

# Deep River Cross Country Ski Club Newsletter

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February 2018

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



## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

It's been a year of cancellations so far, with cold temperatures and icy trails grounding two Jackrabbit sessions, three adult classic lessons, two moonlight skis and one Opeongo Loppet. But individual club members have refused to be intimidated and have been out on the trails regardless of conditions. No matter when I put my long johns on and headed out for a ski, there have already been several cars parked by the chalet ahead of me. It makes it all worthwhile for the executive when we see so many enthusiastic skiers out there. We now have a bit of new snow and the forecast is for cold temperatures through the next couple of weeks, so hopefully we'll all be able to retire our rock skis until spring.



## EXECUTIVE

The Club welcomed five volunteers to the Executive and Committees this year. Adrian Cecco took over from Carol Tonner as Secretary; Helena Rummens took over the vacant position of Trail Improvements Coordinator; and Kathryn Chiasson and Bridget Chiasson (with help from Nitaya Wensel) replaced Kevin McDonald as Jackrabbit Program Coordinator and Head Coach respectively. Thanks to Carol and Kevin for their contributions over the last few years and to Adrian, Helena, Kathryn, Bridget and Nitaya for offering their services.

The Club is still looking for volunteers in a couple of 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 physically 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](mailto:d.steer@sympatico.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 haven't gone ahead in the last few years because an organizer hasn't come forward. If you're interest, email Bob Donders at [dondersr@magma.ca](mailto:dondersr@magma.ca).



## **TRAIL CLEARING AND IMPROVEMENT**

Many thanks to Stuart Craig and his dozens of volunteers who were busy this fall preparing the trails for the ski season. Although we didn't have as many autumn windstorms this year as we've had in the past, there was still lots of work to do. And that work is ongoing since 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.

In mid-December, Ormrod's bridge (the bridge over Kennedy Creek on the return leg of M-loop) was flooded, with water flowing strongly across the bridge deck. It appears that a higher than normal volume of water through Kennedy Creek along with a fast freeze caused an ice dam to form along the downstream edge of the deck, diverting the flow over the bridge. But following some human intervention (thanks George!) and patience (thanks Nature!), the flow eventually dropped below the level of the deck, and the bridge has given us no further trouble since.

Helena Rummens and her group of volunteers brought in some trailer loads of wood chips and spread them out on a portion of M-loop, leveling out bumps and insulating early snowfalls from the ground. The short M can now be groomed earlier in the season and provides an improved surface for skating.

Although not a trail, Balmer Bay Road itself saw some improvement this year from the point of view of skiers, with space for angle parking on the north shoulder of the road from the chalet to the new pumping station. Cars using this area should be parked completely off the road with their noses angled to the west, toward the hospital. Thanks to the Town for widening the road in this area and for keeping it clear of snow. The downside is that the ploughs pushed the snow back onto the part of R-loop that runs parallel to the road. But it's still easy to get through this section and the club will re-route the trail through the forest in time for next year's skiing.



## **GROOMING**

Grooming has been a difficult proposition this year since we suffered through more than our usual share of freeze-thaw cycles in December and January. But the groomers were out whenever possible and by the end of January we had good tracks on all of the trails used in the Silver Spoon. Those were refreshed following the snowfall on January 31, and we now have a great track on all trails except the return leg of H, which needs a lot of snow before the snowmobiles can get around it in one piece.

You can check trail conditions on-line by clicking 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**

In winter, the Silver Spoon trails are intended for skiing only. Please do not snowshoe, hike, or walk your dog on the 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 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.



## **JACKRABBITS**

Thirty-four Jackrabbits are enrolled in the program this season, down slightly from last year. The program got off to a slow start, since the first two lessons had to be cancelled because of the arctic temperatures (although the second was replaced with an indoor session of fun, games and goodies). The trails were very icy the following week, and the week after that was given over to the Silver Spoon, so it was not until the first weekend in February that the kids were finally able to get outdoors for a regular session. Now that conditions have improved, we expect they will have great fun in the mix of snow and skis, and they may even pick up a few skiing skills along the way. We have a great corps of coaches and parents supervising the activities under the overall leadership of Kathryn Chiasson, Bridget Chiasson and Nitaya Wensel, who are bringing fresh ideas to the program. DRXC gratefully acknowledges receipt of a Deep River Community Grant that supports our Jackrabbit Program.



## **SILVER SPOON**

This year's Silver Spoon races were held Saturday January 27. They were a great success, featuring about 265 entrants and many closely contested races. But it was a near thing that the race went ahead at all as the trail conditions were anything but optimal, with a thick crust on top of a layer of snow and ice pellets, on top of a hard icy base. But through skill and pure determination, our groomers were able to turn that mixture into something that was close enough to snow to ski on. The track had softened up by race time and temperatures reached +5 by the time the last skiers crossed the finish line. Perfect conditions for those who double-poled the course, but not so good for those who resorted to klister. Marshals basked in the sunshine under the warmest temperatures they could remember for the Spoon.

Thanks to the many volunteers (about 75 on race day!) 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, the groomers – we know who you are and we greatly appreciate your help. Results for the classic races are available on-line through the SportStats.ca website. The “2018 Race Results Brochure”, which is available via <http://bright-ideas-software.com/silverspoon/RaceResults.html>, contains more information (such as results for the skate events, acknowledgements, and a list of volunteers).



## **BACKCOUNTRY TRAILS AND THE SKI CABIN**

If you're looking for an alternative to skiing in town, consider the networks of trails in the Petawawa Research Forest just east of Chalk River, and at the end of Bass Lake Road just west of Deep River. These are backcountry trails that are not groomed and in most cases are not well signed. They are long and feature a number of challenging hills, so those undertaking them should be fit and experienced in

skiing the backcountry. Maps of the networks are available on the “Maps” page on the DRXC website.

One of the Bass Lake trails culminates in the club’s cabin, which is available to members for day or overnight use at very reasonable rates. The cabin is well-equipped so that skiers have less to carry in. The shortest distance to the cabin from the Bass Lake Road trailhead is 7 km. There are three ridges along the way that contribute to a challenging ski. Information, bookings and keys are available from Erik Hagberg (584-4636) or Karen Colins (584-2880). Those who are not DRXC members must sign a waiver before using the cabin.



## **FOUR SEASONS CONSERVANCY**

We ask everyone who uses the trails, both residents and guests, to sign the Four Season 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 outfitted over 150 skiers to date, and the requests keep coming. There is still some good equipment available at very reasonable prices for those a little late getting into the ski season. Contact Paul Chiasson at 564-9882 or email [paulchiasson@gmail.com](mailto:paulchiasson@gmail.com) to arrange a fitting.



[Www.drxc.ca](http://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: <http://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.



## **Happy Skiing from your DRXC Executive**

President	Phil Davis	613-584-3033	Secretary	Adrian Cecco	647-458-3971
Past-President	Cheryl Rhodes	613-584-3932	Treasurer	Dave Rhodes	613-584-3932
Vice-President	Bob Donders	613-584-4321	Membership	Lori Walters	613-584-9812