# **††Nordic News**

THE KAWARTHAS BEST CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

March 2001

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Despite a few "rough" day in February currently, we have a good deep base on our trails so that we should get some good spring skiing in March.

Unfortunately we had to cancel our Chili Fest, scheduled for Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> due to the icy state of our trails. We have decided to combine it with our Spring cookout, which features hotdogs, and call it our "Chili Dog Fest". It is scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Special Olympics, which was cancelled on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, was run on its raindate of Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> with great success.

Plans are in the works to put a new roof on the Tanney Cabin. The material has been purchased and will be installed in the Spring. We will also install a new cap on the chimney at that time. We are going to lighten things up in the Cossar Cabin with the installation of a window on the back wall. This will provide more light but also we'll be able to open the window to provide ventilation which should help when the cabin gets too hot, especially when we have social events with large gatherings of people.

This is our final newsletter of the season. Our Annual General Meeting is on Sunday, May 6, 2001 from 3:00-4:00 at the Cossar Cabin. I encourage you to mark the date on your calendar and come out to join us. It's an opportunity to find out how your club has fared over the season and to hear about future plans.

Since this is our last newsletter I want to convey thanks, on behalf of all club members, to the numerous volunteers without which this club would not exist. We need in excess of 3000 volunteer person hours each year to run the club. Some volunteers put in significant amounts of time on a regular basis to keep our club going. To them in particular out heartfelt thanks.

Finally, in closing, I want to thank our Club Executive for their support and their willingness to help out whenever asked. They have made the job so much easier. I especially want to thank Irene, our Secretary, and my better half, who is involved with me in much of what I do with the club. Together we enjoy our involvement. Thanks a million Irene.

Dave Kirk KNSC President

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#### Last of the Memories: 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Kawartha Nordic Ski Club

As with every group long term dreams are discussed but usually in the context of "If we could only..." and then they drift off into memory. With the KNSC we had a

number of such fantasies, "perhaps we could have hut to hut skiing incorporated into a trail of that magnitude, or perhaps we could have our own club house on our own property." All seemed feasible if we could initiate and sustain the huge effort needed to accomplish such plans, particularly when the participants are all volunteers and largely still working and unable to devote a lot of time to KNSC and other activities within their lives.

While the concept of trial extensions was appealing, the huge effort involved in mustering other communities into similar supportive effort so as to establish trails in their locales to hookup to our trails in a continuous trail system, was so daunting we never initiated this proposal.

However the concept of our own property and clubhouse did receive our attention. Early in our existence an effort at raising funds to purchase a then existent listing in the area fell short and we had to abandon the proposal. We never gave up the hope that somehow we would succeed and in the late 1980s an opportunity arose when an avid club supporter, Fred Simmons, whose property we used as an entrance to our trails, decided he wanted to sell the property. Here was our chance.

A committee was formed to raise sufficient funds to effect the purchase of the Simmons Property. Chaired by Doug Kirk, and comprising Dave Bowes, Jon Grant, Bob Martilla, Bill Cormode, Bill Silvera and Peter Tiesma, the committee sprang into action. They contacted club members to explain the objective and to elicit support in the form of a contribution towards a 5 year loan at 0% interest. The committee's success was evident in the more than 135 club members who responded by providing whatever amount they could towards this effort.

In August 1989, the Kawartha Nordic Ski Club purchased the 40 acres of land fronting on Highway 28.

Our objective was to divide the property into 3 lots and to sell 2 of the lots and repay our club member contributors. Bill Cormode undertook the task of arranging for the property severance and in October 1990 we received title to 3 lots of land, 2 of which were immediately placed in realtor's hands. In November 1992 the first of the two lots was sold and thereafter the 2<sup>nd</sup> lot sold as well. The proceeds from the sale of the two lots enabled us to repay our club member contributors in less than the 5 year period. Many of the contributors expressed delight at their contribution being repaid as they had expected it to be just that, a contribution that they were pleased to make to our club.

In 1992 the finishing touch to our dream was realized when the Cossar Cabin was built under the guidance of Walter Shepard and Tom Bennett with the help of other volunteers.

Initially the cabin was financed and owned by the Kawartha Nordic Ski Patrol as the club was legally unable to erect a building until the property mortgage was discharged. As the patrol had finances available



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and also saw the need for a sheltered centre for the Ski Patrol and the need for a clubhouse, they leased the site for the cabin for a 5 year period for \$1.00 per year and the club leased the clubhouse from the Ski Patrol for \$1.00 per year. The Ski Patrol paid for the materials and the cabin was built by our volunteers. It was agreed that at the end of the 5 years the club could then purchase the building. In less than the 5 years, as soon as the mortgage was discharged, the Kawartha Nordic Ski Patrol sold the cabin to KNSC for a very nominal amount.

So we realized our dream. We own about 20 acres of land that provides our



prime access to the trail system and we have our club house in the Cossar Cabin. I believe these acquisitions are the most prominent from the aspect of the club's social well being. The Cossar Cabin is proving to be a prime meeting centre for social activities and ideal for sheltering young families as they learn to ski.



When you review the progress made over the years by this club you realize the magnitude of the voluntary efforts put forth by so many people. If we added up the hours worked over 25 years it would be staggering, but the sheer number of hours don't tell the whole story. It's the vision and commitment and the dedication to success that tells it all. Let's keep on dreaming.

Dave Kirk

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#### **Ski Patrol Report - Spring Skiing**

Spring is here and we still have lots of snow. Spring skiing can be most enjoyable with the warmth of the sun and the beauty of scenery. It is important to keep safety in mind during this period of variable ski conditions. When temperatures are at or above zero during the day the snow softens or melts, especially in open areas with lots of sun exposure. Overnight the temperature often falls below zero, making the trails icy. This cycle then repeats itself during the following day.

For this reason, the best spring skiing often occurs in late morning and early afternoon. During this time, the snow has softened and conditions are less variable. Spring provides the perfect opportunity to use waxless skis. This type of ski, although slower than a waxable ski, provides good traction on variable snow conditions. If waxable skis are your only option, come prepared with a selection of waxes to try. Spring



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skiing offers the most challenging waxing, so don't hesitate to ask a Ski Patroller for waxing tips. Patrollers carry a selection of waxes with them and will be happy to help.

Lynn Kostuch KNSP

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### **Special Olympics**

On February 24<sup>th</sup> we hosted the Cross Country Ski Races for the Peterborough and Barrie Special Olympians. There were 25 participants ranging in age from 15 to 57 and they skied in a variety of events, including a 3 km race involving 6 skiers and a 5 team three person relay event.

This is always one of our favourite events of the year as the skiers have such a good time that it is infectious. It is also an event that helps prepare skiers for the Special Olympics and this year two of the skiers who have been with us in the past, Mike Johnson and Andrea Dowey are headed for Alaska to ski in the Special Olympics. Mike was with us this year and he certainly looked like he is ready. Our best wishes go out to both of these worthy contenders.

Special thanks to all of you who helped out. I know from some of your comments that you share my enthusiasm for this event and that you hope to come out again next year.

Dave Kirk

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### Membership Report 2000-2001

Snow was what was needed!!

Annual memberships were 163 consisting of 128 renewals and 35 new memberships Many of these are "family" memberships.

Previous years as follows:

1999-2000	134
1998-1999	155
1997-1998	134
1996-1997	147

, Conrad Hill Membership Chair

### WE ARE NOW ON THE WEB!!!

## Surf on over to www.x-c.com/clubs/kawartha and check out the new club webpage.



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#### UPCOMING EVENTS: Plan to attend!

#### Chili Fest & Spring Cook-out: March 18<sup>th</sup> 2001

#### • the best chili this side of El Paso

#### • world famous hot dogs

• \$3.00/person

### AGM MAY 6<sup>th</sup> 2001 3:00-4:00 pm at the Cossar Cabin

a chance to have your say
bring your own food and drink for a social after the meeting



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