

SKI TRACKER

Farewell, Winter 2024 (and good riddance!)

From the President

Mike Campbell

That's a Wrap!

Dear Ski Enthusiasts,

This is my last president's report prior to retirement. After nine years as president, it is time to hand over the reins. I would like to thank the executive and board of directors and many volunteers that have worked with me over the years to make our club a great ski community.



We have a new president, Dan Purdon, who has been involved with the club for many years and will do a great job.


Most of the existing executive are coming back, and we have a new Trail Captain, Benito Guzman, at the Colpoys Trail, and new newsletter editor, Paula Wilcox.

The 2023-24 ski season was wrapped up at our well-attended AGM at the Heartwood Hall. It was a fun night where we ran a contest to name our new trail and I was



honoured to receive the coveted Bruce Ski Club Jacket. Thank you guys!

In spite of the lack of snow the club is in great shape. We have money in the bank, a great volunteer base and landowners that very generously allow us to use their land.

Hope everyone has a great summer and we will see you out on the trails next fall. _____ 

Retiring President

Ruth Scheel

Mike Campbell has been the President of our ski club for the past nine years. He has brought a new image to our club. The club's profile is much more recognizable with new signage and a more current image.


We came through the COVID years with an influx of membership and many of the new members have continued to support the club. This is in part due to Mike's calm and professional leadership.



Our AGM in the past would be a sad affair with very little input from the membership at large. Mike has changed this by making it a social event at a special venue.

During Mike's tenure as president, climate change has impacted our club with a reduction of ski days from 157 days to 47 days this past winter. This has required major equipment changes which Mike has supported during these tough snow times. We have great equipment to deal with the snow conditions at the present.

We presented Mike with a BSC jacket at the AGM in recognition of his service to the the club.

We will miss Mike but look forward to working with our new President. Thank you, Mike! _____ 



Important Club Dates

May 4/24: [Pure Grit Trail Race](#)

Oct. 6/24: [Bruce Peninsula Gravel Fondo](#)


Registrar

Heidi Tones

As registrar for the BSC, I would like to thank everyone for volunteering for the many jobs that it takes to help our club run smoothly. Most tasks are small, but together we get the jobs done, and... keep our yearly fees down. We have not raised our fees in years!

Watch for the Early Bird Special in the fall when we open up registration. As always, if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me. Suntrail will also have a laptop with access to zone4.ca and they are super helpful!

Lastly, if you have questions or need help registering for Jack Rabbits, please contact Erin Scheel at jackrabbits@bruceskiclub.ca.

See you on the trails. _____ 

Georgian Bay Nordic

Michelle Lafleur


GBN goes to Nationals!

Over 750 athletes from across Canada and the United States competed at Nordiq Canada Ski Nationals at the Nakkertok Nordic Ski Centre over the March Break.

GBN was well represented by athletes Lorelei Angus, Ellen Groh, Olivier Lafleur, and Aleida Nelson, who traveled to Ottawa for their first trip to Nationals. Also competing were GBN alumni Aidan Nelson, Alex Scheifele, Sebastian Van Wieringen, and Julian Smith. GBN athletes and families were thrilled to see Julian on the podium after he won silver in the open men's 10 km free race.

The week held many other thrills and spills with Mother Nature throwing organizers one curve ball after another,

leading to race cancellations, rerouting, and rescheduling. Our athletes handled themselves with grace and determination throughout, but they were not alone. It was truly a family affair. Younger siblings pitched in, digging trenches in the snow to help drain the stadium; coaches scrambled to rejig training schedules; parents changed meal plans and found outlets for energetic athletes with itchy feet, and the wax team worked their magic trying to provide some glide in sticky conditions.

The final day of skiing felt like a farewell to winter with temperatures reaching +12° C. While spectators were sunning themselves on the sidelines, skiers slogged through the slush on the tough 7.5 km free race. We witnessed a selfless act of kindness by one of our skiers, who used her momentum to help a struggling skier finish the race. Now that's what I call sportsmanship! Kudos to all GBN athletes for persevering during a difficult season, and a heartfelt thank you to all our supporters! _____ 



Julian on the Podium

Heidi Tones

The US Nationals and SuperTour Finals were held March 21 - 26 in Duluth, Minnesota, USA. As the final SuperTour of the racing season, some of the very best skiers in Canada and the US who just came back from World Cup racing were in attendance. Julian Smith had some great race results.

On Saturday March 23rd, the senior men raced a 1.3 km classic sprint qualifier. Julian placed 10th in a time of 2:54.32 min. He placed 2nd in the quarter finals and made it through the semis into the finals. He placed 5th overall in a time of 2:57.07 min.

On Sunday March 24th, with a snowstorm slowly approaching, Julian teamed up with Antoine Cyr in the team sprints. Each skier did a 1.2 km skate qualifier, then the teams that made the top 15 competed head-to-head by each skiing three laps, alternating and tagging off. From the qualifying round, Julian and Antoine placed 3rd. In a deep field of competitive skiers, they skied the six laps and finished 3rd, earning a bronze medal!

The race season is now over and it's time for a rest before the dryland training starts May 1st.

Julian is extremely grateful for all the support the Bruce Ski Club has given him over the racing season! _____



Humpty Dumpty The New New Trail

Kelly Rogers

Dave White

After an enthusiastic response to the contest for the new trail name, Humpty Dumpty was voted in as the favourite name for the trail through the old dump site (get it?). Sixty members contributed over 100 suggestions, which were whittled down to a short list of five for the AGM vote. Many thanks to Dave White for being the catalyst to get Humpty Dumpty underway, and to his crew of trail building volunteers. Hopefully next season we will have more time to enjoy it. _____

This summer the Bruce Ski Club will be continuing to expand the trail network on the closed Georgian Bluffs landfill. The current plan will see an expansion of the trail into the northern portion of the property. The Humpty Dumpty trail is in the southern section. The middle section will remain largely untouched for now.

The location of the new trail has been flagged. We will be walking the proposed trail with Georgian Bluffs staff soon. When the trail's location is agreed upon, the process of felling trees in preparation for bulldozing will begin.

At present, there is a crew of 10 people planning and willing to work on cutting trees. If you are able (and qualified) to help with cutting, please reach out to newskitrail@gmail.com. We will need help with clearing the trail later in the season but will reach out to club members via e-mail at that time. _____



Facilities Manager

Fred Schlenker

The plaque commemorating the donation made by the Southampton Rotary Club in memory of Peter Day was recently installed. _____

Grooming Report

Clare Matthews

A challenging snow year to be sure. With what we had, it was good to see the base and trails hold through some of the temperature and snowfall ups and downs through January and February.

There had been some warming in February and it was with great relief that the snow held for the two late February races: Suntrail Special and the Community Classic. The Classic had challenging snow conditions as the tracks were icy in places and brownouts had started on Yoyo and Paperclip, forcing Yoyo to be removed from the race. But it was frankly amazing we could set track as the conditions had not been ideal. Tracks were set on the Friday preceding the Community Classic.

We had the last useful snowfall on Wednesday, February 28. The trails were packed on the morning of February 29 and if you skied that day, things were pretty nice. The last day of grooming was the morning of March 1 when morning temperatures were below 0C. However, with the air warming up and the ground warming, up the base did not hold and as of the afternoon of March 1, conditions were super soft with significant brownout sections on all trails.



And then, alas, the temperatures beat us and the base was gone in all of two days and grooming was over. Hopefully some folks got some skiing in with the amazing snowfall that arrived in mid March.

Until next season, your Sawmill Groomers: Ron, Fred, Kari, Mark, Dawson and Clare _____

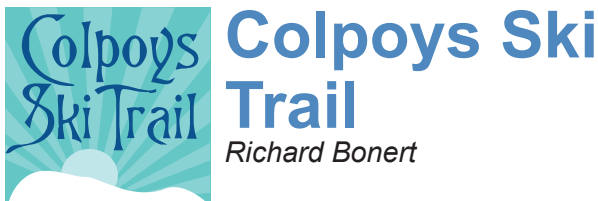
Special Notices

The BSC Ski Swap has been paused until December 2024. We will resume the site after the BSC live swap at Suntrail in November.

During the off-season, the Jackrabbit e-mail account will not be checked regularly (April - September).

If you've got a time sensitive inquiry about the **Jackrabbits Program through the Bruce Ski Club**, please call/text Coordinator Erin @ 416-371-1484.

2025 Registration is planned to open in Early October, 2024.



A very sincere thank you to Richard Bonert, the Colpoys's Trail Captain, who has very competently and thoroughly looked after and expanded the Colpoys's Trail, and the Rankin Trail before that, for many years.

Thanks for the skiing, Richard. _____

Happy trails, be they dirt or snow! _____

Race Co-ordinator

Marilyn Suke

Sawmill races are now a distant memory but I am hoping members will consider in the fall:-

-signing up to take an on-line officials course through Nordiq Canada

-checking off the box on your registration that says you would volunteer for races (they are on weekdays and weekends - you can pick your days)

-becoming a permanent member of our race crew and developing specific expertise in one area (such as start or finish line)

-we have wonderful expertise in Andrew Howlett and Fred Schlenker with race registration, timing and results but they are keen to train another computer savvy BSC member. This is such a critical step we want to ensure we have extra capacity in this department!

Race days are very fun events and the excitement of the racers (young and old) makes every one memorable.

Thank you to all the members who stepped up to volunteer for the 23/24 season and maintained cheerful optimism in the face of challenging weather!=====

Community Classic

We were able to squeak in one last race on February 25 with the snow melting behind us!

The Community Classic is a fun Mass-Start-by-Category race intended to provide our club members who are Classic specialists and our racing youth who ski both disciplines an opportunity to challenge themselves in the Classic style. It is always great fun to line up in a Chevron and know where you stand in the field as the race proceeds. I really hope more of our members mark this on their calendars for next year as it is great to have a season goal and challenge yourself and your friends to some friendly competition. No Lycra required!

See you next season! =====




They love the chocolate!

Summer Storage of Nordic Ski Equipment

Marilyn Suke

To ensure that my skis perform at their absolute best next season, here is what I will do.

- 1) Check that the skis, boots and poles are in good repair. Are your grips and tips well attached? Straps worn? Boot zippers good? Bindings working well? Now is the time to attend to these issues, particularly boots as sometimes they may wait awhile at the shoe repair. If your kids are growing out of their equipment, it is great to have ski friends with older and younger kids! Or mark them for the ski swap next fall. Or the on-line BSC Ski Swap on Facebook.
- 2) If you need to reattach ski pole tips or grips (or shorten them) the glue should be the heat sensitive kind you find in a glue gun. Warm the grip or tip in hot water or gently with a heat gun. They will loosen and you can reapply more glue with a glue gun. If you need to shorten a pair of poles (for instance, if you are making skate poles into classic) mark the cut with masking tape and cut them with a hack saw at the grip end. Take care to put the grips on the correct pole as they are sometimes left and right. Try them out before the glue sets to ensure they are correctly aligned with the tips.
- 3) Now clean your skis! This is vital as dirt is the enemy of glide. Thoroughly remove every trace of grip wax – even on the side walls. A light swipe with wax remover on the glide zone will ensure no grip wax has traveled. Wipe your glide zones (or your entire base of skate skis) with a clean cloth or shop towel then brush them vigorously with a nylon brush. Wipe them again. If you are storing classic
- 4) If your skis bases are looking rough, it is possible to have them reground several times over their lifespan. This will remove minor damage (scratches but not gouges) and open up the bases so that they are more accepting of wax. They will then glide more easily. Gatineau Nordique in Wakefield, Quebec provides this service. Wayne Johansson is the owner, and his website is www.gatineaunordiquesport.com Wayne can also test skis for their weight (of skier) range and mark grip zones.
- 5) Tape together or apply ski ties and store in a place that will not get too hot.
- 6) Skin skis need some special care to keep the skins in good shape. There are numerous online videos discussing this but basically, clean them carefully with a small amount of isopropyl alcohol. Allow it to dry (about an hour). Lightly rub a soft paraffin wax on the skin then iron in with an iron set at 120 degrees (no warmer!). Brush them gently with a metal brush until the hairs feel free – about 8 passes. You can finish with a light application of a liquid glide wax such as Easy Glide. You need to apply product sparingly and gently. The intention is to protect the skins from dirt and moisture. There are also good products at Suntrail specifically for skins – just follow the package directions

You can now rest easy through the pesky season of poor sledding knowing that our beautiful snow will return and you will be ready to go on Day One! First snow, a glorious thing. 


New Editor!

Joy Ward

A huge thanks to Paula Wilcox who has volunteered to be the new Bruce Ski Club Newsletter Editor. I have really enjoyed the role for the past three years, but feel that it's time to pass it on. Paula, I'm sure you will enjoy doing it too. The club always has a lot of



good news to share and lots of adorable Jackrabbit pictures.

A little bit about Paula: We live in St. Marys but since retiring, we have been spending more time at our place in Meaford, where my husband grew up. I had a career as a physiotherapist and value all kinds of activities. It didn't take long to realize what a great ski community there is here on the Bruce. Now our kids and grandkids come and ski here as well. 

Jackrabbits' "Rabbit Report"

Erin Scheel

Our Jackrabbits program ended as it began, with BIG smiles and winter boots (instead of ski boots).

We're proud of our club, our volunteers, our coaches, and our JACKRABBITS for making the most of this snow-light season. We still made it out on the trails all weeks of our 9-week program.

We're looking forward to next season with new and returning faces out enjoying this magical sport that is Nordic Skiing!

2025 Registration is planned to open in early October (follow BSC on Facebook & watch for the fall newsletter). We need new volunteers to step up every year to ensure this program runs, so if you want a truly heart-filling opportunity to support our Jackrabbits, e-mail jackrabbits@bruceskiclub.ca and raise your hand. We will find a role that suits you! 



Thank you to the following

April 2024



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Volunteer to help your club!!

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Races: mpsuke@gmail.com

Gerry's Place Upkeep:

shawn.radcliffe@gmail.co

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