



# The Inside Track

A Newsletter for Members of Porcupine Ski Runners

Fall Issue

October, 2006

## ENCLOSURES

Along with this issue of *The Inside Track* we have included:

1. Membership Application form
2. Return envelope

November 26, 2006

Mark the date on your calendar and plan to drop in at the Chalet.

### AGM

The Annual General Meeting for the club has traditionally been held in May. As an attempt to have more members attend this meeting, we are trying a date closer to the start of the upcoming ski season rather than a date at the end of the season past. Please try to attend this year.

### MEMBERSHIP

Consider this your invitation to renew your membership in Porcupine Ski Runners. It won't be long before the snow flies and most of the pre-season work that goes into getting trails, equipment

- ◆ OPEN HOUSE
- ◆ SKI SALE (New and Used)
- ◆ SKI WAXING SERVICE
- ◆ JACKRABBIT REGISTRATION
- ◆ MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERS

and facilities ready is completed.

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.

You will notice that membership fees have been raised this year. While we try to keep fees as low as possible, we have become aware that we were falling behind the increasing costs that we cannot control. The most obvious cost increases are energy expenses. These include propane, diesel fuel, gasoline and electricity. The registration fee that we pay to Cross Country Ontario has also been increasing on a planned schedule of increments. This registration fee includes a cost for insurance that we are able to assess from the parent organization. The increased fees should help us to

## PORCUPINE SKI RUNNERS

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

October 27, 2006 7:00 P.M.

South Porcupine Legion

**All members are invited to attend**

A pre-meeting spaghetti dinner will be served for the small fee of \$5.00 per person. Club volunteers will dine for free. **To reserve your place at the dinner table, please contact Diane Luhta at 235-8048 or luhta@ntl.sympatico.ca by October 23**

have our operating revenue keep pace with expenses.

We were asked to return to the practice of issuing membership buttons. Mailing these buttons is a problem and the main reason that we stopped using them. After we receive your membership application, we will mail your receipt and we will continue to mail membership cards. The membership buttons will be available at the club - either at the check point booth or the snack bar. You will be able to get your buttons by presenting your membership cards. We are asking members to display their buttons on their clothing as a visual means of identifying members.

Porcupine Ski Runners is now a *Cross Country Ski & Snowshoe Club*. Of course, that means that

we now have snowshoe trails. If you have a membership to ski, then you can use the snowshoe trails without additional cost. We are also accepting members who will be using only the snowshoe trails and anyone can apply for this option 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 planning to replace the chalet with a new building that will have many more lockers and much larger and improved space.

There is a progress report on the project included in this edition of the newsletter. Please consider supporting this project.

**JACKRABBIT PROGRAM**

The Jackrabbit program is a national program run under the guidance of Cross Country Canada. Its aim

**Locker Renewal**

**Please renew locker rentals along with your membership application by:**

**November 30, 2006**

**If you do not plan to renew your rental, please let me know because we have a waiting list. Call Gerry: 264-9093 email: gmcnair@ntl.sympatico.ca**

is to teach children to ski in a fun and controlled environment. The children are encouraged to better themselves and are rewarded for their progress with achievement badges.

The program is open to all members of the club between the ages six and twelve. Registration will be held at the chalet on Sunday, November 26 between 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. The registration fee is \$30.00 per child which is separate from the membership cost. The Jackrabbit fee goes to cover costs of learning material and treats. Note that this fee should be paid along with the membership fee.

Sessions will begin on Sunday, January 7, 2006 at 1:15 P.M. Each session lasts until 2:45 P.M. We are planning to have the sessions continue after the school spring break.

Community Based Coaching Courses (CBET) will be offered again this year for all interested leaders. We have not yet set a date as we are waiting for a Trillium

***Volunteer Appreciation***

*PSR's success has always been the result of the active contribution of its many volunteers who simply "make the whole thing work."*

Volunteer Appreciation is our opportunity to have all of you come together for a time of sharing and socializing. **October 27 is the date.**

**Spaghetti Dinner at 6:00 P.M.** (Free for volunteers - \$5.00 for other members.)

**AGM at 7:00 P.M.**

**Socializing & Entertainment** - following the meeting

Grant to help cover the costs of running the course.

Each year we look to recruit new leaders and assistants and this year is no different. Please consider helping out and give us a call. We welcome Cheryl Allard and Helen Labine who have volunteered to help organize the program. For additional information or to offer assistance you may contact Ruth Roy (268-8762) or raroy@onlink.net.

**SKI SWAP**

The PSR Race Team will be holding a ski swap on Sunday, November 26, between 10:00 A.M. and 4 P.M., in the garage. This is a popular event and the Race Team has agreed to organize it again this year. However, they emphasize that having equipment to sell depends on members bringing in used equipment that they no longer use or want to keep. There is used equipment for sale but there will also be new equipment available for sale at reduced prices.

They will not accept the old “3-pin” skis nor boots. There is simply no one wanting equipment that old.

They will help price the items and supervise sales. For their effort they will keep 20% of all sales made.

Here's how to be a part of this event:

**If you wish to buy ski equipment at a bargain:**

Come to Porcupine Ski Runners Chalet **Sunday, Nov. 27** between the hours of **10 A.M. and 4 P.M.**

**If you have ski equipment to sell:**

1. Bring the equipment to the chalet **Saturday, Nov. 26** between **11 A.M. and 3 P.M.**
2. The equipment will be assigned a value and placed on display for sale.
3. If your items are sold, 80% of the price will be returned to you and the racing team will keep the remaining 20%.
4. If you are unable to bring your used equipment to the chalet at the specified times, contact Janet Demers (264-5708) or Mary-Anne Martin (264-7488) to arrange an alternate time or pickup.

We suggest that you check out your ski equipment and decide if it's time to part with some of it or go look for some that is better than what you have. Perhaps you can do both.

**SKI WAXING**

To prepare your skis for the season, the racing team will once again be offering to wax your skis for a \$20 fee. This service will be available on Saturday, November 26 and Sunday, November 27.

The process includes:

1. base preparation, which is necessary to remove the nicks from last year's season and get your skis in optimal condition to apply

the waxes for this year. The team members will bring their special tools.

2. scraping and applying glide or grip wax. The team will provide the waxes.

Your skis will be ready for the coming season. Everyone knows the value of good waxing, and the racers have great experience and success in this area. PSR is known for its expertise in waxing, and have won many a race due to this special skill (well trained by Lorne Luhta and Yvan Massicotte).

You, too, can benefit from this. If you want to call ahead, please contact Janet Demers (264-5708) or Mary-Anne Martin (264-7488) and we will arrange to get your skis ready. These events, along with help from the Board of Directors, assist the Team with travel and race entry costs. Keep tuned to hear Team results throughout the season. They have been very successful in the past and are working hard to continue this great trend.

Hope to see you at the Ski Swap.

**SUMMER WORK**

It was a fairly quiet summer with respect to work on trails and buildings. Gerry Perreault oversaw the regular summer maintenance and repair of equipment and Fred Stiles put in the time necessary to ensure that we'll have everything ready for the first snowfall. As fall approached, activity at the club began to increase:

1. Groups of volunteers cut the new growth on all trails. They worked on weekends and also during the week. Just recently we were able to try out a "brush hog" which is a motorized device that is pulled behind an ATV. It works very much like an oversized lawnmower in that it has a power driven rotary blade that will cut brush. We were quite pleased with the job it did and this device could save us a considerable number of hours work in preparing the trails at the start of each season.

2. We are hosting a major race in mid-December and for that event we have to modify a section of the trail near the chalet to permit mass start for some of the races. That change will be quite obvious to skiers but it does not affect the trail direction or start location as far as regular skiing goes. We are also expanding the stadium by making it wider.

3. We seem to have to contend with surface water interfering with our trails on an ongoing basis. In addition, we had to contend with some beaver dams that were blocking drainage. Repair crews are looking after these problems with more ditching and adding more culverts at various points along the trail system.

**NEW CHALET PROJECT**

By: Noëlla McNair

In the April, 2006 issue of *The Inside Track* we provided a detailed account of the progress that has been made in making the Nordic Centre a reality. The principal feature of this project is a new chalet but it includes improvements to the entrance road, the parking lot, septic system and water line. We wish we could now announce that all the preparatory work is complete and the project is

funding proposals had been submitted to FedNor, Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC), and Rural Economic Development Program (RED). We are still waiting for definitive answers.

The following has been accomplished since last April:

1. The Board selected a "first choice" site for the new building. We plan to build the new chalet at approximately the same location as the existing chalet. We say "first choice" because the site has to be approved by engineering study.

2. We issued a Request For Proposal to 10 architectural / engineering firms to bid on design and engineering requirements for the project. From the proposals that we received, we have selected ANO Architects. This company is partnered with Sutcliffe, Rody, Quesnel with respect to undertaking this project. However, no contract will be signed until adequate funding is secured.

3. We have received positive responses from both NOHFC and FedNor with respect to funding assistance but neither has yet been finalized.

4. Since it is apparent that we will require additional funds over and above whatever grants we receive, the committee continues to meet and to develop plans for accessing funds. Once we have a definite reply from our government proposals, we plan to launch a corporate fund-raiser involving marketing advertisement opportunities for the sponsors who participate. You will also find

2006 - 07 Executive		
Name	Position	Phone
Denis Brûlé	President/Facilities	268-5952
Lorne Luhta	Vice-President/Coach	235-8048
Roy Baumgart	Secretary/Facilities/Membership	267-2759
John Hardy	Treasurer	268-4448
Directors		
Rick Cecconi	Webmaster	267-6169
Greg Deyne	NOD Representative/Coach	235-3564
Larry Labelle	Snowshoe Trails	268-8271
Germain Lauzier	Trails/Facilities	267-3830
Diane Luhta	Schools/Events	235-8048
Yvan Massicotte	Trails/Facilities/Coach	268-9102
Gerry McNair	Membership/Newsletter	264-9093
Noëlla McNair	Publicity	264-9093
Gerry Perreault	Equipment/Facilities	264-6939
Ruth Roy	Jackrabbits	268-8762
Don Sutton	Events/Trail Light Maintenance	235-2864
Nan Tunnicliffe	Fundraising	235-8435

information in this newsletter regarding a Ski-A-Thon. This is a challenge to members to assist with fundraising by finding personal sponsors to contribute to the fund in accordance with the number of kilometres skied.

We can identify about \$500,000 that has been either already raised or promised.

While the project is on what we hope is a temporary hold, we are optimistic that we will soon be able to announce that it has been launched. In the meantime, our planning continues.

**SKI LESSONS**

We are planning lessons for beginners and it is expected to be a 5 - lesson series. Northern Sports is going to assist with the promotion but details are not available at this time. Please watch The Daily Press and Timmins Times for more details.

**DOLOMITE SKIING**

**(HIKING) 2007**

With the Halton Outdoor Club January 20 to February 3

Two full weeks of cross country skiing in Italy's North, surrounded by towering mountains. This area is the Mecca for cross country skiers and winter hikers. There are hundreds of kilometres of groomed and track set cross country ski trails, and separately prepared hiking trails plus good Alpine skiing facilities.

We will fly to either Venice or Munich on scheduled flight, and

transfer to Sesto, or Sexten by chartered bus. The estimated cost at the moment for this trip is \$3100.00, and includes airfare, 14 days at the 3-star hotel Monika, with dinner and breakfast, and bus transfer.

For further information please contact Ernie Roth, telephone 905 637 9923, or email Ernie at [brontenordic@cogeco.ca](mailto:brontenordic@cogeco.ca)

**2005-06 FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

By: John Hardy - Treasurer

Our fiscal year is June 1 to May 31 of each year. The summarized report below gives last year's financial picture.

**Operation**

<u>Income</u>	
Donations	2,467
Lockers	5,200
Day Fees	5,177
Membership	68,170
Jackrabbits	2,280
Other	1,081
<b>Total Operation Income</b>	<b>84,375</b>

<u>Expenses</u>	
Administration	6,877
Equip/ Trails	23,714
Events	600
Facilities/Insur	11,735
Jackrabbits	2,089
Property Tax	1,641
Utilities	10,140
<b>Total Operation Expense</b>	<b>56,796</b>
<b>Income-Expenses</b>	<b>27,579</b>

**Non-Operation & Projects**

<u>Income</u>	
Bingo	20,347
<b>Total Non-Operation Income</b>	<b>20,347</b>
<u>Expenses</u>	
Bingo Expenses	5,307
Race Team	14,000
<b>Total Non-Operation Expenses</b>	<b>19,307</b>
<b>Income - Expense</b>	<b>1,040</b>

**BUDGET 2006-07**

**Operation**

<u>Income</u>	
Donations	7,000
Lockers	5,200
Day Fees	6,000
Membership	70,000
Jackrabbits	3,000
Other	1,100
<b>Total Operation Income</b>	<b>92,300</b>

<u>Expenses</u>	
Administration	7,000
Equipment	30,000
Trails - Lights	1,000
- Upgrades	6,000
Events	600
Facilities/Insur	13,000
Jackrabbits	3,000
Property Tax	2,000
Utilities	13,000
<b>Total Operation Expense</b>	<b>75,600</b>
<b>Income-Expenses</b>	<b>16,700</b>

**Non-Operation & Projects**

<u>Income</u>	
Bingo	10,000
<b>Total Non-Operation Income</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<u>Expenses</u>	
Bingo Expenses	5,000
Race Team	14,000
<b>Total Non-Operation Expenses</b>	<b>19,000</b>
<b>Income - Expense</b>	<b>-9,000</b>

## Count the Klicks

How about getting paid for all those kilometres you ski.

Count the kilometres to bring the Timmins Nordic Centre closer to a reality. Participate in our campaign to raise funds by using the kilometres you've skied as an incentive to attract pledges or donations for our new centre.

If you are willing we will be sending out pledge forms at the start of the ski season where you can get friends, relatives, neighbours or just yourself to pledge what you/they feel they can contribute based on your effort for the year. (i.e. at 5 cents per kilometre for 100 kilometres you have raised \$5, for 1000 kilometres it's \$50, \$1/km could be ... WOW)

We encourage you to use the "Count the Kilometres" chart posted on the chalet wall to keep track of your "klicks" and compare to see how others are doing. If you are willing to participate, **fill in the form below** and **return it with your membership application** . We will send you a pledge form along with your receipt for your membership. The whole family can participate. Prizes in the works!

Tax deductible receipts (for the person contributing the money) available for contributions of \$50 or more.

✂-----✂

I \_\_\_\_\_ wish to participate in the "Count the Klicks" campaign with the understanding that once I've signed up I will raise a minimum of \$10 and must hand in the pledge form by March 31, 2007.

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_