

THE INSIDE TRACK

A Newsletter for Members of Porcupine Ski Runners

Special Nordic Centre Issue

February, 2007

What's it all about

For many years now the directors and other club members have been talking about building a replacement for the complex of buildings that serve as our chalet. Apart from the fact that the present facilities are not adequate for the size of the membership and the many programs we run, the condition of the buildings is deteriorating and they are inefficient to heat.

The first section of the existing chalet is a former dynamite storage shack that was donated to the club in 1977. The club's membership at that time was about 250. The next section, behind those folding doors, was built in 1982 to provide a little more space as the membership of the club grew to nearly 600. In 1993, the trailer section of the complex was donated to the club. Many volunteer hours were contributed to renovate that trailer so that it became a useful facility to the membership that by then exceeded 1000.

Now it is time to replace those old buildings with a more suitable facility that is both functional and affordable.

Project Launch

On February 6, 2007 we hosted the official launch of both the project and the fund raising drive that is expected to provide the balance of funding for the entire project. We invited CEOs of larger corporations, city officials, representatives of some of our funding partners and the media.

The primary purpose of the launch was to provide publicity for the project to the whole community. Our major donors to date were acknowledged and our plans for implementing the project as a two phased undertaking were explained.

Now with your help we hope to successfully carry out this final fund raising drive. **We now need membership help to reach the finish line! – see page 2.**

The Inside Track is a publication of Porcupine Ski Runners designed to inform its members of the club's activities.

This special edition of the newsletter is dedicated to the Nordic Centre Project.

Editor
Gerry McNair

To communicate with us:

Please address all correspondence to:

Porcupine Ski Runners
Box 250
Schumacher, ON P0N 1G0

For additional information about the club visit our website:

porcupineskirunners.com



Architect's Sketch of the new chalet

Membership Support

This project will not be completed without the continuing support of our membership. While a few cheers and expressions of thanks help to raise the morale of the project workers, we will also need very tangible support in the form of cash and labour.

We have nearly 550 families to whom we are sending this special edition of *The Inside Track*. It would be a great expression of support if we were to get a response from each and every one of you. There are a number of ways that you can contribute. How about picking one or more of them, check off your willingness to help and send it in. Then follow up with a positive commitment.

Membership Participation

1. Cash Donation - several members have already donated to the project. Thank you. If you are in a position to donate again, then thank you again. If you have not made a cash donation, then please consider if you are able to do so.
2. Purchase A Locker - for a \$200 donation we'll inscribe your name on one of the new lockers. This could be a locker that you rent but this offer is open to anyone, whether you rent it or not.
3. Encouraging Your Place of Work - if you are in a position to encourage the CEO or owner of your place of work to contribute to the project, then please consider doing so. Personal contact works best. Details and an information package can be

- obtained by contacting Noëlla McNair at 264-9093 or email gmcnair@ntl.sympatico.ca
4. Ski-A-Thon - Jim Bielek and Mike Cousineau are leading this initiative. It's not too late to be a participant if you keep track of the distance you ski. Simply get a pledge form and round up some pledges. If that doesn't appeal to you, then support someone who is collecting pledges by making a pledge to support their efforts.
 Jim Bielek 235-8355
 Mike Cousineau 266-1582
 5. People Power - to get this project completed we are, as usual, counting on a significant amount of volunteer help. There will be much to get done this summer and fall before the 2007-08 ski season starts and we'll need hands to help.



Pledge to Help with the Nordic Centre Project **GET ON TRACK - TO THE FINISH LINE**

Cash Donation - to receive a charitable tax receipt make your cheque payable to: CityofTimmins/PSR
 - (for \$50 or more)

Employer Participation - I will encourage participation from my employer. _____
 (see Page - 5 -)

Buy A Locker - \$200 (make your cheque payable to: City of Timmins/PSR)

Ski-A-Thon - I wish to raise money by:

collecting pledges and skiing to justify the contribution

supporting someone who is collecting pledges

Assisting with the project -

I can help with general labour and carpentry type work

I am a qualified trades person in: _____, _____

I can help in other ways

I will probably be available to help _____
 (Give possible dates for summer, 2007)

Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Letter to the Editor

Porcupine Ski Runners is in the process of raising funds for a new clubhouse. We appreciate the generous support of the community and our members in this ongoing venture and we hope to begin building this summer.

Our goal is to build a functional and affordable clubhouse that will suit the many needs of our users. We have many school children arriving after school, Special Olympians, Cadet biathletes, our own racing teams, Jackrabbits and many others of all ages and abilities who love winter and enjoy being out of doors participating in a healthy activity. We also have school gym classes coming to snowshoe on our newly developed snowshoe trails.

We are unique in that our club is really a wilderness in the middle of a city, a jewel in the centre of the city with a heart of gold. Unlike some other sports we have not had these facilities given to us or totally provided with tax dollars. We have built the club with volunteers.

When the club was started in 1973 most people in Timmins did not even know what cross country skiing was. A small group of individuals borrowed McIntyre Mine property and were given an old mine building.

We now have 30 kilometres of trails groomed wide enough for classic and skate skiing and thanks to the generosity of the Porcupine Joint Venture and Kinross we now own a large parcel of the land that

the trails meander through. About 12 kilometres are covered with wood waste, generously donated by the forest companies, which smooth out the trails and gives us a longer season.

We have added 4 kilometres of lighted trails for night skiing and our membership reached 1271 last year which makes us the second biggest cross country ski club in Ontario and the biggest recreational club in Timmins.

Our old clubhouse has been added onto as we could afford it and it no longer suits the needs of our membership. We need a place for meetings, lessons, coaching courses, and enough room to store the schoolbags and boots when 90 children arrive after classes. We need a room big enough for 50 Jackrabbits to warm up with hot chocolate when it is a frigid day.

A larger and more functional clubhouse will enable us to better host races such as the Ontario Cup races and Northern Ontario Championships. We also host visiting clubs who are looking for excellent ski trails and early snow for training.

We need change rooms that can accommodate the many skiers who come straight from work and want to ski before they head for home.

We need to feel proud of our building when we host skiers from away. It should be a positive reflection on Timmins yet be affordable.

We have always tried to keep the costs of day fees and memberships affordable for anyone and it is because we have

Health and Fitness

- ✓ Provides top level aerobic activity
- ✓ Welcomes all ages
- ✓ Encourages competition
- ✓ Adapts to individual needs
- ✓ Provides stress relief



- ✓ Involves school programs
- ✓ Promotes cardiac rehabilitation

Recreation



- ✓ Affordable
- ✓ Attractive to families
- ✓ Lighted trails
- ✓ Open 13 hours every day
- ✓ Accessible - in town facility
- ✓ Ecofriendly
- ✓ Skills fairly easy to learn
- ✓ Attractive to young active adults and business people

a tremendous core of volunteers that we are able to do this. We do hire workers for some jobs but most of the work is done by volunteers.

The trails and grooming equipment have always been our top priority but now the club has grown so much that we need a larger clubhouse.

The club appreciates the generous support of the community and invites all residents to come and enjoy this tremendous facility.

Diane Luhta

Founding Member
- Porcupine Ski Runners Cross
Country Ski and Snowshoe Club

Project Plan

If financing the project were of no concern, the task of getting it completed would be a lot easier. We have raised over half the money required to complete the entire project. The cost of the project is estimated to be 1.4 million dollars.

The new chalet will be located in approximately the same place as the present chalet and the area where the trailer is located will probably be used for an expanded septic system. ANO Architects has been contracted to design the building and Sutcliffe, Rody, Quesnel, working in partnership with ANO, is doing the engineering work. They are designing the project such that it can be completed in phases.

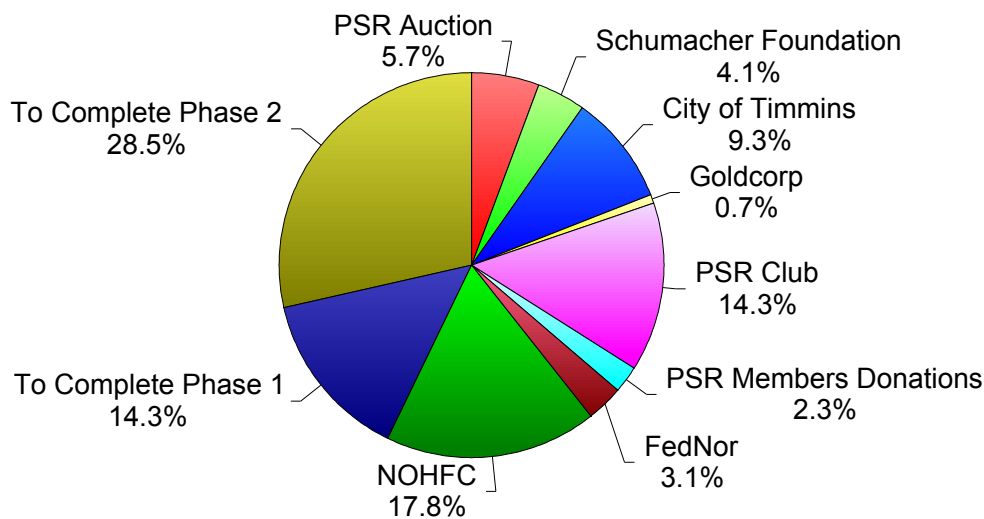
After Phase 1, we will have a functional chalet that can be

expanded in Phase 2. Other components of the project involve improving the entrance road, installing a new water line with a hydrant, expanding the septic system and improving the parking lot. These improvements will be spread over the two phases thereby giving us more time to raise all the necessary money.

The chart below shows the sources of funding support that we have received to date. It also shows that we need \$200,000 more to complete Phase 1 and an additional \$400,000 to complete Phase 2. We are grateful for all the assistance we have received and express our sincere thanks.

The fund raising campaign that we presently have underway is expected to raise the balance of the money needed to complete the project.

Sources of Funding - January 2007



\$800,000 Raised

\$200,000 required to complete Phase 1

\$400,000 required to complete Phase 2

The information below is intended for corporate and business donors. Any individual may also choose to contribute in accordance with this plan.

Contribution Information There are several levels for contribution:

1. Your Company Name can become The Chalet Name

The chalet building will prominently display your company name.

The sign will be visible from the Porcupine Ski Runners stadium.

Drivers on Highway 101 will have a clear view of the company name as it is displayed atop the Nordic Centre Chalet. The name will also be featured in media and other literature including promotional material

Value: \$50,000

2. Platinum Donors - \$25,000 or more. (Cash or in-kind)

Donors in this category will have the name of the company or individual donor featured on one of the more prominent rooms in the new chalet.

3. Gold Donors - \$15,000 to \$24,900. (Cash or in-kind)

Donors in this category will have the name of the company or individual donor featured on one of the rooms in the new chalet.

4. Silver Donors - \$5,000 to \$14,900. (Cash or in-kind)

Donors in this category will have the name of the company or individual donor featured on signs along the trails.

5. Bronze Donors - \$1,500 to \$4,990. (Cash or in-kind)

Donors in this category will have the name of the company or individual donor featured on recognition plaques in the chalet.

Donations may be sent to:

Nordic Centre Project Fund Raising Chair

c/o Porcupine Ski Runners

P.O. Box 250

Schumacher, ON P0N 1G0

Contact Person: Noëlla McNair **Phone:** 264-9093 **Email:** gmcnair@ntl.sympatico.ca

Tax receipts will be issued if the cheque is made out to the City of Timmins/PSR. If a receipt is not required, make the cheque payable to: Porcupine Ski Runners