

SKI TRACKER

AGM Oct. 26/22, Heartwood Hall

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 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:



Logging at the Sawmill Nordic Centre

As many of you have noticed there is logging going on at

the Sawmill Nordic Centre. We are hoping that this will be complete prior to the arrival of snow. For this reason we have not scheduled a trail clean-up day. We anticipate that a lot of work will be required to put the trails back in order. So when the day comes, it would be great if we can get a large turn out to fix up the trails. Please be advised that **the Sawmill trails are closed to the public during the logging operation. No biking, no hiking, etc.!** Please keep in mind that we do not own any of the property our trails are located on and we have to respect the wishes of our land owners, In this case the Conservation Authority has asked that we respect their request.

Sold Piston Bully and Purchased New Diesel Kubota Groomer

Recognizing that climate change is reducing the amount of snow we are receiving, the executive decided to sell our large 30 foot piston bully groomer that has only been used a few times in the last two seasons. In its place, we have purchased a Kubota Side by Side with tracks that can pull our grooming equipment.

Hydro Service Upgrade at Gerry's Place Warmup Cabin

Again on the climate change initiatives, we have upgraded the electrical service at Gerry's place to 200 amps. This will enable us to replace the propane heater with an electrical heater. This upgrade will also provide more expansion options in the future to the grooming shed and perhaps an expansion to the lit loop.

Expansion of the Parking Lot at the Sawmill Nordic Centre

As part of the logging taking place at the Sawmill the Conservation Authority has agreed to allow us to expand the parking lot. This will enable us to have complete on-site parking during busy events. This will be much safer than cars parking on the highway.

Annual General Meeting Heartwood Hall October 26th, 2022, 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

I am pleased to report that we are going to return to the Heartwood Concert Hall in downtown Owen Sound for our dinner and AGM on October 26th, 2022. So come on out and share some stories with fellow club members. Enjoy samosa or pizza and a craft beer, wine or cider. This event is open to club members and their spouses and family.



Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2022, 7:00 p.m.,
Bruce Ski Club Annual General Meeting,
Heartwood Hall, 939 3rd Ave. E., Owen Sound
Ski Exchanges with Neighbour Clubs

Jan 7 to 14/23: Sauble Beach Cross Country Ski Club

Jan 14 to 21/23: Glenelg Nordic Ski Club

Jan 22 to 28/23: Owen Sound Cross Country Ski Club

Feb 12 to 18/23: Beaver Valley Nordic Ski Club

Other Important Club Dates

Oct. 29/22, 10:00 a.m.: Colpoys' Clean-up

Nov. 12/22: Ski Swap

Nov. - To Be Determined: Sawmill Clean-up

Nov. 14/22: End Of Early Bird Registration

Nov. 20 & Dec. 18: Jackrabbit Coaching Courses

Jan. 7/23-Mar. 4/23: Jackrabbits-Sat. mornings

Feb. 5/23: Suntrail Special

Mar. 5/23: Community Classic

Mar. 4/23: Jackrabbit Carnival

After the Social, we will have a short AGM where we will talk about future plans and listen to any ideas our members have on the operation of the club. What should our next projects be? Expand the lit loop? Build more trails into the abandoned landfill site adjacent to the Kiwanis Campground? Build a picnic shelter for groups to gather? We are interested in any ideas you may have. So come on out and have a good night.

Memberships

Membership registration will again be 100% online this year. Registration will open on October 15th and early bird special pricing ends on November 14th. Please see the registrar's report in this newsletter. (See below.)

Ski Swap

The ski swap will be held at Suntrail Source for Adventure on November 12th 2022. Details are contained in this newsletter. (Page 5)

Jackrabbit Program


The Jackrabbit program will return to normal this year. We are looking for some new coaches to fill some vacancies. Without coaches we cannot run our program and/or will have to reduce the number of

kids that we can accept. Please look at the Jackrabbit report in this newsletter for details. (Page 3)

In conclusion

As I say every year... Bruce Ski Club operates the most affordable, accessible, and best maintained trails in Ontario. We accomplish this because of the strength of our volunteers. Regardless of how small or large your contribution, **you** make the club happen.

A special thank you to our many Sponsors and Friends who contribute to make this club affordable for everyone. Thank you to our patron, Suntrail Source for Adventure. In addition to supporting the club as a Patron, Suntrail sponsors many of our events, including the Ski Swap, Men and Women on Skis and Suntrail Special.

Lastly, I remind you that the 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 our land owners, please thank them personally for sharing their property. _____ 

Registration

Heidi Tones

Welcome back for another exciting season of skiing and snowshoeing! Registration opens Saturday, October 15, 2022 and **we are pleased to let you know that the fees will be the same this year.**


Once again registration will be easy to complete directly on zone4.ca, or you can go to bruceskiclub.ca and click on Membership, then "Join Today". The Early Bird fees end Monday, November 14th, 2022.

Many people like to purchase day passes for friends and family. This can be done at the trails, where you can pay

cash or e-transfer (etransfer@bruceskiclub.ca), or they can also be purchased at Suntrail for a nominal additional \$2 fee. (Remember, if you ski 8 or 9 times, it is more cost effective to purchase a membership.)

Be sure to take your receipt into Suntrail to get your sticker and place it on your fob to show you are a member in good standing.

If you organize a local/school group and wish to use the trails, please email me to discuss forms and group fees: smith.tones@gmail.com.


Finally, much of the work is done by volunteers (which keeps our fees down) so please check off a volunteer job(s) when registering! _____ 

Special Olympics

Laura Howlett

Special Olympics Owen Sound and Port Elgin Cross Country ski teams look forward to a new season which will be a national games qualifying year. The Owen Sound



group plans dry land training Saturday October 29 in Harrison Park, with both groups starting back on snow at Sawmill Saturday January 7. We are excited to welcome at least one new skier! _____ 

Jackrabbits

Dave White

Jackrabbits is looking forward to another great winter of skiing. Registration will be open as of October 15 on Zone 4. The season will start on January 7 at 10:00 am. The last session will be March 4.


This year we are planning to run an Adventurers' Program if there is sufficient interest. It will be aimed at skiers who have completed level 3. Each week the Adventurers will travel to a different local trail system (i.e., Sauble Cross Country Ski Trails, Massie Ski Trails, Colpoy's Ski Trail, etc). At present we are still looking for a second coach for this program.

November 20 and December 18, Marilyn Suke will be instructing a Community Coaching course at the Sawmill Nordic Centre. Prospective coaches will need to have completed the NCCP Introduction to Coaching and the Introduction to Community Coaching XC ski course prior to taking the Community Coaching course. This is a great opportunity to improve your knowledge of cross country skiing. This course is open to skiers 14 years and older.


At present there is no registration for Track Attack. We do not have coaches for this level. Please reach out to

the coordinators if you are interested in coaching this level.

We are looking for someone to take the lead in organizing the Carnival. You will have support from the Jackrabbits coordinators to run this event. Without a lead for the Carnival this event will not take place this season.

Jackrabbits is a volunteer run program. Please reach out to the Jackrabbit coordinators- jackrabbits@bruceskiclub.ca if you have time to volunteer to help out. 

More on the proposed Jackrabbit Adventurers' Group


I would like to re-start a Jackrabbits Adventurers' group this winter. This group will ski every Saturday morning at a different trail. We will try to visit every trail within 30 minutes of Owen Sound and maybe a few others. All trails will be classic style; all jackrabbits must have completed level 3 (or ski with me and demonstrate ability). But we need two more adult volunteers. This is an opportunity for adults who are less interested in coaching skills but would like to help young skiers discover new trails. If this sounds like something that you are interested in, please contact me for more details. Andrew Howlett, andrew@howlett.net. 




Sawmill Nordic Centre Grooming

Fred Schlenker

Ron Downie

The hydro has been upgraded to a 200 amp service. This means more electricity for the wax irons! 

Loggers have taken over at Sawmill; there are no trail preparations happening at this time, but the good news is our new RTV Kubota machine has arrived! 





Colpoys Ski Trail

Richard Bonert

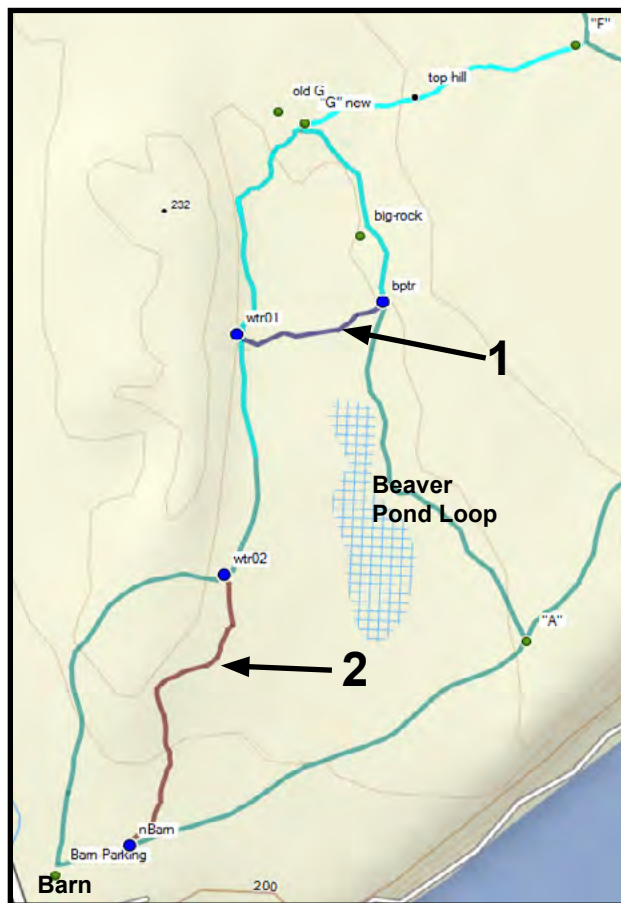
Thanks to our land owners, Ron Gatis, and Bevan Ratcliffe & Laura McNamara, who are welcoming us back for the winter! Furthermore, we have a new land owner. The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) bought land from Ron Gatis, which is the new Colpoys Bay East Nature Reserve. This will fortunately not change our trails. As cross country skiing is considered a low impact activity, we asked and received from the BTC, a land use agreement which secures the groomed trails as we know them. Thanks to the BTC. Our club is used to working this way; as you know the Sawmill trails are on Grey Sauble Conservation land.

The new solid shed we got last winter is great. It keeps our equipment well protected throughout the winter and we can now also store all the posts and signs on site.

Many of you likely remember the bad flooding we had at the north end of the Beaver Pond Trail in 2020/21, which resulted in some trail reroutes at the north end (point G) for 2021/22. This reroute required a left turn at the bottom of the hill coming from east. This turn at some speed was not easy. As we could not do better due to weather for the last season, we did it now and one can again go straight to the relocated new point "G" and enjoy the down hill run. That is, if you liked that hill at all.

There are two more changes in the west section of our trails, which were proposed last spring and supported by the land owner. The new sections are nearly ready for the 2022/23 season. The changes are shown on the map of the western trails. They are: 1 - A short connection between the West Trail and the Beaverpond Trail (wtr01-bptr).

2 - A connection from the West Trail to the Barn (wtr02-nBarn).




These changes will provide shorter loops closer to parking and offer a ski that avoids the often very windy open section, Barn to "A". Details have still to be worked out and a revised map will be posted.

To get the trails in shape, a work party is planned for Saturday, October 29th at 10 am, 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 of helping 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 about the trails, 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.

Your team of Richard, the trail captain, and Neil, the groomer, are looking forward to their fifth season to have the trails in shape for you to enjoy for the new season, 2022/2023. See you on the Colpoys Trails.

Your Trail Captain,
Richard 

Race Report

Marilyn Suke

We will again be hosting racing at Sawmill trails this season. As in previous years, the Suntrail Special, part of the Southern Ontario race series will be our premier event, but a number of School races will be held as well. These are wonderful opportunities for our young skiers to gain some local race experience and a great chance for the rest of us to volunteer at a fun, high energy event. There are all kinds of opportunities both inside and out

for all kinds of skill sets. Please check off on your registration that you would be available to help.

In addition, Nordiq Canada (formerly Cross Country Canada) offers officials' courses that provide education for those who wish to fill the start/finish area positions. In fact, a Level 2 Officials' Course is being offered in Lakefield, ON on Nov. 19-20. The prerequisite is the **on-line** Level 1 Course. For more info, contact Marilyn Suke ASAP. (mpsuke@gmail.com) 


Coach Training

Marilyn Suke

It is said that our kids deserve coaches who offer more than just enthusiasm. Now I am a great fan of enthusiasm! However, it is also important that coaches understand the basics of working with learning skiers: the progressions of teaching skills, the windows of optimum learning and trainability and ways to make skill acquisition fun and effective. These skills are as important for

Jackrabbit coaches as they are for High School, GBN and National team coaches.

To this end we are offering both an Introduction to Community Coaching and a Community Coaching course this fall. Much of this course is now done online but there is a part day in person as well as extensive (five hours) learning on snow.

Please contact me (mpsuke@gmail.com), or Dave White (Jackrabbit coordinator) if you are interested. _____ 


Georgian Bay Nordic

Marilyn Suke and Matt Nelson

GBN is up and running, preparing for on-snow racing via fall dryland training. GBN has one formal practice per week until Thanksgiving, then twice per week. Athletes also take advantage of weekend and camp training opportunities. Our first GBN Fall Camp was on September 17/18. As part of the camp, GBN participated in the Terry Fox Run.

GBN has about 25 athletes registered so far for 2022/2023 and are always looking for more (ages 10 to 18). If you are interested in joining, please email gbnpres@gmail.com.

GBN received a ~ \$9,000 grant from Sport, Culture Tourism for tent, wax, and training equipment. This will help the club immensely with the lack of fundraising over the last several years on account of COVID. The Suntrail Pure Grit Trail Race held in June was a success, with many athletes from the area, but also further afoot including GTA and Ottawa. It was nice to get back out with


athletes and enjoy the trails. The pre-cut of the trails was very helpful and people enjoyed themselves immensely. Thanks to BSC for continued support. _____ 



Ski Swap 2022-23

Andrew Howlett

Yes, we will do a ski swap this year. Bring your stuff to Suntrail between November 5 and November 11. Make sure all your equipment is well marked with your tag number and that your name and telephone number are on the tag. The ski swap will be on Saturday November 12th. 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 to look at the stuff, check sizes. 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 stuff, then Bruce Ski Club will dispose of it as we see fit. 5

Sawmill There may not be any preparations at the trail itself, but Ron is still getting ready with the help (?) of grandchildren, Parker and Bruce. _____ 



Thank you to the following

October 2022



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**DON'T FORGET THE AGM
OCT. 26 at HEARTWOOD HALL
AND THE SKI SWAP NOV. 12
AT SUNTRAIL OUTFITTERS**

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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



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