

† † Nordic News † †

THE KAWARTHAS BEST CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

December 2001

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As always the forecasts of the upcoming winter's weather covers all of the possibilities for snow, or the lack of snow. I've heard "a good old fashioned winter" to "a mild winter", but the forecast I'm hanging my hat on is one that indicates the bears are settling in to hibernation a month early, a sure indication of a winter of abundant snow and great skiing opportunities.

Our Ski Swap was held Nov. 10th with great success. Our first social event is our ever-popular "Director's Brunch" January 13th so please mark your calendars.

We have a fabulous website that gives you access to latest happenings with KNSC, trail conditions, weather forecast, membership application, pictures, and links to other sites. I think you will be as impressed as I am with this new addition so sign on to www.x-c.com/clubs/kawartha and enjoy.

Our fall trail clearing work is nearing completion. The summer's deadfalls (trees across the trail) have been cleared and the summer growth chopped back. We've had several bridges rebuilt that had been in place for many years and had rotted away.

Each year, besides the regular maintenance of clearing summer growth and deadfalls, we are hiring a backhoe and operator to work with a number of volunteers widening our trails to a minimum 8' and smoothing the trail bed by removing rocks and humps or filling in hollows and cutting out sidehills. Last year we worked on the 1.3-km of Deer Trail and this year the .9 km of Adam Scott Trail from the Beaver junction to the Red Fox junction. This improvement provides a smooth base for skiing, requires less snow depth for skiing, and is easier on our clearing and grooming equipment. Comments after last season relative to the skiing on the improved Deer Trail were very positive and support the continuation of this process.

We are in the planning stages of a program to significantly improve our trails. We continually receive queries regarding where to go to "skate" ski, and there are few locations in the Kawarthas. To try to accommodate the need for skating trails we are investigating the availability of a grant to provide financial assistance for the widening of some of our trails to provide a skating loop and for the equipment needed to maintain such trails. We would also like to speedup the smoothing of existing trail beds as it will take 6 years to complete this program given our current financial status. The finances needed for this speedup will be included in the same grant request. We will keep you informed of our progress.

We have a new metal roof and a new chimney on the Tanney Cabin and in the Cossar Cabin we've installed two new windows on the back wall that provides a lot more light and they open to allow cross ventilation. Our firewood is cut and piled and we are ready. Bring on the snow.

Our club is totally dependent on volunteer efforts. I have never thought of the magnitude of the volunteer effort that goes into our club, maintaining our trails and cabins, ski patrol, administration, social activities, etc. . In the course of gathering information relative to volunteer hours spent I was astounded to reach a total of 3600 hours per year spent by volunteers on our club. If you attached a dollar figure to this effort it would be very significant. While it's hats off to those who help out in this manner, for those of us who volunteer it is self-rewarding. We get to ensure our sport continues but perhaps more rewarding is the friendships we have developed, the social involvement and camaraderie enjoyed when we carry out our volunteer efforts. Of course we are always interested in additional help and if you are interested, call any of your executive to volunteer.

Again this year we are selling sweatshirts and we've added toques, both bearing our club name and on the sweaters, the club logo. They are navy blue with gold lettering and are very smart. They would make great Christmas gifts at \$30 for the sweaters and \$15 for the toque. See our ad later in this newsletter.

Merry Christmas to all and a Happy Snowy New Year.

Dave Kirk

For information on trails or
events call
749-5605



Kawartha Nordic Ski Club Inc.,
P.O. Box 1371, Peterborough, Ontario, K9L 7L6

KNSC President

TRAILS REPORT

Skiing and Satellites

Attached is a copy of our new map. In our last Nordic News, Dave Kirk introduced the new map to you. Before discussing it, allow me to write a few words about KNSC map history. Those responsible for our first maps did an exceedingly fine job. Using a compass, a measuring wheel, and good estimating skills, they were able to produce rather accurate maps. Some 25 years later, we now have the proof of a job well done.

Over the years, the trails have changed many times. We found better terrain or we were forced to new locations because of flooding resulting from beaver dams. Early on, we used the ponds for good flat winter surfaces. We had to move off them in order to be able to reach every trail during the 'work' season. The trail system also shrunk; we no longer ski to Apsley. Maps needed constant revision.

The last number of maps were drawn in a stylized form, for easy reading. The recent logging operation, again changed some of our trails (for the better and to the Club's advantage) to accommodate doing the necessary work. Last spring, while taking down the junction maps and signs (an annual undertaking to avoid summer bear damage), Brian Backa and I recorded the first GPS readings - (the Global Positioning System, which uses a network of satellites, to give one's precise location). Conrad Hill helped to complete the job this autumn. He and I took readings at all major turns on every trail, from the PL Road south, some 31 kilometres. These longitude and latitude co-ordinates were then plotted on 4 MNR topographical maps. This gave us our most detailed map to date. Plans are to display such a large, labelled map in the Cossar Cabin. The new maps are based on this large map. Because of space limitations, the trails north of the PL Road, are shown as on earlier editions. You will notice some changes in 'shape' of the trail system now that the map is no longer drawn in a stylized form. It is much more accurate. We've come a long way in the 25 years of KNSC map evolution. We're now using satellites! More important than talking about maps or looking at them, is skiing on the trails described. Hopefully, we will do much of that this winter.

Peter Tiesma

Ski Swap Report

Our 4th consecutive Ski Swap was held Nov. 10th. at 1015 Fairbairn St. with equipment being received on Friday night from 5:00pm to 8:00pm and the sale Saturday from 9:00am to 1:00pm. This year's sale was our most successful to date basis profits for our club. The following compares our results;

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Total Sales	\$331.00	\$156.00	\$436.00	\$438.00
KNSC Income	\$272.00	\$113.50	\$263.10	\$138.00

While total sales are down from 1998 & 1999 our profits are the best yet. I can only speculate that we are receiving more equipment as outright contributions to the club. This certainly seems the case when one views the equipment left over and now stored at the Cossar Cabin.

Our thanks to Tom Bennett, and Conrad & Shirley Hill for their assistance. We would have been lost without you Irene & Dave Kirk



Family Fun Ski: Learn to Ski Program

In an attempt to encourage our own children to ski and to take advantage of the bonus motivation that other children can provide, we are planning to introduce a series of Saturday morning activities for children. Beginning in January, 2002 we are planning for some fun, skill based activities for the learn-to-ski crowd (typically between 5 and 10 years however younger children are welcome provided one parent stays close to assist as needed). We are proposing that activities start at 10:30 and run until 12:00 noon for the month of January. During this time we hope to break down some of the skills and learning into:

- 10:30 - meet at the Cossar Cabin and get organized, discuss skiing topics such as how to get up when you fall, how to dress for skiing etc.
- 10:40 - go outside, put skis on (now you may understand WHY we need parents nearby!) and warm up as a large group
- 10:50 - break off into groups, according to ability/skill and play games
- 11:15 - if cold, the younger children may need to go into the cabin and return outside for another short ski before lunch
- 12:00 - lunch in the cabin and finish for the day

We are seeking feedback from members (current and potential) as to the ages and stages of your skiers to attempt to set up interesting and fun activities appropriate for the children. This is NOT a child-free ski opportunity for parents. All family members are encouraged to participate, regardless of skill level.

If you children can ski a longer distance or loop (e.g. to the Laderach Cabin) but could benefit from other companions, informal arrangements can be made to ski with families of comparably skilled children. We would encourage you to participate in the educational and warm-up sections of the program.

We will run only if the temperature is warmer than -10C Celsius. Depending on the snow conditions and the popularity of the program we may consider extending the sessions into February, 2002. The ski line (tel. # 749-5605) can be accessed for up-to-date ski conditions. We will use the blackboard inside the Cossar Cabin to post additional information, as needed.

We also hope to have a basket of "ski props" available, with cue cards for the adults to enhance family skiing outside of the above times. For example, a plastic bowling ball fits will in the tracks and provides motivation for tired or frustrated young skiers. Donations to the ski props will be welcome.

There seem to be a large number of families who have frequented the trails over the past few years and have voiced a desire that something like this be in place. We are willing to put time and energy into the program, provided there are adequate numbers to warrant such work. Please contact us prior to December, 2001 to indicate interest. We welcome all ideas, suggestions and extra helpers.

Lynn Sansom 743-5686

Trudi Ruch 745-6925

Ann Way Nee 743-4078



2001/02 Executive Committee Register

Brian Backa, (D) – Trail Committee 743-6161
21 Trillium Lane, K9H 6J5

Keith Buchanan – Ski Patrol Leader 639-2177
RR#2, 16 Birch St. Norwood, K0L 2V0

Barry Diceman, (D) – Past President 742-2103
- Cabins/Lots
826 Hewitt Dr. K9K 2K1

Jim Elliot, (D) – Trail Committee 749-0006
- Telephone Committee
1395 Fair Ave. K9K 1G8

Conrad Hill, (D) – Membership 742-7547
12 Edgewater Blvd. K9H 1A2

Dave Kirk, (D) – President 745-2371
Irene Kirk, - Secretary
1015 Fairbairn St. K9K 1C1

Dave O'Dell, (D) - Treasurer 748-9485
16 Cricket Place, K9H 1H3

Kurt Olsen, (D) – Cabin Keepers 745-2674
93 Roper Dr. K9N 6K3

Susan Sauve, - Publicity 743-9996
575 Gilchrist St. K9H 4P2

Walter Shephard (D) – Trail Committee 745-3040
635 River Rd. S. K9J 1E6

Peter Tiesma, (D) – Signs & Maps 743-7707
1055 Barnardo Ave. K9H 5W9

Dave Woodfine, (D) -Vice-President 749-0465
Newsletter/website
Trail Committee
693 Water St. K9H 3N4



Conrad Hill puts the finishing touches on one of two new windows in the Cossar Cabin



Dave Kirk and Barry Diceman put a new steel roof on the Tanney Cabin



KNSC EVENTS

Directors Brunch: Jan. 13th 2002

Moonlight Ski: Jan. 26th 2002

Chili Fest: Feb 10th 2002

Spring Cook-out: March 3th 2002



Ski Patrol at the ready.

Reminder:

This year will we once again be sending out a complimentary KNSC day use pass which is included with your membership registration. Don't forget to give it to a friend or relative as this is a great way for people to get out and experience our trails!

WE ARE NOW ON THE WEB!!!

Surf on over to www.x-c.com/clubs/kawartha and check out the new club webpage with downloadable maps and membership forms.

If you would like to receive an electronic version of Nordic News instead of the paper copy, the trees will thank you and you'll reduce the clubs printing costs. To receive a copy just send an email , with Nordic News in the subject line, to: gwynfryn@cogeco.ca

Nordic News is edited by D.Woodfine and L. Kostuch



Kawartha Nordic Ski Club Inc.,
P.O. Box 1371, Ferrisburgh, Ontario, K8J 7L6

For information on trails or
events call
749-5605