

Deep River Cross Country Ski Club

January 2015 Newsletter

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EXECUTIVE

In October, the Club welcomed Ruth Lavergne to the executive in the position of Secretary, taking over from Danielle Beaton. We look forward to working with Ruth as we thank Danielle for her contributions over the last couple of years.

The Club is also looking for volunteers to fill the positions of Membership and Chalet Maintenance, to take effect once the skiing season is over. This is your opportunity to join the club in a formal capacity, and help make things happen. Those interested in either position should contact Phil Davis at 584-3033 or pddavis@magma.ca.



TRAIL CLEARING AND IMPROVEMENT

Many thanks to the dozens of volunteers who were busy this fall preparing our trails for the ski season. For the first time in many years, these trails include the old D-loop, to which we again have access through the purchase of the Cooper property by the Four Seasons Conservancy. Those two lovely downhill runs (and the one not-so-bad uphill) are now ours to enjoy again. The D-loop will also be re-incorporated into the Silver Spoon races, eliminating those parts of the course that ran along Townline and Balmer Bay Roads, which never held a track very well.

Inevitably, debris will continue to fall on the trails throughout the winter. If you come across small debris while skiing, please stop and remove it. Similarly, try to break (or saw) off low-hanging branches. Report larger deadfalls requiring chain saw work to Wayne Workman at 584-2385. A trail clear of debris makes things much easier for the groomers.

We're in the midst of updating our trail signs, many of which have deteriorated over the years, or become hard to see as the forest grows around them. The new signs, which feature white lettering on a blue background, will be more visible and numerous and provide a standard format that skiers will know to look for. A few of the new signs are already up, with the rest coming next year. Thanks to David Rhodes for taking the lead on this project.



GROOMERS AND GROOMING

Head groomer Dave Steer and his team of Barrie Greiner, Aubrey Fletcher and George Doubt have already put in many hours of work on the trails. Unfortunately there just hasn't been enough snow to allow them to get out as often as they would have liked. Roots and rocks lurk just beneath the surface and they are constantly having to balance the desire to get the tracks in against the need to prevent damage to the grooming equipment, to the trail and to themselves. It's definitely better for

skiers and their skis to leave the high points of the trail with some snow on top. You can check trail conditions on-line by clicking on the “Trail Conditions” tab on the DRXC homepage. If you have questions about grooming strategies, you can read the Grooming Policy posted on the website under Programs.



TRAIL ETIQUETTE

The Silver Spoon ski trails are intended for skiing only. Please do not snowshoe, hike or walk your dog on the ski trails (groomed or ungroomed) since considerable damage can result. Ski club members have spent hundreds of volunteer hours clearing and maintaining the trails, and all have paid an annual fee to have them groomed. If you wish to walk or ski with your dog, you are welcome to use the snowshoe trails, or the many other beautiful trails around town.

If visiting skiers inquire about a trail fee, please point them in the direction of the donation box inside the chalet to the left of the front door, under the FSC membership book. Similarly, if you bring guests skiing, please encourage them to make a donation.



JACKRABBITS

So far we have 55 Jackrabbits enrolled in the program for this season. We have a great core of coaches and parents working with the kids, but not enough for our numbers. If any experienced skiers (even those who don't have kids in the program) want to help out, please give our head coach Kevin McDonald a call at 584-1287. You could have a class of your own or work for a couple of weeks teaching specific skills. Training will be provided to give you an idea of how the teaching should be done. At its most basic, Jackrabbits is intended to get kids outdoors having fun on skis - any skills learned are a bonus.

DRXC gratefully acknowledges receipt of a Junior Instructional Grant from the Town of Deep River to support our Jackrabbit program.



SILVER SPOON

This year's Silver Spoon races will be held Saturday, February 7, starting at 11am at St. Mary's School. A wide range of events is available for all ages and skill levels, including competitive classic races, participation events and ski-skate knock-out sprints. Kids enrolled in Jackrabbits are pre-entered free of charge in the 1.5 km Participation Mass Start event.

Registration forms are available at the club chalet or can be downloaded from the Silver Spoon website www.bright-ideas-software.com/silverspoon/. Registration can be done more conveniently online at www.eventsonline.ca (search with key words “Silver Spoon”). The traditional roast beef buffet will be served at the Bear's Den on the evening of February 7, followed by an awards ceremony. Buffet tickets are available through registration or from The Olive Tree shop in Deep River. The deadline for registration and buffet tickets is Wednesday, February 4.

Volunteers are always welcome and needed to run the Spoon. You can marshal, put up signs, knock down snow banks, prepare road crossings or any number of other tasks. Please contact Diane Davis at 584-3033 or diane.davis95@gmail.com if you can help out.



CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The DRXC championships will be held Saturday March 7 starting at 2:30 pm at the club chalet. This friendly race is always memorable - come join the excitement! There are events for all ages, and the trails will be groomed for both skating and classic. All events are free-style, with a mass start for each age group. The event is open to all club members and Jackrabbits at no charge. Race distances range from 0.5 km to 5 km, depending on the age category. Detailed course descriptions are provided in the DRXC website under the "Club Championships" tab. There will also be 4x0.8 km relay races for various categories, starting at 3:30 pm. Please arrive at the chalet and register by 2 pm for the individual races. Relay registration will be at the line. For more information contact Bob Donders at 584-4321 or dondersr@magma.ca.



FOUR SEASONS CONSERVANCY

We ask everyone who uses the trails, both residents and guests, to sign the Four Seasons Conservancy membership book before heading out. (Adults need to do this only once in their lifetime.) While the trails are largely on town land, most cross either FSC property or private property, and liability concerns require users to be FSC members. The membership book can be found inside the chalet, to the left of the front door. Membership is free, but donations are always welcome.

Check the NRT for the date of the Conservancy's AGM, where you can hear about its recent work.



SKI TOURS

Tours leave from the club chalet at 1:00 pm every Wednesday afternoon for experienced adult skiers who want to explore some of the less heavily used trails in the area. The trail to be skied is decided collectively by those who turn up on the day. Contact Phil Davis at 584-3033 for more information. A similar group often goes out on Sunday afternoons. Diane Wensel (584-2972) can provide more information. Finally, Wally Kalechstein has offered to accompany beginner or slower skiers on some of the easier club trails. Give him a call at 584-2224 if you are interested.



RENTALS

Helena Rummens still has some good ski equipment for rent at very reasonable prices for those a little late getting into the ski season. Contact her at 584-4321 or rummensh@magma.ca to arrange a fitting.



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As always, our website is the continuing source for news and information about all things DRXC. The website will shortly take on a whole new look thanks to Alison Davis, who is in the midst of changes that will make it easier on the eyes and easier to navigate. And don't forget our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DRXCskiCommunity/>. If you have ski equipment for sale, want to provide information about local trails, or have a question, suggestion or photo, feel free to post it to the Facebook group.



Happy Skiing from your DRXC Executive:

Phil Davis	President	584-3033	Ruth Lavergne	Secretary	584-5460
Cheryl Rhodes	Past-President	584-3932	Wally Kalechstein	Treasurer	584-2224
Bob Donders	Vice-President	584-4321	Carol White	Membership	584-4629