

The Inside Track

A newsletter for members of the Porcupine Ski Runners



President's Message

Mary Anne Church

The 2012 ski season was temperate, short and sweet! As you will see in this newsletter, you are a member of a vibrant, active, welcoming club of skiers and snowshoers.

On the business side of the house, your board of directors have worked diligently to form policy around hiring chalet personnel, ski and snowshoe rentals, chalet facilities rental, schools and groups. Your board specialists have managed the finances, facilities, equipment, trails, web communications, and membership with professionalism. Thank you for being such a dedicated team.

Of course, a directorship is not everyone's cup of tea; but PSR has a solid hard working team of volunteers who do the grunt work and smile. You are the best!

Over the summer, I welcome you to come out to enjoy the trails. Keep making healthy lifestyle choices, and bring along some friends!

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Spring Issue

May 2012

The Inside Track is distributed to the members of Porcupine Ski Runners to keep them informed about club activities. There are three newsletters issued each season.

Thank you to those who contributed reports and information. Suggestions and comments from members are always appreciated.

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THE PORCUPINE SKI RUNNERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will take place on

Tuesday, June 5, 2012 at 7:00 PM

Xstrata Copper Chalet @ Porcupine Ski Runners

All members are invited to attend.

Presentation of 1000KM Pins

Board Member Elections



Chalet Manager's Report

-Jim Bielek

There was a steep learning curve for me this year as Chalet Manager because as each component of Porcupine Ski Runners' operation was added, I had new things to learn. To assist with the many duties we hired and trained staff with regard to custodial duties, rental room procedures and customer service.

The rental room proved to be a valuable addition to our income sources. By the end of February it had brought in close to \$10,000 in trail and rental fees. Trail fees collected were almost double that of each of the two previous years. Season rentals for schools, Jackrabbits and Special Olympians accounted for another \$1,500 while a corporate agreement for rentals was another \$1,000. School snowshoe groups brought in \$1,200 in revenue. This total of \$13,700 was very close to the total paid for wages to employees.

The rental room also helped the racing team with revenue through the sale of waxes. Our members were happy about the convenience of being able to buy their supplies here. For every dollar we spent on wages handling rentals we were making two dollars that could be used in other areas. The weekends proved to be very busy with 50 or more rentals. Thursday and Friday rentals were slow, generally under 10 per day, so some promotions may be needed. An example could be *Ski Under the Lights Night* where we might offer reduced prices after 4 pm.

Wages to the end of February totalled \$13,256 for the three employees in the chalet. This represents about 800 hours of which a third would be for custodial work, another third would be for rental duties and the remainder would be for customer service and /or a mixture of different duties such as snow blowing, setting up for schools, helping with special events, etc. There was also an added component of security with having Brent and Dennis in the building for the majority of the hours that we were open.

The schools continue to take advantage of the ski program with the biggest increase in the area of holding physical education classes for a week at a time on our trails, booking more snowshoe groups starting earlier in the season and going even after the March Break.

It was a challenge to spread these visits out enough to not overwhelm our rental department and not result in too much congestion in the lounge area. Lee Ann Wearing did a great job in coordinating these visits and Gerry McNair helped keep track of the fee payments.

We have developed or updated the following documents this year.

1. Emergency Procedures
2. Emergency Procedures binder
3. School Procedures and forms
4. Rental Room Procedures
5. Operations Manual for Porcupine Ski Runners
(First Draft)

A good base has been created in the operation of the new chalet which fits in with all of the amazing traditions that our volunteers have established in the past. Some of the possibilities for next year might include an operating kitchen several days a week, a waxing service for members, introductory ski lessons for new members, guided tours of our snowshoe trails early in the season, more first aid training, encouraging more volunteers for all labour intensive tasks, an earlier start for information to get out to schools and PSR groups about using seasonal rentals at special rates rather than scrambling for their own equipment.

It's been a good year and I've enjoyed sharing the experience with all of our members.

Membership

-Gerry McNair

It's never easy to explain why membership numbers vary from year to year. The final count of members this year is 1,123 compared to 1,179 last year. Why the drop? Difficult to explain because we had a really good season with a good amount of snow and the trail grooming crew kept the skiing conditions in excellent shape.

Here are some details about our membership this year:

- 267 families
- 602 females
- 168 adults
- 521 males
- 69 seniors
- 29 snowshoe members
- 36 students



A Request to Members

-Mike Kornell

As the first season with a chalet manager has just ended, we seek your views as to the chalet manager role. To help guide your feedback, the chalet manager contractual duties are outlined below.

The Chalet Manager's role is to ensure that cross-country skiing and snowshoeing operations are conducted in an efficient and professional manner that focuses on skiing and snowshoeing excellence, and which conveys a courteous, welcoming manner to the skiing and snowshoeing public. In order to fulfill this responsibility, the Chalet Manager must work constructively and cooperatively with other PSR club volunteers as an effective team and within the constraints of a budget.

Duties of the Chalet Manager

The primary responsibilities of Porcupine Ski Runners Chalet Manager will encompass the following broad areas with more specific guidelines to be developed as the initial season progresses:

1. Prepare chalet for winter season.
2. Make arrangements for equipment rentals.
3. Hire, train and supervise part-time staff.
4. Keep and post schedule of special events and activities.
5. Promote increased usage of chalet facilities.

All comments will be held in confidence as to the sender, but the collective feedback will be used to better define the chalet manager role. Please provide your comments to kornell@eastlink.ca by July 1st.

Equipment & Trails

-Gerry Perreault

We had such a good start to the ski season and were fortunate enough to be able to ski on our interior trails and also the 10 km loop in early December. The Loppet trail was open prior to January 1st and that is by far the earliest that I can recall. We have to thank Ray Denis for all his hand grooming and hours spent to get the Loppet (South Porcupine) trail open without using the large groomers. Compared to the old Alpines, the new Skidoos were a challenge to maneuver and balance. There are several good points to these sleds but also some bad ones. The new small Groomers (Ginzus) are very impressive because they produce an excellent trail surface and they set a very nice track.

We lost two days this season, due to mild weather and rain, where we kept the trails closed in order to protect the limited snow we had on the trails at that time. Thank you to those who obeyed the signs on those days. We don't like to close trails but it's done in the club's best interest. Late in the season we often stay open even in mild, wet conditions but when these conditions occur in mid-winter, we have to really look at how much damage any skiing will do to the trails and how much effort will be required to get them back in good shape. Had we not received the warm spell in mid-March, we

probably would have continued skiing well into April. This season, we had by far one of the best bases we have had in years, yet Mother Nature rules, and the early loss of our snow is very unfortunate for those who enjoy the spring skiing.

The track setting assembly on the back of one of the large groomers was finally used and that allowed us to complete the modifications required. It appears to be doing a good job, but we need a minimum of 10 cm of fresh snow for it to work properly. When we try just renovating the old surface, the quality of the track is poor.

Dave Stiles has been a real asset in having the equipment ready and serviced all season long, and ready to go at all times. The hours logged on the Groomers were double that of the last two years at 140.4 hours and we travelled a total of 2,175 km on the Skidoos. That distance would work out to between 180 to 200 hours. Also, thank you to Ray Denis, Dave Stiles, Germain Lauzier, Denis Brûlé, Denis Savard, Ryan Allard, Phillip Manseau and Gerry Perreault.

For the summer and fall we have no firm plans at this time for any large scale projects—just the regular trail maintenance and having the new signage put up. We now have the new ATV, brush cutting saw and the new Bush Hog to help with trail maintenance.

Enjoy your summer and remember that we will need you in September and October to prepare trails for next season.



Communications

-*Claude Gagnon*

The website has seen an increase in traffic, now that we have an informative events calendar updated on a regular basis. We've also added the daily weather report to attract more traffic. Our goal is to eventually have every member use the website on a regular basis to get all of their PSR information. To achieve this goal, we must continue to provide reliable, up to date information on every subject matter related to cross-country skiing, as well as snowshoeing, in Timmins.

We are still looking to put together a FAQ page, but not until we have more concrete answers to some re-occurring questions such as: "How can I arrange for a private ski-lesson?" or "How can I get my skis waxed once a week?" These and other similar questions always lead to the same basic answer, "we are still working on this issue." Your input is much appreciated.

The added benefit of Facebook is having the ability to reach 222 members, at this moment, with every posting on our page. This will hopefully continue to attract more users in order to eventually announce all of our special events, as well as trail conditions and closures almost instantly as the information becomes available. If you are currently a member of our Facebook group, I would encourage you to press the word "LIKE" below each new posting, so that all of your friends will see the postings. In turn, many of these friends would join the group. You can also invite all of your friends to join.



2011-2012 Financial Summary

-*Beverly Beaven, Treasurer*

This year was the first year for the club to rent out ski equipment and the second year for snowshoe rentals. Rental of equipment is proving to be a popular venue for those who wish to try out one sport or the other without buying the equipment.

The club's fiscal year runs from June 1 to May 31. The summary I have is up to March 31 but the majority of revenues and expenses are reported.

During this past season, the club purchased ski equipment and boots as well as some equipment for grooming and trails using monies specifically granted for that purpose. There will be ongoing work on the trails and equipment during the summer and fall months.

REVENUE:	Memberships	72,675
	Rentals	9,036
	Day Fees	8,795
	Lockers	8,363
	Donations	2,262
	Jackrabbit	1,488
	OCUP	19,400
	Other	6,147
	TOTAL REVENUES	128,166
EXPENSES	Payroll	19,089
	Insurance	14,623
	Trails	13,493
	Projects	13,088
	Utilities	12,478
	Facilities	11,849
	Property taxes	6,461
	OCUP	13,458
	Other expenses	9,746
	TOTAL EXPENSES	114,285
	Revenues less expenses	13,881



Méli-Mélo

-Noëlla McNair

Il est temps de jeter un regard sur la saison 2011-12. Quelle saison étonnante! Pour nous, les amateurs de ski et de raquette nous avons anticipé jouir de nos sports favoris pendant longtemps car l'hiver était douce mais avec de bonnes tombées de neige. Mais ensuite est venu le choc de mars avec ses chaleurs d'été. Notre neige s'est évaporé!!

Les bonnes mémoires de l'année :

- La communauté semble avoir apprécié le fait que le club offre la location de raquettes et de skis. Le nombre de personnes qui ont tenté une première expérience de skis ou de raquettes a beaucoup augmenté cette année.
- La location d'équipements a nécessité l'embauche de trois personnes à temps partiel – Jim Bielek, Denis Savard et Brent Cleverdon. Merci à ces trois pour leur service exceptionnel.
- Les écoles locales ont encore pris avantage du club et de la disponibilité d'équipements. Merci aux écoles qui souvent donnent un cadeau de monnaie pour démontrer leur appréciation.
- La compétition en février de la Coupe Ontario a connu un succès fou. Félicitations au comité qui a organisé le tout. Merci à tous les bénévoles qui ont contribué leur temps et leur expertise – surtout pour le maintien des pistes. Merci aussi à tous nos commanditaires et spécialement Xstrata Copper. A la suite des trois journées de compétition, les commentaires par les participants des autres régions étaient tous dans le domaine du superlatif – Merveilleux ! Quelles belles pistes ! Un beau chalet accueillant !
- Le Loppet en mars a vu environ 100 participants. Encore une fois félicitations au comité qui a planifié l'évènement. Et un merci tout spécial aux bénévoles qui ont servi un goûter gourmet. Les participants ont pu déguster des mets savoureux – le tout couronné par

des desserts incroyables. Toutes les offrandes du goûter furent la création de plusieurs personnes (hommes et femmes) impliqués.

Alors, malgré notre saison très abrégée, nous avons connu de bons succès. Mais il nous faut toujours se pencher vers l'avenir et considérer comment nous pouvons améliorer certaines choses et augmenter la participation dans ce club. Cette année la présidente de notre conseil – Mary-Anne Church nous quitte pour obtenir sa maîtrise à l'université Royal Rhodes. Quelques autres membres du conseil se retirent. Ceci pour dire que nous sommes à la recherche de gens intéressés à servir sur le conseil. Des gens nouveau avec des idées nouvelles garderont notre club en santé. Svp n'hésitez pas à indiquer votre intérêt à un des membres du conseil. On vous encourage à venir à la réunion annuelle qui aura lieu au club mardi le 5 juin. A cette réunion a lieu l'élection des membres du conseil. Pour plus de renseignements vous pouvez aussi me contacter au 705-264-9093 ou par courriel noellamcnair@gmail.com



Ontario Cup Race participant and PSR Ski Team member Colton LaBine.
Photo courtesy of Claude J. Gagnon Professional Photography



PSR Ski Team

-Greg Deyne

Jessica Demers, first year junior girl, and Colton LaBine, second year juvenile boy, both qualified to represent Ontario at the Canadian National Championships in Mont Ste-Anne, Quebec from March 17-24. This was Colton's first time on the Ontario Ski Team. His results from the three races hosted by PSR helped contribute to his making the Ontario team. Jessica's and Colton's best race at Nationals was the 5 km classic race where they finished 18th and 19th respectively in Canada during 26 degree weather.

Special congratulations goes out Jessica Demers who ended up second overall in the Junior Girl division for Ontario thus being selected for the Ontario Race Team. Ontario Team selection is based on points from the best three classic and freestyle races in the Ontario Race Series and the best two races at Nationals. Jessica will be provided unique training opportunities as a member of Ontario's Elite Race team this coming summer and fall.

Ontario Cup Race #3

-Greg Deyne

From most accounts, the Ontario Cup Race hosted by PSR on February 18, 19 & 20, 2012, was a great success. Xstrata Copper was our major sponsor for the race. Our new Xstrata Copper Chalet, the great trails and almost perfect weather for Nordic skiing contributed significantly to the success of the event.

We hosted over 160 able body athletes and 6 Para Nordic athletes from over 20 Nordic ski clubs located in Waterloo to the south, Ottawa in the East, and Big Thunder and Lappe (Thunder Bay) in the Northwest. The Nordic event featured two interval start skate races and one mass start classic race. A fresh snowfall and well groomed trails made waxing simple and that was appreciated by the visiting wax technicians.

The friendly and professional demeanour was apparent to the visiting athletes, coaches and parents. Donated services and contributions from numerous businesses, and over one hundred volunteers helped make the event a success. Both members of PSR and others from the community donated their time to make this one of the best run Nordic Ontario Cup Race series in 2012.

A special thank-you to our members whose skiing schedule was inconvenienced by the three days of races. Rest assured that the opportunity you provided for this event has left a positive and lasting memory of PSR on the minds of everyone who participated in Ontario Cup Race #3, 2012.

A final thank-you to the members of the Event and Competition Organizing Committees—quite possibly the best team I've ever had the pleasure to work with.

Davidson de Laplante Loppet 2012

~ PSR Masters

Our Loppet was held on Sunday, March 11, and included a Snowshoe Loppet for the first time. In total 95 participated: 88 skiers and 7 snowshoers. Distances were 2, 5, 10, 17 km Skate or Classic Technique. Thanks to Larry and Sylvia Labelle who designed the 1.2 and 3 km snowshoe courses.

Loppet participants and volunteers were treated to an amazing healthy lunch and many enjoyed the warm sunshine as they lunched on the deck. Overnight temperatures were -6°C but Spring was in the air as temperatures soared to +16°C!

Each finisher was given a special coin celebrating Timmins' 100th birthday. Everyone, including the 23 wonderful volunteers, took home a prize. Thanks to Davidson de Laplante Insurance for sponsoring our Loppet.



Ontario Cup Race participant and PSR Ski Team member Jessica Demers.

*Photo courtesy of
Claude J. Gagnon
Professional Photography*



2 km Classic

Females

Romain, Martina	0:37:30
Edwards, Olivia	0:41:54
Edwards, Lisa	0:41:57
Luhta, Mari	0:43:03
Larche, Carole	0:43:30
Southcott, Danielle	0:43:32
Edwards, Ava	0:47:32
Mills, Olivia	0:48:29
Fortier, Mireille	1:11:23
Males	
Beaven, Brian	0:16:52
Kratofil, Nico	0:24:12
Romain, Derrick	0:37:30
Edwards, Tim	0:47:37
Lamirande, Landon	1:04:58
Mairs, Carter	1:06:16
Martin, Jeremi	1:11:19

2 km Skate

Males

Luhta, Eric	0:43:04
Mills, Steve	0:48:28
Mairs, Tyler	1:06:17

5 km Classic

Females

Carle, Laurette	0:30:15
McNair, Noëlla	0:38:03
Laiho, Emma	0:43:54
Wrona-McLaughlin, Corinna	0:45:33
Locke, Joan	0:48:30
Ferrier, Lily	0:53:18
Steinbrunner, Katie	0:54:59
McRae, Marilyn	0:56:01
Martin, Emanuelle	0:59:15
Rondeau-McNair, Sarah	1:03:09
Vodusek, Julia	1:04:10
Rondeau-McNair, Thérèse	1:04:59
Lamirande, Dakota	1:27:42

5 km Classic (continued)

Mairs, Cassidy	1:27:50
Mairs, Wendy	1:27:53
Males	
Rondeau-McNair, Caleb	0:37:50
Barbuto, Gracie	0:43:12
Barbuto, Mario	0:43:15
McLaughlin, Evan	0:45:59
McLaughlin, Dave	0:46:00
Wagner, Grant	0:48:22
Walsh, Haydenn	0:50:38
Mairs, Braydon	0:52:43
Ferrier, Calvin	0:53:19
Vodusek, Joe	0:55:01
Vodusek, David	1:04:12

5 km Skate

Males	
Luhta, Diane	0:51:52
Hickey, Hanna	0:56:47
Hickey, Marlene	0:56:50
Riopel, Janet	0:59:48
McIvor, JoAnne	1:05:06
Males	
Allard, Ryan	0:48:38
White, Robert	0:49:22
Kalliomaki, Peter	0:50:36
Finnila, Antiro	1:01:16
Caissey, Mark	1:04:20

10 km Skate

Females	
Finnila, Brenda	0:40:30
LeDuc, Darlene	0:48:26
Allard, Naomi	0:48:31
Males	
Manseau, Phillip	0:33:30
McNair, Neal	0:36:30

10 km Skate (continued)

Rondeau-McNair, Isaac	0:36:33
Denis, Ray	0:38:59
Manseau, Theo	0:42:25
Martin, Iain	0:46:45
Tuovinen, John	0:53:12
Walsh, Austin	0:59:54

17 km Classic

Males	
Demers, Rick	1:02:20
LaBine, Colton	1:02:22
Castilloux, Claude	1:06:57

17 km Skate

Females	
Bezzubetz, Laurie	0:59:54
Males	
Bourget, Jeremie	0:49:19
Coderre, Robert	0:50:30
Baribeau, Lorne	0:54:38
McIvor, Bruce	0:56:57
Kapias, David	0:57:51
Walsh, Torey	0:58:50
Nycz, Joe	1:01:26
Deyne, Greg	1:06:22
Vasiliauskas, Stan	1:22:16
Caissey, Jack	2:29:33

1.2 km Snowshoe

Females	
Mills, Kelly	0:23:48

3 km Snowshoe

Females	
Barbuto, Chrissy	0:33:28
Males	
LaBine, Helen	0:49:42
Males	
Wagner, Jared	0:25:26
Wagner, Richard	0:25:31
Barbuto, Jayden	0:33:26
LaBine, John	0:49:39



Youth Development Report

-Cheryl Allard
-Kelleigh Manseau

Thank-you to parents and volunteers who assisted coaches, made and served snacks, and helped to keep the Jackrabbit program running so smoothly. Without the weekly dedication of our coaches, this program could not be as successful as it currently is, so a hearty thank-you is extended to Wendy Mairs, Jeannie Deadman, Marie-Pierre Nadon, Dave Vodusek, Ryan Allard, Calvin Ferrier, Denise Kornell, Angele Caporicci and Phillip Manseau.

Mireille Fortier will be the new Jackrabbit co-ordinator for the 2012-13 ski season. Mireille and her family have been involved with JR for many years now, and we welcome her aboard.

Investor's Group generously sponsored an Introductory to Community Coaching course and, as a result, PSR now has 10 more qualified NCCP coaches.

Coach Denise Kornell who has been involved with JR since her move to Timmins 3 years ago, will be leaving JR to focus on other interests within the club. We wish her well in her new endeavours.

John Labine organized a NEOAA (North Eastern Ontario Athletic Association) skate ski competition at PSR for high school athletes. Local teams as well as out of town schools took part. Winners in this race proceeded to OFSSA, which was held in Huntsville this year.

Racing Rocks went ahead as scheduled during the March Break—after the thunder and lightening subsided. Many children came out to ski in the rain and subsequent fog. Thank-you Therese Rondeau-McNair for taking fabulous pictures and posting them on the PSR Facebook page.

The PSR Race Team had its final fundraiser of the season on March 25th—summer waxing of skis. Two hundred and seventy dollars was raised and will go towards the support of the development team and the race team.

JR will be starting up again in the fall with dryland training. An email will be sent out in October, to the families with children ages 7 and up with more details on registration. Track Attack will continue to meet twice a week next season and parents will be notified by email, in the fall of the start-up dates.

Yvan Massicotte Memorial

-Greg Deyne

When Yvan Massicotte passed away his family requested donations to the PSR Race Team. Yvan was a PSR Director and a key player in the development of the sprint loop. He was stadium race chair and wax technician for the PSR race team for a number of years.

We have been considering how best to use the memorial money that was donated to recognize Yvan's contribution to the club and to the Race Team. Based on the responses I received to my original request for ideas, it appears that an outdoor training circuit has the most support. As much as possible, we should attempt to keep to some theme that we think would best represent Yvan's character and interests.

Detailed planning is in the early stages but the PSR Board has approved the project. The proposal calls for the training circuit to be located in the forest within the inner sprint loop, between the stadium and the first trail loop. It will consist of a series of exercise stations and there will be a memorial plaque with a small natural structure at the start of the circuit dedicating the training circuit to Yvan.

Other ideas will be greatly appreciated and I will need other volunteers to make this project a reality. If you are interesting in helping, please contact me at 705-235-3564 or deyne@vianet.ca.



The Year That Winter Died

-Diane Luhta

McLean's Magazine called 2012 "The Year That Winter Died" and for many avid skiers the dream of skiing 1000 km died too. The season was all too short and ended much too quickly. It was 28 degrees the week after the March break and the snow melted before our eyes leaving many snow lovers cursing Old Man Winter.

Only 13 people reached the 1000 km mark. That is the lowest number on record since 1985 when only 12 people skied 1000 km or more but that was skiing classic style only. In 2010, only 15 made it to the magical number of 1000 or more so it does seem that the winters are getting shorter. The best year was 1998 when 55 skiers hit the 1000 km mark.

Hopefully next year will see lots of the white flakes landing early and staying late into April.

Congratulations to those who reached the goal and a special salute to those who managed to ski on 100 days.

Summer Chalet Hours

During spring, summer and fall the chalet does not have regular hours of operation. If you need to get into the chalet, please call one of the following to make arrangements:

Gerry McNair	705-264-9093
Jim Bielek	705-235-8355
Gerry Perreault	705-264-6939
Ray Denis	705-267-0433

1000 KM CLUB

Greg Deyne	1579
Raimo Peltoniemi	1505
Sue Kaczmarek	1414
Kevin Montgomery	1258
Real Paquette	1243
Marcel Paquette	1231
Robert Coderre	1217
Colton Labine	1210
Jessica Demers	1136
Claude Gagnon	1074
Mary-Anne Church	1007
John Chisholm	1001
Jane Schultz	1000
Marnie Chisholm	922
Denis Brule	897
Ron Zgud	894
Bea MacDonald	875
Mike Cousineau	870
Rick Demers	848
Darlene Leduc	826
George Dasovich	802
Sue Dasovich	802
Lorne Luhta	779
Norm Disley	749
Irv Garlock	745
Neal McNair	706
Denise Kornell	700
Al Heino	700
Mike Kornell	682
Joe Vodusek	677
Diane Luhta	670
Karl Laiho	669
Torey Walsh	686
Gerry McNair	620
Celine Tarlton	619
Paul Kleinhuis	605
Dave Schultz	588
Brenda Griener	580
Kim Wagner	571
Marilyn de Laplante	571
Brenda Smith	568
Claude Castilloux	564
Trish Gibson	530
Robert White	501
Ray Denis	500