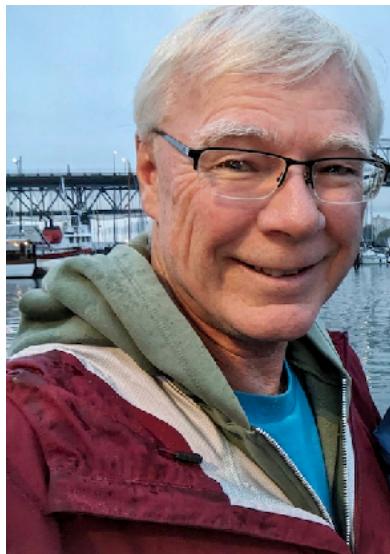


What a treat to have the early snow!

From the President

Dan Purdon



How exciting to be starting this newsletter with snow on the ground. Sawmill trails are open and Colpoys trails are being packed as I write this note. With the early cold temperatures and snowfall it is a great start to the 2025/2026 Cross Country Season. My thanks as always to the club volunteers who continue to work

behind the scenes in particular to ensure the Sawmill and Colpoys trails are ready to go when "the snow flies". This includes a special thanks for an excellent response by club members to support the fall trail cleanup at both trails in preparation for the ski season. It's a lot of work with many hands making lighter work.

Early registration for the club membership and Jackrabbit participation went well again this year. Next year's registration will likely be moving to an email only notice format. We continue to work on our day pass system to expand upon the current Suntrail Source for Sports option and a "cashless QR Code" option at both trail heads.

Considerable work went into the development of two new trails to add to the Sawmill system. A third trail on the actual landfill site "mound" will complete the three trail extension led by Dave White on Township of Georgian Bluffs property. The new trail will offer an open exposed loop connected to

the two largely forested trails opened over the past two seasons. A new connector trail on the property of the Kiwanis Club will connect Grunt to the Christmas Tree Run using the former snowmobile trail and this trail extension has been led by Fred Schlenker. The early winter may delay the opening of this trail to next season. Look for an opportunity to name the new trail(s) at our next AGM.

We continue to upgrade and replace grooming equipment at both trails with a new skidoo on order and expected any day now. Plans and designs are being developed for the construction of a possible packer for the Sawmill grooming system as we continue to review how best to groom our trails for both recreational and more competitive skiers.

Finally Andrew Howlett, a longtime Director has resigned from his Director's position with the club. Fortunately for us, he will remain as our Treasurer and on the Executive which is a relief, as over his time, he has worked tirelessly on behalf of the club. We also know that he only tells us half of what he does. Thanks Andrew for all that you've done and hopefully this move will free up some time for other things and pursuits.

That being said we are now looking for a new Director; ideally with a financial background that will bring our five person Board back to full complement. If you are interested or have questions on what Directors do then please contact me at president@bruceeskiclub.ca or any of the Directors for further information.

Please read further on in this newsletter for information, news and dates of note for the upcoming season.

Happy Skiing and Best of the Holiday Season. 

Upcoming Events

Ski Club Exchange Dates

- Jan. 4 - 10, 2026 Sauble Beach
- Jan. 11 - 17, 2026 Glenelg
- Jan. 18 - 24, 2026 Owen Sound
- Jan. 25 - 31, 2026 Beaver Valley

Interclub, Southern Ontario District Races

January 13, 2026 - Great Wolf (Delay date

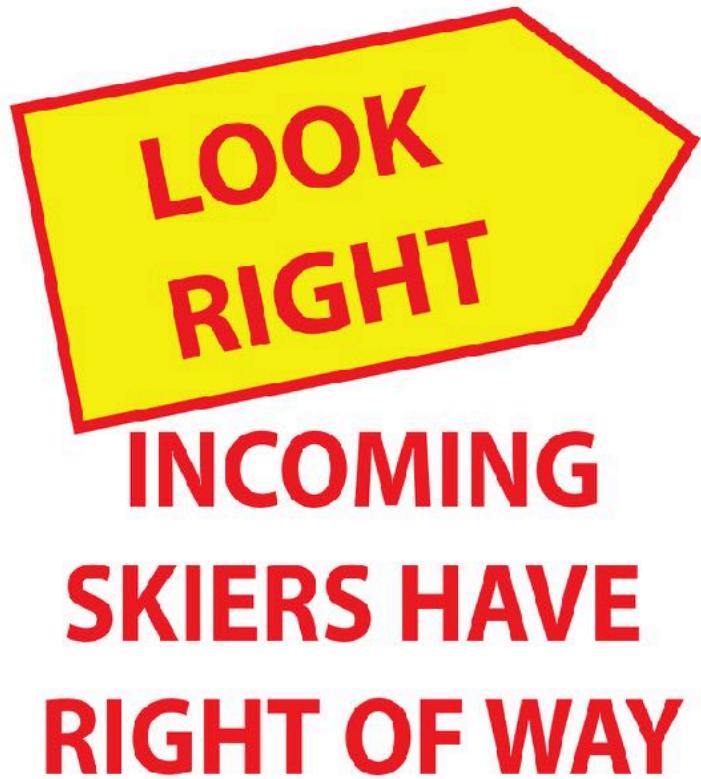
January 15)

February 1, 2026 - Community Classic

February 9, 2026 - CWOSSA (hosted by St. Mary's) Delay date February 13

February 15, 2026 - Suntrail Special

between consecutive Freefalls! The intersection is well signed, complete with a 'do not enter sign' to prevent you from going the wrong way on Grunt. Please give incoming skiers lots of space as they descend the first hill on Grunt and attempt the sharp turn at the bottom.



**Sawmill
Nordic
Centre**

Facilities Manager

Fred Schlenker

Looks like a good early start to the season. All systems go!

My apologies for not managing to get the new trail section up and running before it was covered in snow. This is mostly due to not acquiring a bulldozer and operator of choice in time. Rest assured, it will be in place for next season.

In the meantime, the intersection at the bottom of the first hill on Grunt is in place. You can now approach the second leg of grunt by a two-way connector trail that joins to the intersection of Christmas Tree Run and Kiwanis Loop. In the past, this section of trail was a one-way section you could use to avoid completing Grunt and Freefall with a safe return back to Christmas Tree Run. Now you can use it in the opposite direction to shorten the distance

Chris Hodgkinson has volunteered to maintain the lit loop section of our trail. At the time of writing this, he is in the process of replacing burned-out bulbs as needed. If you notice lights out on this season, please bring it to his attention at chris.nlvia@gmail.com or 519 377 0447. 



December 2025

Chainsaw Course

The chainsaw training course was held in early October with the practice trees located on the new section of trail that is being added next season.

Front row from left: Ken Goldsmith (trainer), Mark Powell and Clare Matthews

Back row from left: Steve Weatherhead, Benito Guzman, Justin Weatherhead

Fred Schlenker also attended for re-certification. 



Sawmill Trail Captain

Rick Graham

Early Snow means Early Skiing

I want to welcome our three new groomers at Sawmill: Brett Duncan, Sam Standolof and Fred Schlenker.

Looking forward to a great snowy season. 



Colpoys Ski Trail
Benito Guzman

The team here at Colpoys Trails has been busy getting ready for a fantastic season!

We've been hard at work on the trails:

- Removing some recently fallen trees.
- Fine-tuning our equipment.
- Starting the initial packing!

We're now ready to begin the full grooming process and are also dedicating time to a new trail that we think you're going to love!

We are anticipating a great season ahead, and we truly hope to see you out on the trails soon!

Happy Skiing,
The Colpoys Team
Eli, Andy, and Benito



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:

<https://thelocker.coach.ca/onlinelearning#CC-O-E>

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. 

Special Olympics

Laura Howlett

The Special Olympics Nordic ski team has just completed six weeks of dryland training right before the arrival of our first snow. We've done more sport-specific training this year, working on balance and weight transfer. In this regional qualifying year, we are looking forward to participating in the Suntrail Special and other races. Some of our skiers have already been out to check out the conditions!



Request for volunteers:

Saturday, February 21st is the central district regional snowshoe qualifier at the StoneTree golf club. We are looking for full and half day volunteers to act as timers, officials and other helpers. No special qualifications— just enthusiasm. If you think you could be able to spare some time, please email :

owensound.snowshoeing@specialolympicsontario.ca

Look for us on the trails January 4! 

Registrar

Heidi Tones

The snow has come early and we hope you are out enjoying the beautiful trails! Be sure to wear your BSC ski fob (which can be picked up from Suntrail once you have registered!)

If you are a coach, make sure your athletes have joined or completed paperwork BEFORE you take athletes to the trails.

If you are a community member and want to bring a group to our trails, email me for fees and forms: smith.tones@gmail.com

See you on the trails

Residents of Georgian Bluffs

The **Bruce Ski Club** and **Georgian Bluffs** have a partnership, which provides residents of Georgian Bluffs with complimentary access to the Bruce Ski Club's scenic trails on the first Sunday of January and March, and the second Sunday of February.

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.



Jackrabbits' "Rabbit Report"

Erin Scheel

The snow is flying and our Jackrabbit coordinators are gearing up for a wonderful season ahead. We've had an overwhelming (in a positive way) registration session and our program is FULL! We will run all levels of the program led by a great team of volunteer coaches; if you'd like to become an Assistant Coach, we are always looking for more, reach out to jr-coaching@bruceskiclub.ca.

NEW this year is our CommuniSki 'pilot' program for skiers ~10-14 who've completed up to L3 jackrabbits and would like some social ski time with peers. If you have a child or friend interested, please reach out to jackrabbits@bruceskiclub.ca. While the core program is full, this group could accommodate more skiers, so long as they are beyond their learn-to-ski phase.

January 3, 2026 @ 10 AM you'll see the Jackrabbits hit the trails in Hepworth... come for the spectacle, stay for a ski!



Featuring GBN!

Athlete: Lorelei Angus



Age: 16 years old
Favourite event or distance: I love the 5 km, and Lakefield OCup
Racing pet peeve: When I overheat
Advice for a new Nordic skier: A buff is your best friend, and always bring layers
Buff, toque or baseball cap? Buff
Most memorable race? Mono Nordic when I was a new skier - I hit a tree going down an icy hill!
Favourite waffle toppings? Yogurt
How do you stay warm? Lots of layers
Pre-race snack? Gogo Squeez or banana
Favourite trail and why? Paperclip, but only when the snow is fast because it flows well, and it's fun!

Athlete: Juliette Lafleur



Age: 14 years old
Favourite event or distance: I like classic mass starts. They're less chaotic than skate mass starts.
Racing pet peeve: When my grip is not gripping!
Advice for a new Nordic skier: Warm up your mitts and boots with a heat gun before you head out!

Buff, toque or baseball cap? Headband
Most memorable race? Team Sprints with my friend Gillian from Highlands Nordic. It was fun being able to race with our friends from other clubs. And we won! Go team Tall and Small!
Favourite waffle toppings? Maple syrup
How do you stay warm? I put tape on my face, and I jump around
Pre-race snack? Cliff Shot Bloks
Favourite trail and why? Humpty Dumpty and New Trail, because they feel so unexplored, and the hills are fun!

Athlete: Liam Law



Age: 14 years old
Favourite event or distance: I like skate skiing more because of the high speeds, precise technique needed and I am definitely better at it than classic.
Racing pet peeve: My biggest racing pet peeve is when people talk to me or ask me questions before my

race. Gotta be in the zone!

Advice for a new Nordic skier: If a young Nordic skier was about to race, I would tell them to push hard where other people would try to take

a break, like at the top of a hill or on the long flats.

Buff, toque or baseball cap? I love my GBN racing toque - gotta represent!
Most memorable race? My most memorable race is Youth Champs 2025, Day 2 classic race. I was neck and neck with another racer the entire race. At the end of the race, a U10 racer got in my way in the final stretch and I ended up coming 2nd by 0.40 seconds. SO CLOSE!
Favourite waffle toppings? I love covering my waffles in Canadian water or whatever the Europeans call maple syrup!
How do you stay warm? Dancing at the start line....do the bunny hop, hop, hop, hop!
Pre-race snack? My two favourites are Fettuccini Alfredo (it's my secret weapon!) or Scratch Energy Chews from the Runner's Den!
Favourite trail and why? Jackrabbit is my favourite trail. It's the first trail I ever skied on, and I try to make it the first trail I go to. It's a great warm-up trail!

Coach: Jack Van Dorp



How long have you coached Nordic skiing? I honestly don't remember! Probably getting close to 15 years
Did you ski as a child? Yes! Starting on plastic noma skis with boot straps and 3 pins then progressing through jackrabbits and GBN.

What motivates you as a coach? Seeing athletes grow as athletes and human beings

Advice would you give a new Nordic skier: Get time on snow and watch how good skiers ski

Coaching pet peeve: Too much talking, not enough skiing.

Favourite waffle toppings: Peanut butter and maple syrup

How long can you wax on about wax? Wax is probably one of my least favourite aspects of the sport. I love our wax techs and the expertise they bring in the wax room!

Favourite après-ski beverage: A protein shake

Favourite trail and why: Jackrabbit climbs into Sheldon's for maximum climbing pleasure.



A BSC Mystery

Marilyn Suke

Last season, in the hut at Sawmill Trails, there appeared a mysterious object from a mysterious place! In Gerry's Place, as many of you may have noticed, we acquired a mounted race bib from the 2010 Olympics. It would appear that it is Daria Gaiazova's signed bib from the Canadian Women's relay team.

Daria (also known appropriately as Dasha) was born in Russia in 1983. She emigrated to Canada in 1999 and, as a member of our National team, represented Canada on the World Cup circuit from 2006 to 2014. Daria seemed to have had her most outstanding results as a member of a relay team, placing 7th with Sara Renner in the 2010 Olympics, 3rd with Chandra Crawford in a World Cup the same year and 3rd again with Ottawa native Perianne Jones in 2013. She has been a Canadian Champion for 14 years.

Dasha (now Atkins) currently resides in Calgary where she coaches through Nordic Ski Lab and is on a Master's racing team known as Space Dogs. She is regarded as one of Canada's top adult ski coaches.

Does anyone know how we acquired this valuable piece of Canadian Nordic memorabilia?



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December 2025



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