ask any Executive or other club members if you are new to the club.

Community engagement is known to benefit one's health and well-being by reducing stress and improving happiness. It can boost self-esteem and confidence, help to gain new skill and experiences, expand your network of friends with a shared interest and build valuable connections. Besides personal benefits, volunteering makes a positive impact in our community. It helps to strengthen ties with others and can provide us with a strong sense of fulfillment. Come and explore if you are interested!



Special Olympics

Laura Howlett

Owen Sound Waxwings and Central Bruce Snowgliders will be starting our dryland training in October, and look forward to skiing at the Hepworth trails every Saturday starting Saturday, January 3. We look forward to new athletes joining our group. Our athletes will all be competing this season, getting ready for the Ontario Provincial Games in North Bay, winter of 2027.



Ski Lessons

Heidi Tones

Are you interested in having individual or small group ski lessons? I am a retired high school teacher and ski coach. All proceeds will go to help our son, Julian Smith, who, as a GBN alumni, trains at NTDC Thunder Bay and races around the world. If you have any questions, or would like to arrange lessons, please reach me at smith.tones@gmail.com or 519-477-8870.



Changes to Executive

Ron Downie has retired from the BSC Executive. Ron became one of the BSC grooming team in 2017. He joined Harry, Niel, Zane and Fred and has groomed for 8 years. His move to the area and his farming background made him a great candidate to get involved in this winter activity. Having familiarity with heavy machinery, he was a natural and grooming was an easy transition. He always took pride in doing a good job and his grooming skills were excellent. His background also enhanced our ability to troubleshoot and look after the equipment. Thank you for your eight years of grooming and several years as head groomer. We wish you all the best in your new endeavours.

Deborah Downie has also retired from her position as secretary. We hope to see you both on the trails continuing to help with our races.

Welcome to Kate Allan who has joined the Executive as our secretary and to Rick Graham who has taken over as head groomer for Sawmill!



Thank you to the following

October 2026



Patrons

Southampton Rotary Club
Midwestern Communications
Suntrail Source for Adventure
Anne Louise McArthur &
Brian O'Doherty

Manwell Family
van Wieringen Family
Joe Slade/Nanci Cameron
Kristal McGee
Williams Family
Purdon Ostertag
Reece-Chin Yut Family
Kemble Mountain Maple
Products

Donna Boyd
Allison Hooper
Colin Saunders
Clare Matthews
Carolyn Renuz & Brian
Putnam
The MacDonald family
Lloyd Lewis
Yuhasz-Bell Family
Abbott Wouters Family
Betty Barber
Runner's Den
Bakker Family
Paula Lockyer
Laura Swanson & Shane
Robins
Anna Roginska & Luke
Bagatto
Carrie Currie
Kathryn & Steve Jarvis

Donna Paterson
Rick and Kelly Danard
Michael Jeavons
Linda Mason
Rusk Family
Scholten Venizelos Family
Lawson's
Benedict Family
Erin Stoddart
Richard Orr/Cindy Razum
Michael & Susan Cockburn
Rodriguez Family
Christina Milani
Greg Nicol
Luders/Shaw Family
Carley Cook
Keri-Lyn Durant
Mary Woude
Bruce Smith
Beaumier/Syrett Family

Sponsors

Ani and Don Eby
Vandorp-Hodgkinson Family
Howlett Family
The Downie Family
Beth & Steph Lowe
John Tamming and Wendy Bye
Connie & Andy Poste
Shirley Holmes
Isaac Shouldice/Emily
Vincent
Judith and Thomas Nagel
Dan and Jackie Mersich
Tones-Smith Family
Marg Sanborn
Ruth and Fred
Groh Chun Family
Wilcox Family
Julie Rice
Nelson Family
Pet Valu Owen Sound
(Norm Bell)
Bruce Robinson
The Seibert-Mosher Family
Erin and Aiden Schenkels
Ann West & Bill Moriarty
Ayden/Tony/Jack/Tara

Friends

Brian & Rona Lynn Ferguson
Marsha McLean/Dan Purdon
Sandy Stevenson
The Chesser Family
Davies Straby Family
Matthies Family
ANDROD Construction
Wardell Family
Leo Verschuren & Terrie
Thompson
Mike & Franziska Edney
Tobin Day
McFarlane Family
Jeremy Luyt and Catherine
McKinnon
Kimberly & Michael Murphy
Waterton-Scriver Family
Marcy & Bruce McGill
Andrea Dawber & Daniel
Kleiman
The Mackay Family
Joy Ward
Ken Clarke
Carol Masse

Our Landowners

Grey Sauble Conservation Authority
Ron Gatis
Kiwaniis Whispering Pines Campground
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
The Spencer Family
Pura Vida Ranch
Laura McNamara & Bevan Ratcliffe
The Bruce Trail Conservancy
Georgian Bluffs

Bruce Ski Club Executive, 2024-25

President - Dan Purdon	519-477-5330	president@bruceskiclub.ca
Web/Facebook - Jill Graham	519-379-9821	jillgraham.outdoor@gmail.com
Secretary - Kate Allan	226-668-1128	kateallan@rogers.com
Treasurer - Andrew Howlett	519-376-2203	treasurer@bruceskiclub.ca
Registrar - Heidi Tones	519-477-8870	smith.tones@gmail.com
Colpoys Trail Capt - Benito Guzman	647-982-4704	benitoguzmanibarguen@gmail.com
Sawmill Nordic Centre:		
Facilities Manager - Fred Schlenker	226-668-9403	schlenkerfred@gmail.com
Sawmill Trail Captain - Rick Graham	519-378-3355	rajkdgraham@gmail.com
Jackrabbits Coordinator- Erin Scheel	416-371-1484	jackrabbits@bruceskiclub.ca
GBN Liaison - Nora Scott	416-558-4847	noramargaretscott@gmail.com
Race Coordinator - Marilyn Suke	519-374-4227	mpsuke@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor - Paula Wilcox	519-494-6512	piwilcox@icloud.com

Early Bird!



Until Nov. 30th

The Bruce Ski Club would like to thank

MIDWESTERN
COMMUNICATIONS

for the printing of this newsletter.