



# The Inside Track

A Newsletter for Members of the Porcupine Ski Runners

Fall Issue

[www.porcupineskirunners.com](http://www.porcupineskirunners.com)

November 2008

## GETTING READY FOR ANOTHER SKI SEASON!

### MEMBERSHIP

This is your invitation to renew your membership in the Porcupine Ski Runners. It won't be long before we are once again skiing and snowshoeing on the trails, Most of the pre-season work that goes into getting trails, equipment and facilities ready is completed – thanks again to many volunteers.

Please complete the application form carefully and enter all the requested information including your signature at the bottom of the form. If the basic data from last season's record, is pasted on the form, please update any incorrect, changed or new information.

Membership fees have increased for this year. We try to keep fees as low as possible and over the years, we have been quite successful at that. The increase in fees is required to keep pace with increased costs of operation – electricity, heating, maintenance and other expenses. I'm sure that you are aware that we have no

employees at PSR but we do hire a cleaner and pay one contract worker for equipment maintenance and as an equipment operator. Our liability insurance is paid as part of the club's registration fee with Cross Country Canada through Cross Country Ontario and Northern Ontario Division.

We will be using membership cards again this year as a means of identifying members.

**Porcupine Ski Runners** is a **Cross Country Ski & Snowshoe Club**. Of course, that means that we have snowshoe trails. If you have a membership to ski, then you may use the snowshoe trails without additional cost. Or you may join as a snowshoe only member at a lesser cost by submitting the same application form and indicating this choice. Please remember to pass on this information to any person who you think might be interested in snowshoeing

We continue to ask for donations because we are still in need of funds to make the Nordic Centre Project a reality. Cash donations of at least \$50 are eligible for a tax credit receipt. To get such a receipt your cheque must be made payable to: City of

Timmins / PSR. Please consider supporting this project – especially if you have not already donated.



And we have something new!

As an option you may get a shared membership with the **Iroquois Falls Cross Country Ski Club**.

This is an excellent opportunity to enjoy the trails at a different club at very little cost.

Cost: \$25 for an individual  
\$35 for a family

Benefits: With this shared membership you may ski at Iroquois Falls without additional cost.

**How to apply:** Simply write **Iroquois Falls** at the top of the PSR application form before returning it.

Payment: Include the payment with your payment for membership in PSR. There is no need for a separate cheque.

---

## Nordic Centre Project

Promises, promises! Like politicians we haven't been able to keep our promise to have a new chalet for the 2008-09 season. But we tried.

We did "go to tender" for a contractor in late July and we received three bids. All three were over the estimated cost but one bid was perhaps in the range of possibility. The complicating factor was timing because the contractor wanted to begin construction before the end of August. Bids were received on August 5 and we had just received the final version of the drawings and specifications. This meant that we had not had time to review them and we had not finalized the arrangements for a loan that was needed to help finance the project. Furthermore, several directors were apprehensive that the work would not be completed in time for the start of the 2008-09 ski season. We decided to again delay the construction – until summer 2009.

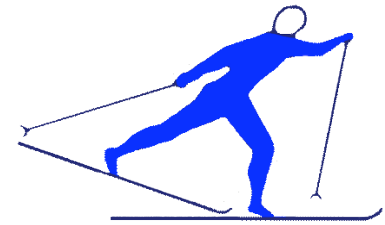
On September 14 we held an Open House at the chalet to allow members or other interested persons to view the plans for the project, ask questions and make suggestions to the committee. The event had been publicized through The Daily Press and, for those who attended, we were able to answer some questions and discuss the obstacles that still stand in the way of

completing the project. Apart from comments such as the need for more lockers, three issues that were raised were: 1) donations of \$200 in the "Buy A Locker" campaign should guarantee the donor a locker which the member can rent in the new chalet. 2) the importance of improving our entrance road and 3) the need for the club to have ski rentals. These are all important – so to comment on each:

1. By popular demand we have decided to honour the request to guarantee a locker to rent in the new chalet for any member donating \$200 toward the project through the "Buy-A-Locker" campaign.
2. The road will be improved if we have sufficient financing. If not it will be delayed as a future undertaking.
3. Planning to implement a system for ski rentals is not part of this project. Assuming that we are able to build the chalet as it is presently planned, there will be space either in the new chalet or in an external building in which ski equipment for rental could be housed if that becomes part of future planning,

From the tendering experience we learned that our financial situation for the project is "tight". Even cutting the various

components of the project to a minimum, we feel that we are not in a comfortable position when it comes to funding. At the same time, we have raised a significant amount of money and we feel that the project must proceed. The question is how to make it happen in 2009.



## Our Plan

1. Review the drawings and specifications to detect errors, clarify details and suggest ways to cut costs.
2. Discuss our concerns and ideas with our architect. We will have additional cost for re-tendering the construction and if we wish to have some change to the design to save money, that will require additional design and engineering costs.
3. Attempt to raise more money for the project between now and May, 2009.
4. Re-tender the construction in early 2009.
5. Proceed with the construction in the spring and summer of 2009.

---

## **PSR Members can help**

Yes, we need your help – mostly in the area of raising more money. Please consider if you can help in one or more of the following ways:

1. Donate money directly to the project. The City of Timmins is still very supportive of both our club and this project. A donation of at least \$50 with the cheque made out to: City of Timmins/ PSR will permit the City to send you a tax eligible receipt.
2. Donate through the “Buy A Locker” campaign. For \$200 (cheque made out to City of Timmins/ PSR) you will assist in completing the project.

Other details:

- we will inscribe your name on a small plaque that will be attached to a locker.
- you will be guaranteed a locker to rent – if you wish one – in the new chalet.
- you may donate through this campaign even if you don't wish to have a locker to rent.
- persons who have already donated by “Buying A Locker” will be given all the considerations we are listing here.
- members who already have a locker to rent – please consider donating by

“Buying A Locker” if you have not already done so. Remember that lockers take up space in the chalet and it is proving costly to build that space. You, along with others, can help pay for it.

3. Volunteer to help by joining a group that will be brainstorming for ideas to raise funds. The group will then select ideas they decide are feasible and plan the event(s). We are not really interested in selling tickets so we need some novel ideas. If you are interested in helping in this way, contact Noëlla McNair at 264-9093 or [gmcnair@ntl.sympatico.ca](mailto:gmcnair@ntl.sympatico.ca).

Consider lending money to the project through the “Nordic Centre Loan” program. Please see details below.



### **The Nordic Centre Loan Program**

We are quite certain that the club will have to borrow money to complete this project. In our discussion with banks, we have determined that the club is

eligible to borrow for this project. However, we would prefer to borrow from members who are willing to lend to us. If you are in a financial position to do so, please consider making such a loan to the club.

#### **Details:**

1. Our objective is to borrow \$100,000.
2. We are looking for 10 members who are willing to lend \$10,000 each toward the project.
3. Re-payment will be over 10 years.
4. Interest rate will be negotiated.
5. Members who are willing to help in this way please contact Gerry McNair at 264-9093 or [gmcnair@ntl.sympatico.ca](mailto:gmcnair@ntl.sympatico.ca)

### **PARTY? WE NEED HELP!**

Liberal Party, Tory Party, Democratic Party, Republican Party.

Tired of Parties?

Join the Loppet Party and the Paddling Film Party

Call 235-8048 and help us get organized!

---

## **Compte rendu du projet centre nordique**

Une nouvelle saison de ski et de raquette approche et toutes les pistes sont prêtes pour la première tombée de neige. Un grand merci à tous les bénévoles qui ont contribué de leur temps pour défricher les sentiers.

La construction du nouveau chalet aura lieu en 2009. Nous avons mis le travail en adjudication et avons reçu trois soumissions au mois d'août. Nous avons constaté que

1. les soumissions dépassaient nos finances
2. le projet de construction débutant en septembre pourrait déranger la saison de ski et de raquette.

Alors, le conseil d'administration de Porcupine Ski Runners a décidé de remettre le projet à l'année prochaine. Cette décision nous permettra de mieux examiner les plans de construction, d'y apporter les modifications nécessaires et de continuer notre prélèvement de fonds.

Le 14 septembre, nous avons invité la communauté à se présenter au club pour examiner les plans et proposer des suggestions. Une des idées proposées concerne la contribution d'un don de 200\$ dans le contexte de "Buy A Locker". Les gens ont indiqué

que ce don devrait garantir un casier si le donateur est intéressé. En autres mots, une personne qui contribue 200\$ dans la campagne "Buy A Locker" sera garanti un casier qu'il devra louer à chaque année.

Une deuxième idée proposée concerne la location d'équipement de ski. Ceci nous intéresse mais ne fait pas partie du projet de 2009.

Une troisième idée proposée est d'améliorer le chemin qui donne acces au chalet. Nous sommes d'accord que ceci est très important mais il nous faut voir si nos finances nous permettrons de réaliser cette amélioration en 2009.

Nous avons besoin de votre aide surtout avec le prélèvement de fonds. Nous cherchons des membres qui pourraient nous aider à développer des activités originales. Contactez Noëlla McNair au 264-9093 ou par courriel: [gmcnair@ntl.sympatico.ca](mailto:gmcnair@ntl.sympatico.ca)

Nous savons que pour réaliser notre projet il nous faudra emprunter de la banque. Est-ce que nous avons des membres qui serait voulants de nous faire des emprunts? S.v.p. regardez les détails du programme d'emprunt.

## **Programme d'emprunts du centre nordique**

1. Nous visons emprunter 100,000\$
2. Nous cherchons 10 membres capables de nous prêter 10,000\$ chacun
3. Les versements de paiement se feront sur 10 ans
4. Le taux d'intérêt sera négocié
5. Les membres qui veulent plus de détails s.v.p. Contactez Gerry McNair au 264-9093 ou par courriel: [gmcnair@ntl.sympatico.ca](mailto:gmcnair@ntl.sympatico.ca)

## Sea<sup>to</sup>Sea<sup>to</sup>Sea

PSR members are asked to make up or join a team as we journey to the 2010 Olympics!

Earn prizes and a chance to win a trip to the 2010 Olympics or the 2009 Canadian World Cup races at the Olympic venue at Callaghan Valley

Sea to Sea to Sea is a program where participants form teams within their home clubs to collectively ski the distance to the 2010 Olympic site in Callaghan Valley, BC.

Teams log their progress on the CCC website and individuals earn prizes for team distance milestones. The members of teams who attain the Bronze milestone will also be entered to win extra draw prizes including trips to either 2009 World Cup races or the 2010 Olympics!

### **Ski Swap and Sale**

The annual ski swap/ ski waxing put on by the PSR Race team will soon be here. Mark your calendars for Sat Nov 22 and Sun Nov 23 at the Chalet. Skis will receive base prep wax and coats of blue wax to allow you to begin your ski season. Drop off of skis to the chalet will be accepted on:

Sat Nov 22 -9:00 am –2:00pm

Sun Nov 23 – 8:00 am – noon

Individuals wishing to purchase items from the ski

Porcupine Ski Runners

### **XC Ski Swap and Sale**

Sat Nov 22 - 9:00 am - 2:00pm

Sun Nov 23 - 8:00 am - noon

Items wishing to be included with the ski swap may be dropped off on Saturday between 10 - 2pm.

Money raised and items left over will be available to pick up on Sun at 3:00pm.

swap should bring cash or cheques. We do not have facilities for credit and debit cards.

Ski articles including skis (no three pins), boots, bindings, poles, and clothing will be accepted for this fundraiser. CHILDREN'S ITEMS ARE ALWAYS IN NEED FOR JACK RABBIT AND NEW PARTICIPANTS. New equipment from Peltonen, The Outside store, Atomic and other suppliers will also be on hand for purchase. NEW THIS YEAR, SKI AND OUTDOOR CLOTHING WITH PSR LOGO WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ORDER. Funds raised will be used by the Racing team to assist with travel and equipment costs during the year. Professionals will be on hand to assist with your purchases.

### **Waxing Opportunity**

Get your skis prepared at the Ski-Swap. Cost for waxing is \$10.00 for skis which were prepped last spring by the ski team and \$20.00 for all others. Special repairs will be assessed on an individual basis and priced accordingly.

Items wishing to be included with the ski swap may be dropped off on Saturday between 10 – 2pm. Money raised and items left over will be available to pick up on Sun at 3:00pm.

**Memberships and Jack Rabbit registration (sponsored by Tim Horton's) will also take place on Sunday Nov 23 between 10 – 3pm.**

We hope to see snow by then so everyone can get out on their skis and do what we all enjoy most!!

## **Nordic Centre Project**

1200 members can make this happen

**Cash Shortfall** (See thermometer) →

### **Approximate**

Total cash raised to date:  
\$1,025,000

Direct donation from members: \$66,690

% from members' direct donation: **6.5%**

% from other sources 93.5%

Members are the primary users of Porcupine Ski Runners, so let's double that percentage of our contribution to this project. The fund-raising committee has worked hard to solicit funds for this project from a wide variety of sources. Now we need that extra and final boost from our members.

We are asking every applicant for membership to make a contribution:

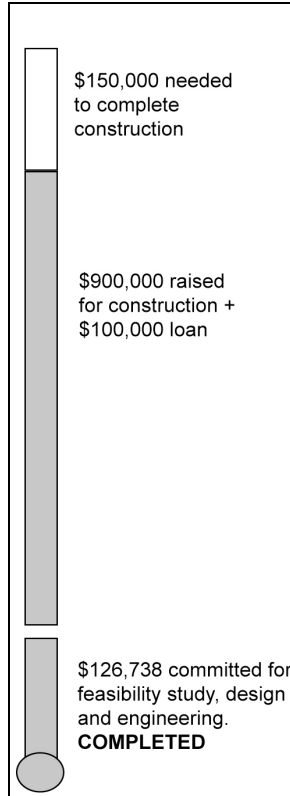
**Small donation – \$10, \$20 up to \$50.**

Include this on your application form. These sums aren't eligible for a tax receipt, but they all help.

**Bigger donation – \$50 or more.**

Provide a separate donation cheque made out to: City of Timmins / PSR. Donations \$50 and over are eligible for a tax receipt.

**Lets Make it Happen Now**



### **Volunteers Needed**

Yes, Porcupine Ski Runners is administered and operated by volunteers. That's why membership is as inexpensive as it is.

The Nordic Centre Project needs volunteers:

#### **Fund-raising committee.**

Do you have an idea for a novel way to raise some additional funds?

Want to help brain storm some fund-raising ideas?

Can you help organize a fund-raising event?

Please write your name on the line below and return with your membership application

**Name:**

### **Buy A Locker - \$200 donation**

Make the cheque payable to: City of Timmins / PSR because this donation is eligible for a tax receipt.

Write ***Locker*** in the cheque Memo.

We'll place a plaque on one of the new lockers with your name on it.

If you wish we will reserve one of the new lockers for you.

### **Provide a loan – \$10,000.**

We need to borrow \$100,000.

We need a few members who will lend us a significant sum of money which we will repay over 10 years.

If you can help in this way, call Noëlla at 264-9093 or [gmcnair@ntl.sympatico.ca](mailto:gmcnair@ntl.sympatico.ca)

### **Project Helpers – To help with the building in the final stages of construction.**

By completing some of the work ourselves we will be able to reduce costs. We need workers to make that happen in the summer / fall of 2009.

Please write your name and skills on the line below and return with your membership application

**Name:**

**Skill:**