

Deep River Cross Country Ski Club News

December 2009



Trillium Grant!

We are thrilled to announce that the club's application for a Trillium grant was successful! A cheque for \$50,000 will be arriving shortly, for purchasing new grooming equipment. Two new Yamaha snowmobiles have just been delivered from Banville's in Petawawa, and several pieces of new grooming equipment will arrive over the next few months from two companies in the United States—Yellowstone Tracking Systems and Tidd Tech.

There will be a celebratory Open House at the chalet sometime in the new year so everyone can come and see our new equipment. We'll keep you posted!



Grooming and Groomers

The club is pleased to welcome Barrie Greiner as our new head groomer. Barrie is an experienced groomer from way back, not to mention being an experienced skier and skiing coach. We are very fortunate that he is willing to share his knowledge, his energy and his retirement time with the club.

George Doubt and Bill Bishop will continue on the grooming crew, and are of course, thrilled to know that they will soon be working with reliable, new equipment, rather than spending valuable ski and grooming time repairing the old, temperamental snow machines.

Vern Amunds has retired from grooming, but will be staying on as a dedicated club volunteer. Thanks to Vern, our outhouse building has undergone extensive renovations this fall, including a sturdy new roof, better supports underneath and new steps. Thanks also to Vern for his many years of commitment to the DRXC and the Silver Spoon Ski-Fest as head groomer.



Grooming Conditions

Starting on Dec 9, the groomers packed all of the east-end trails and have now set a track on R, X, D and M. However, most of the trails still require more snow, so we advise caution and rock skis!

****Late breaking news: Barrie has a Blog!**

Barrie has set up a blog which you can check from the comfort of your computer chair. He will post the latest grooming conditions throughout the season. Members can access this blog from a link on our website www.drxc.ca. Save both in 'My Favourites'!



Chalet

Once there is regular grooming underway, the chalet will be opened daily for the use of all members. There is a team of volunteers, coordinated by Ray Metcalfe, who open the chalet and start the fire, then lock up at dusk. Beginning in January, Ray is considering leaving the building locked until noon on weekdays only, in order to conserve wood. On weekends and holidays, the chalet would still be opened and heated in the mornings. Please let Ray or Cheryl know if this is a problem.



Skating Clinics

Several members have showed an interest in skating lessons, which accordingly will go ahead early in the new year. A session for experienced skaters will be held Saturday January 9 beginning at 3 pm. A session geared to beginner skaters (with some classic experience) will take place Sunday January 10 starting at 1 pm. In either case, the instructor will be Greg Mark and the cost will be \$15 per person.

If you are a beginner skier, please start by joining the regular adult classic (diagonal stride) lessons.

The contact person for both skating and classic lessons is Phil Davis (584-3033). Please let him know if you would like to participate, so that we have your contact information.



Silver Spoon Committee

Bill Mellors is retiring from his position as Chief of Course after the 2010 race. He will be replaced by Diane Davis and Rob DeAbreu. Bill's parting gift to the committee was transforming one end of the outhouse building for storage of the Silver Spoon course signs and paraphernalia. Thanks Bill!

The Silver Spoon Ski-Fest is run by volunteers and always needs extra volunteers to help it run smoothly. Please contact Monika at monikacameron@hotmail.com if you are interested in helping out.



Silver Spoon Ski-Fest

Event 1: Classic Race and Sprint Skating Races

Date: Saturday, February 6th, 2010

Location: St. Mary's School

Event 2: Silver Spoon Buffet

Date: Saturday, February 6th, 2010

Location: Bear's Den

Event 3: Ski and Snowshoe Orienteering

Date: Sunday February 7, 2010

Location: DRXC Chalet

The entry form for 2010 is on the Ski-Fest website:

<http://bright-ideas-software.com/silverspoon/>



Trail Work and Fall Preparation

Many thanks to the dozens of volunteers who were very busy this fall preparing our trails and buildings for the ski season. It is a huge project to keep 3 trails systems clear—30 km of Silver Spoon trails, 30 km of Cabin trails (Bass Lake Road trails) and about 20 km at the Forestry. We have been fortunate this year not to have had any serious windstorm damage.

Beside the regular trail maintenance, there have been a few special projects, coordinated by Wally Kalechstein, to repair wet spots on the R and B loops.

At the request of the East End Lands Committee, which has an annual budget of \$5000, the town crews did

some work on a large wet spot on R, parallel to the fire break. In the end, it was too difficult to drain the water or fill the low spot, so the club built a bypass that can be used until the wet spot freezes enough to groom.

Inevitably, debris will continue to fall on the trails, so if you are skiing, please stop and remove it. After a storm, it's easy to slip a small folding saw or snips in your pack. If a large tree is down, requiring chain saw work, please report the problem to Wayne Workman, our coordinator for trail maintenance, 584-2385. The grooming crews should not have to clear trails before they can groom them for skiing!



Membership—WE NEED YOU!

About three quarters of our previous members have re-registered for this season, but there are still many who haven't yet done so. Please join soon, if you plan to ski this year. Registration forms can be downloaded from drxc.ca or are available at the chalet, the town hall lobby or from Carol White.

Once you have registered, new 2009 trail maps can be obtained from Carol White, Cheryl Rhodes or Bruce Heinmiller. Thank you to Erik Hagberg for producing the updated map.

While we are more than happy to share the trails with guests, we do ask that local residents join the club. We also ask that both residents and guests sign the Four Seasons Conservancy waiver, before they use the trails. (Adults only need to do this once in their lifetime.)

While most of the trails are largely on town property, all trails do cross either FSC property or private property. Our chalet, for example, is on property owned by FSC.

If you bring guests skiing, please encourage them to make a donation. There is a small metal box in the chalet to the left of the front door, under the waivers.



Finances

While the Trillium grant will provide us with a great fleet of grooming equipment, the club still has a

number of major expenses. Grooming costs (wages, insurance, and fuel) consume the largest part of the DRXC's annual budget. Annual trail repairs will also require some funds for fill and hiring equipment and operators.

The next major expense, however, will be the complete replacement of our four bridges, which are all ending their lifespan. George Doubt has been busy this fall both repairing the current bridges and designing new ones that will meet MNR requirements. Fortunately, the club has managed to save enough funds over the last several years to cover the cost of the new bridges, but this project will most likely require all of our current savings.



Junior Competitive Program

This year, a new group is forming within Jackrabbits. This group will provide a fuller skiing experience for some of our older junior skiers, with extra training, backcountry trips, skiing at the Pembroke trails (PAXC), and participation in out-of-town races. If your child might enjoy this experience, it's not too late to join. Contact one of the following: Joanne Konyk (Jackrabbit registrar, 584-9637), Ailsa Eyvindson (584-9281) or Fabrice Guerout (584-1983).



Volunteer Shovellers Needed

Whether you start skiing at the hospital, at the entrance to the D- or R- loops or at the chalet, you will have noticed that you don't have to side-step over a snowbank to access the trail. Someone (namely, Vern Amunds) has kindly shovelled out the snowbanks left by the plows.

Local operators of snowblowers who make a business clearing driveways have not been interested in being paid to do this for us, because snowbanks on Balmer Bay Road often have a lot of gravel in them.

Therefore, we are looking for a few club members who might be willing to take a turn or two at doing this shovelling after major snowfalls.

In addition, there will be further shovelling of snowbanks required for ski crossings near the Banting/Balmer Bay four-way stop in preparation for the Silver Spoon Ski-Fest.

Please contact Cheryl Rhodes (584-3932) if you can help.



Wednesday Ski Tours

A committee has already met over lunch in the warmth of a member's home to plan activities for the 2010 Wednesday ski tours. If you are interested in participating or in leading a tour, please contact Joan Kalechstein (584-2224). The schedule is now posted on our website.

Skiers generally car pool for out of town trips. Outings may be cancelled or changed due to unfavourable conditions, such as freezing rain, temperatures below -20°C, or lack of snow. Check with leaders and the NRT or your email for any changes, more details for directions, driving and skiing distances. Sometimes there will be a second group, who will go more slowly or use an easier trail from the same parking area.



www.drxc.ca

As always, our website is the continuing source for news and information about our programs, facilities, executive, trail maps for the forestry, the Silver Spoon, and Cabin-Bass Lake Road area, and links to information about skiing beyond our local club.



Happy Skiing to you and yours!

From your DRXC Executive:

Cheryl Rhodes	President
Bruce Heinmiller	Past-President
Phil Davis	Vice-President
Eric Hagberg	Secretary
Wally Kalechstein	Treasurer
Carol White	Membership