

Deep River Cross Country Ski Club Newsletter

February 2017

www.drxc.ca



EXECUTIVE

The Club welcomed new volunteers to two Executive and Committee positions this year. Carol Tonner took over from Ruth Lavergne as Secretary and Paul Chiasson took over Rentals from Helena Rummens (although Helena continues to provide lots of help). Thanks to Carol and Paul for offering their services, and to Ruth and Helena for their contributions over the last several years.

The Club is still looking for volunteers in four areas:

Groomers: A couple of people have answered the call to become groomers this season but more can always be used. Come out and help groom the trails using club snowmobiles and grooming equipment. Interested people should be fit, familiar with both classic and skate ski styles, and preferably experienced with snowmobile operation. Having some free time in the evenings would also be an asset. If you're interested, email Dave Steer at: d.steer@sympatico.ca.

Jackrabbit Head Coach: Kevin McDonald, our current Head Coach, would like to give up his coaching duties but is willing to continue handling the administrative aspects of the Jackrabbit Program. So we're looking for someone who wants the fun of organizing and coaching small groups of children without having to worry about the tedious administration. It can't get much better than that. If you're interested, contact Kevin at kmcdonald11@yahoo.ca.

Club Championships Organizer: Here we need someone to organize the club championship races, which have traditionally been held toward the end of the skiing season each year, with typically 50 entrants. The organizer ensures that the course is prepared and finds volunteers to act as marshals, starters, timers and so on. The races didn't go ahead last year because an organizer didn't step forward. If you're interested, email Bob Donders at dondersr@magma.ca.

Trail Improvements Coordinator: The trail improvement coordinator identifies and prioritizes those parts of the trails that are most in need of improvement, and organizes crews to carry out the required work. Those interested in this position should contact Phil Davis at 584-3033 or 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, another windstorm would come along bringing down even more trees, and bringing out the chain saws again. But our dedicated crews persevered under the leadership of Stuart Craig, and the trails were in great shape 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.

Fabrice Guerout, Aubrey Fletcher and their volunteers continue to level out bumps on the short M, which can now be groomed earlier in the season and provides an improved surface for skating. There was some excitement in the fall when smoke was seen rising from a pile of wood chips that had been dumped beside the chalet for use in filling holes in the trail. The heat buildup deep within the organic mass threatened to send the whole pile up in flames, but a worker installing the water pipeline on Balmer Bay Road knocked it down with a front end loader before it could set the chalet on fire.

Work continued over the summer on upgrading our trail signs, concentrating on the P-loop and the intersections of the snowshoe and ski trails. Thanks to David Rhodes for taking the lead on this project.



GROOMERS AND GROOMING

Heavy snowfalls in November and December allowed the groomers to have most of the trails in great shape early in the season. Since then we've suffered through the usual freezes, thaws and rain, which are not the conditions you would choose if your job was to groom ski trails. But our Head Groomer Dave Steer and his volunteers have taken it all in stride and produced some great trails when nature allowed.

It's taken a long time this year to get the S, H and B trails into shape, but the fault lies with nature and not our intrepid groomers. These trails were packed as early in the season as possible, which was not very early given their steep, rocky nature. The snow then became deep and wet, and then icy, making further grooming impossible. But the recent down turn in temperatures, plus some new snow, have allowed the groomers to get out again, and S, H and B are now all fully groomed and track set. Get out and enjoy them.

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.

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 as you go in 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 chalet is built.



SKI TOURS

Informal tours leave from the club chalet at 1:30 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 Margaret Miller at 584-4284 for more information.

The Club held a moonlight ski on Thursday January 12. As late as 4 pm on the day, conditions looked less than promising, with the trails icy and thick cloud hiding the moon. Our moonlight ski looked like it was turning into an unskiable moonless ski. But then light snow started to fall, accumulating sufficiently to make the trails manageable. The cloud started to break up around 7:30 and the sky was clear an hour later. Only about 20 skiers had faith enough to come out, but they were rewarded with the magic of a moon-lit landscape. We're planning another moonlight ski for Saturday February 11 as part of the Deep River Winter Carnival. Hopefully we won't need another miracle to bring it off.



JACKRABBITS

Thirty-eight 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 were held Saturday January 28. They were a great success, featuring more than 250 entrants and many closely contested races. The weather cooperated, with moderate temperatures and a large fall of fresh snow a couple of days before the event making it easier for the groomers to put in a good track. Thanks to the many volunteers who made the event possible – the marshals, the snow shovelers, the registration officials, the start/finish line officials, the pre-skiers and sweepers, the flaggers, the groomers and so on. Results are available on-line through the SportStats.ca website.

The day after the Silver Spoon, about a dozen DRXC members made the trip to Brudenell for the third running of the Opeongo Loppet. This year the Spoon and the Loppet were run in partnership to offer skiers a weekend of racing in the Upper Ottawa Valley. After a history of very cold temperatures (-20) in the first year of the Loppet and very warm temperatures (+5) in the second, the weather this year finally settled in at a perfect -8. The DRXC contingent took home a number of awards and many are already planning to return next year to experience again the beautiful trails and friendly people.



NAKKERTOK INVESTS WINNINGS IN SNOW-MAKING EQUIPMENT

Nakkertok Nordic, a large cross-country ski club in Ottawa, came out on top in this year's "Kraft Heinz Project Play" competition, winning out over 819 other nominees across 550 Canadian cities. The win comes with a \$250,000 grand prize, which Nakkertok will put toward snowmaking equipment. The hope is that the equipment will lengthen the ski season at both ends, improve the quality of snow throughout the season for competitive and recreational skiers alike, and enhance the ability to host major cross-country ski events at the Nakkertok site.

The win will also raise the profile of cross-country skiing in the Ottawa area and across Canada. As winters become milder, investment in snowmaking machines is a smart move.



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 as you go in the front door. Membership is free, but donations are always welcome.



RENTALS

The ski rental service has settled into its new home in the clubhouse of the Deep River Curling and Squash Club. 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 Paul Chiasson at 584-9882 or email paulchiasson@gmail.com to arrange a fitting.



www.drxc.ca

As always, our website is the continuing source for news and information about all things DRXC. And don't forget our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DRXCskiCommunity/>. If you have ski equipment for sale, are looking for a ski buddy, want to provide information about local trails, or have a question, suggestion or photo, feel free to post it to the Facebook group.

Cross Country Ontario has changed its contact information. Their new email address is admin@xcskiontario.ca, and their new website is www.xcskiontario.ca.



Happy Skiing from your DRXC Executive:

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|----------------|---------------|----------|------------|--------------|----------|
| President | Phil Davis | 584-3033 | Secretary | Carol Tonner | 584-1793 |
| Past-President | Cheryl Rhodes | 584-3932 | Treasurer | Dave Rhodes | 584-3932 |
| Vice-President | Bob Donders | 584-4321 | Membership | Lori Walters | 584-9812 |

