

# Deep River Cross Country Ski Club Newsletter

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*February 2016*

[www.drxc.ca](http://www.drxc.ca)



## EXECUTIVE

The Club welcomed new volunteers to a number of Executive and Committee positions this year. Lori Walters took over from Carol White in Membership, Dave Rhodes took over from Wally Kalechstein as Treasurer, Doug Killey took over from Ray Metcalfe in Chalet Maintenance, and Stuart Craig took over from Wayne Workman as Trails Co-ordinator. Thanks to all the incoming volunteers for offering your services, and to the outgoing volunteers for your contributions over the last several years.

Four other Executive and Committee positions will become vacant in the spring. The incumbents in the positions of Secretary, Jackrabbit Head Coach and Club Championships Organizer have indicated their desire to retire once the current ski season is over, and the position of Trail Improvements has been open for some time. Those interested in taking on any of these positions should contact Phil Davis at 584-3033 or [phil.davis603@gmail.com](mailto:phil.davis603@gmail.com).



## TRAIL CLEARING AND IMPROVEMENT

Many thanks to the dozens of volunteers who were busy this fall preparing our trails for the ski season. It hasn't been an easy year to be a trail clearer. Just when we thought most of the work was done, the massive windstorm of November 6 brought down an unprecedented number of trees – 30 on C-loop alone. A number of other lesser events kept the chain saws running through most of December, and there were new trees down on C-loop as late as mid-January. Through all of this, our dedicated crews never wavered, although some had a few choice words for the wind gods. Thanks to Stuart Craig and his volunteers for an amazing effort in having the trails ready once the snow came.

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 Stuart Craig at 584-3171. A trail clear of debris makes things much easier for the groomers.

The short M is now smoother thanks to the efforts of Fabrice Guerout, Aubrey Fletcher and their volunteers, who spent time this fall leveling out some of its bumps. The short M can now be groomed earlier in the season and provides a better surface for skating. This benefits all skiers, in particular high school racers and serious skaters.

This year, approximately 135 new signs were installed on D plus many of the ungroomed trails, including the newly re-designated “Lake Trail”, which leads from Cranberry Tee on M-Loop to Cranberry Cross, where there is a junction with P. It then takes the lower route to Cranberry Lakes, bypassing Beech Hill. The hope is that this extra signage will encourage members to explore more of the club’s beautiful backcountry trails. Snowshoe icons have been added to some of the crossings between the snowshoe trails and ski trails to clarify which is which. Work will continue next summer, concentrating on P and the remaining snowshoe trail crossings. Thanks to David Rhodes for taking the lead on this project.

The most challenging part of our trail system at the moment is Balmer Bay Road, where the Town is installing a new pipeline to carry water from Deep River to CNL. Be careful how you drive and where you park along the road until the work has passed beyond the chalet.



## **GROOMERS AND GROOMING**

Little snow, warm temperatures, heavy rains and flash freezes were the order of the day in the first part of the season. These are not the conditions you would choose if your job was to groom ski trails, but our Head Groomer Dave Steer and his team of Barrie Greiner, Aubrey Fletcher, George Doubt, Bob Donders and Luke Steer have taken it all in stride and produced some great trails when they have had enough snow to work with.

Caution is still needed in skiing S, H and B. S and H were packed early in the year but no grooming has been done on them since, primarily because of washouts caused by the heavy rains on January 10. At this point, the first section of S to The Top is groomed, and then the first downhill part of H, creating a loop to lead skiers back to M again. No grooming of any sort has been done on B for the same reason. All three complete trails are skiable if you are cautious, but be on the lookout for washouts, wet spots and rocks just beneath the snow if you get off the trail.

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, please 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.

Please be aware of circumstances when overtaking and passing slower skiers. Calling “TRACK!” and expecting skiers to immediately step off the trail into deep snow may be inappropriate and unproductive. Slower skiers, particularly on R loop, are often older or inexperienced and may have difficulty stepping aside, especially when startled by a loud “Track”. Rather, make the skier aware that you are there and offer to go around him or her in the deeper snow. The best way to proceed will then usually become evident and it will be possible to negotiate a pass without incident.

If visiting skiers inquire about a trail fee, please point them in the direction of the donation box inside the chalet in the corner 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. The money from this box contributes to the cost of municipal taxes paid for the property on which the ski chalet is built



## **BENCHES**

Anyone who has been out on the trails this year will have noticed benches sprouting up at some of the more scenic spots. These were designed by Ray Metcalfe, built by students at Mackenzie Community School, and

installed by Ray, Doug Champ and Aubrey Fletcher. They make a great addition to the trails, and provide a good excuse for those of us who now need a break before the next hill to claim we were stopping just to admire the view. Remember to put the back of the bench down when you move on to keep the seat clear of snow for the next skier.



## SKI TOURS

Informal tours leave from the club chalet at 1:30 pm every Thursday 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 Margaret Miller at 584-4284 for more information. A similar group often goes out on Sunday afternoons. Diane Wensel (584-2972) can provide more information.

Our first moonlight ski, held on January 22, was a tremendous success. The (almost) full moon shone brilliantly in a perfectly clear sky and the temperature was warmer than we had any right to expect. The play of light and shadow was magical. We didn't do an exact count but a rough estimate put the number of participants at around 60. We hope to repeat the experience near the time of the next full moon on February 22.



## JACKRABBITS

Fifty Jackrabbits are enrolled in the program this season under the supervision of a great corps of coaches and parents. The kids are having good fun outdoors in the mix of snow and skis, and we even slip in a few skiing skills when they're not looking. 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, which were held Saturday January 30, were a great success, featuring more than 250 entrants and many closely contested races. The weather cooperated, with the expected warm temperatures (and the spectre of klister) holding off until the races were over. Thanks to the many volunteers who made the event possible – the marshals, the snow shovellers, the registration officials, the start/finish line officials, the pre-skiers and sweepers, the flaggers and the groomers. Results are available on-line through the [SportStats.ca](http://SportStats.ca) website.



## CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Club Championships are tentatively scheduled for March 5, but the event will be held this year only if someone steps forward to run the event in future years. Bob Donders has been organizing the championships for the past 8 years, and it is time for someone else to take the lead. If you are interested, contact Bob at "[dondersr@magma.ca](mailto:dondersr@magma.ca)" or 584-4321.



## 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, in the corner to the left of the front door. Membership is free, but donations are always welcome.



## RENTALS

After many years of operating the rental service out of her home, Helena Rummens moved the club's collection of used cross country ski equipment into the clubhouse of the Deep River Curling and Squash Club in November. The Curling Club has rented us one of their backrooms to store the equipment in, and their lounge to use for fitting. The new system is working well with 160 skiers outfitted to date, and the requests keep coming! There is still some good equipment for rent at very reasonable prices for those a little late getting into the ski season. Contact Helena at 584-4321 or rummensch@magma.ca to arrange a fitting.



## SURVEY

At the end of last season, the DRXC Executive sent out a short survey to find out what issues are important to members, and to solicit ideas for improving the club. 78 people filled out the survey, or about 1 in 3 of our adult members. The results are available through our website ([www.drxc.ca](http://www.drxc.ca)). We have formed a committee under the leadership of Bob Donders to review the responses and to follow up on ideas for improving the club. Contact Bob at 584-4321 or [dondersr@magma.ca](mailto:dondersr@magma.ca) if you have any questions. Thanks to all those who took the time to give us their thoughts.



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As always, our website is the continuing source for news and information about all things DRXC. And don't forget our Facebook group, which was recently updated by Ruth Lavergne: <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:

President	Phil Davis	584-3033	Secretary	Ruth Lavergne	613-281-5460
Past-President	Cheryl Rhodes	584-3932	Treasurer	Dave Rhodes	584-3932
Vice-President	Bob Donders	584-4321	Membership	Lori Walters	584-9812