



The Inside Track

A Newsletter for Members of Porcupine Ski Runners

Spring Issue

May 2010



PORCUPINE SKI RUNNERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 8, 2010 7:00 P.M.

Xstrata Copper Chalet
At Porcupine Ski Runners

*All members are invited to attend
Please plan to join us*

In Memoriam

With great sadness our club lost two highly valued directors this past year, Yvan Massicotte and Grant Tunnicliffe. Both were a source of inspiration and spent much of their personal time serving others. We will miss them as friends and colleagues, but their memories and contributions to our club will live on.

Greg

From the President

Greg Deyne

Although the ski season may have been short, it was busier than normal with the construction of the new chalet. While there is still a little more to be done on the chalet, parking lot and surrounding landscape, I think most will agree it was well worth the wait.

With our new chalet, come many new possibilities for our ski club including:

- new services and programs for our members
- new revenues through rentals
- new partnerships with other “like minded“ organizations
- and year-round operation of the facility

The new chalet and opportunities both come with new costs and accountability that has already well exceeded our capacity as a volunteer organization. It’s time for us to consider some paid positions to help deliver some of these new opportunities. These new costs and potential revenues will be built for the first time into our financial planning for next year.

Many of the new opportunities require new club policies and partnerships to be developed as well as new applications for grants. Existing directors and other club volunteers need some new blood to help with this and I would encourage you to contact me or other directors prior to our annual general meeting set for June 8 at the new Xstrata Copper chalet if you can assist as a volunteer in some capacity. Look forward to working with you.

Membership

Gerry McNair

Our membership deserves a vote of congratulations. Despite a number of obstacles that might have tempted skiers and snowshoers not to join the club, we again ended the season with over 1000 members. To be exact - 1021 members. Thank you for supporting the club in a season of transition.

We will need your continued support as we move to next season because we have a number of challenges to cope with. Membership rates is one of the challenges. There are a number of factors that are forcing us to raise the membership fees for next season. The new and larger chalet will be more expensive to operate, costs continue to increase and the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) at 13% will replace the GST at 5%. We are determined to ensure our rates offer good value for the cost and we strive to keep membership fees as low as practical.

These proposed new rates will be presented for a vote at the AGM.

Célébration du congé dédié à la famille.

Noëlla McNair

Grâce à La Caisse Populaire de Timmins, le club PSR a invité la communauté à participer à une journée gratuite de ski de fond et/ou de raquette lundi le 15 février.

Environ 250 personnes ont profité de cette invitation pour venir visiter le nouveau chalet Xstrata Copper et pour tenter leur première expérience sur les planches de ski nordique.

C’est avec plaisir que nous avons pu ouvrir les portes du club à la communauté qui a appuyé notre projet de construction depuis plus de 4 ans. Les



Skiing & Snowshoeing

Family w/children	210
Family (2 adults)	195
Family - 1 Adult, 1 Child	155
Adult	115
Senior	90
Student	50

Snowshoeing (Only)

Family	85
Adult	50
Senior	35
Student	15

familles ont eu accès aux équipements de ski et de raquette et à des rafraîchissements fournis gratuitement par Tim Hortons – Linda et Rob Knox.

Même si la construction du nouveau chalet n’était pas encore complétée, le contracteur Cy Rheault et son équipe ont accompli le nécessaire pour permettre cette célébration. Le lendemain, le 16 les portes étaient encore fermées au public.

Un grand merci à nos commanditaires La Caisse Populaire et Tim Hortons, à Lorne Luhta pour les équipements de ski,

aux bénévoles qui ont assisté nos visiteurs, et à la compagnie Cy Rheault. Beaucoup de gens ont déjà posé la question "Est-ce que ceci sera répété en 2011?". Impossible de répondre avec certitude mais si tout tombe en place, PSR se ferait plaisir de répéter l'invitation.

Family Day Holiday Celebration

Noëlla McNair

Thanks to a generous donation by La Caisse Populaire, PSR hosted a day of free skiing and snowshoeing on Monday, February 15 - Family Day. An estimated 250 people took advantage of this opportunity to visit the new Xstrata Copper chalet and, for some, to try cross country skiing for the first time.

We were delighted to open our doors to the community that has supported our Nordic Centre Project for more than four years. Families who dropped in had access to either ski or snowshoe equipment and to refreshments provided by Tim Hortons - Linda and Rob Knox.

Even if the chalet was not fully completed Cy Rheault Construction did whatever was necessary to ensure that we could safely open our doors to the public for that day. By Tuesday the doors were again closed while final construction touches were carried out.

Thank you again to the sponsors for the day - La Caisse Populaire and Tim Hortons, to Lorne Luhta for providing ski equipment, to Lee Ann Wearing for arranging to have snowshoes available, to the volunteers who helped out all day long and to the Cy Rheault team. Many people have already asked if this Family Day celebration will be repeated next year. We'll certainly try to do so.

Nordic Centre Reflection

Gerry McNair

After four years of effort to bring the Nordic Centre Project to fruition, it's impossible not to reflect on the twists and turns that marked the progress. And

especially the people who were key to making the whole thing happen. The following list of persons and the comments associated with each is written somewhat in the order in which the person or persons became active in the project. There were many others who contributed to the project in various ways but these stand out in my mind as "key to success."

John Hardy volunteered as a committee member at the very beginning. As treasurer of the club he kept an eye on our finances. With his knowledge of construction issues John was, at times, very enthusiastic about the project and at other times he had numerous questions and doubts. But then – I guess we all did.

The **Kaczmareks** – Sue and Stan played an integral role in the early planning. It was their vision of what the project should be that, to a large part, determined the components of the planning. I'm not saying that the project turned out as they envisioned it – in fact, it didn't. But it didn't turn out as others first intended either. Perhaps the final product is a compromise.

Larry Labelle did a land survey of the PSR property in the area of our buildings and beyond. That survey helped in the planning for a location for the chalet and the data was later given to the engineers who did the designing.

Noëlla McNair became involved with fundraising for the project even before she was a member of the committee. It was her early success with the Schumacher Foundation that kept our spirits up as we struggled to meet the challenge of raising funds. As a committee member she led much of the fundraising effort, the publicity and the personal contacts with individuals we thought might make a positive difference. And it was the many two-person supper hour meetings that helped give a direction to the planning.

The **Luhtas** – Diane and Lorne were in many ways key to the project's success. As founding members of PSR, their support for the project was definitely beneficial. Diane filled a major role when she volunteered to be the administrator of the "Get On Track"

auction in 2006 and Lorne was a constant promoter and defender of the project.

Jim Bielek was asked to be a group leader in the 2006 auction. Following that effort, he joined the planning committee and contributed in numerous ways. He organized fundraisers, wrote a proposal requesting funds, went searching for in-kind donations, met with architects and contractors and contributed a helping hand with building. And he came to meetings well prepared. I won't say he was secretary but "right-hand man" sort of describes his effort.

The **Tunnickliffes** – Nan and Grant were valuable members of the committee. Noëlla first asked Nan to assist with fundraising and she and Nan set off to besiege downtown businesses, Timmins Economic Development Corporations and government agencies. That effort began our major fundraising. As Nan's health began to fail, Grant took her place and contributed in numerous ways with his computer skills and sound advice.

Gerry Perreault was not a committee member throughout the planning stage but we sought his input and advice at various stages. When it came to physically making things happen, Gerry has been a reliable leader.

Trish Gibson and **Dale Columbus** were part of the planning committee for differing lengths of time. Trish was a group leader for the auction and Dale was always positive and encouraging.

The **Locker Gang**. For about two weeks in February, during which we took possession of the chalet, the place was a hub of activity. Sometimes it felt as if I were back in the classroom with a group of hyper grade 9 students on the last day of classes before the Christmas break. Jim Bielek has listed the names of those who helped assemble all the lockers in such an efficient and short time. The list is framed and hanging in the locker room. Thank you, Gang - you were great.



Jackrabbits

Cheryl Allard

It was an Olympic year that moved at an Olympic pace for the Jackrabbit ‘fun’damental program. We had warmer than usual weather, over 50 participants and a few new coaches this past season.

Once again, *Tim Hortons* generously sponsored our efforts.

Our athletes participated in many events both within the JR/Track Attack outline and at the club level with the CCC Racing Rocks, Northern Tel Sprint Series and the PSR Loppet. Haydenn Walsh and Matthew Allaire, were recognized as being young ambassadors of cross country skiing and were given special Olympic pins, to celebrate their sportsmanship.

We are looking forward to initiating our dryland program again for youth in October. Please take note of the new season start for Jackrabbits, which will be in early December for the 2010-11 seasons, with the bunnies delayed until the beginning of January. The season is still scheduled to continue until mid March. A Parent Meeting will be held prior to the start of the season to explain some of the upcoming changes to the program.

The passion and dedication of our coaches, assistants and club volunteers is greatly appreciated. Thank you all for another wonderful season.

Equipment / Trails

Gerry Perreault

The end of another season at PSR and wow – what a winter. This is the first time since I became a member that I didn’t make it to the 1000 km club. With record breaking mild weather and also the lowest snowfall recorded in the area since they have been keeping records, this

season surely was a challenge.

We had a late start and with such a limited amount of snow, we were able to ski only on our interior trails and also the 10 km Yellow trail until the end of January. We have to thank Ray Denis for all his hand grooming to get the South Porcupine trail open without using the large groomers. He spent many hours working on this and he made improvements to a homemade drag to get this done. He was left alone in charge of trail grooming for the entire month of February. Thanks to those who helped him out.

We lost one day this season due to mild weather and rain when we kept the trails closed in order to protect the small amount of snow we did have. Thank you to those who obeyed the signs on that day. We don't like to close the trails but it's done, when necessary, in the club's best interest.

The new track setting assembly on the back of one of the groomers was finally put to a test and appears to be working well. We will need to do more work on this next year to get some more bugs out and also to get more familiar as to where we need to double or single track. We did have some mechanical problems even if we did not use our equipment all that much. Thanks to Chris Cantwell for helping with parts and also assembling the units. Also thanks to Dave Mairs for his welding skills as he assisted with equipment repairs. Dave also spent some time grooming trails.

Our only paid contract worker, Fred Stiles, was taking cancer treatments in Sudbury for seven weeks. He would leave on Monday morning, come back on Friday and he still made it to the club every Saturday to check the machines. He also groomed at the beginning and end of the season. Hopefully his health will continue to improve – he is of great value to us. Fred has started the usual spring maintenance on all of the equipment and in case you don’t know, he is available at a drop of a hat to assist us when he is called.

Now hopefully I didn’t forget others who helped with trail work. I am getting old and I was also away for a month. Thank you Germain Lauzier, Denis Brûle, Dale Columbus, Jim Bielek, and Rick Demers.

Enjoy your summer and remember that we will need helpers in September and October.

2009-10 Financial Summary

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. This year we had unusually low operating expenses due to the mild winter with lack of snow and the fact that we had no chalet for much of the season. But we had a fairly large outlay of funds primarily for improvements to the grooming equipment which included a track setting apparatus for one of the groomers.

Note that the Nordic Centre Project is accounted separately and is ongoing until the project is completed.

Operation

<u>Income</u>	
Day Fees	5,028
Donations	5,196
Events	2,375
Jackrabbits	1,560
Lockers	9,685
Membership	66,305
Other	98

Total Operation Income 90,247

Expenses

Administration	2,775
Equip/ Trails	16,688
Events	377
Facilities/Insur	18,424
Jackrabbits	1,369
Property Tax	1,388
Utilities	11,016
Trail Lighting	1,366
Total Operation Expense	53,403
Income-Expenses	36,845

Non-Operation & Projects

Income

Total Non-Operation Income 0

Expenses

Eqpt Improvements	30,083
Trail Signage	1,552
Furniture	8,893
Total Non-Operation Expenses	40,528
Income - Expense	- 40,528

Budget 2010-11

As we attempt to plan a budget for the 2010-11 season, we are realizing that it is more difficult than usual. There are a number of new initiatives that are being considered for the coming season to better serve our members and to make the club more appealing to newcomers.

We want to hire a facilities manager so that there will be a person on site most of the time to sell memberships, collect day fees, sell wax and generally keep the place in good order. This employee would also be available to answer questions either in person or by phone. The job description is not yet developed nor are the hours of work but we have a group working on that plan.

To satisfy a demand that we feel exists we'd like to begin renting skis and snowshoes. We feel that this would make it easier for potential new members to try out the activities we offer without having to purchase equipment. There is another group working on the rental plan.

We'd also like to make use of our new kitchen on a regular basis. This requires planning and ties in with the idea of a facilities manager.

For all of these new initiatives there will be an initial outlay of funds to get the necessary equipment and to organize the space in the chalet or other buildings. We will need some time to plan all of this and part of that planning will be the budget.

If you would like to assist with some of this planning, please contact our president, Greg at 235-3564.

Member Donations

The list below recognizes members or past members who donated to the Nordic Centre Project. In some cases the donation was a total contributed over several years.

\$1,000 AND OVER

- Alexander, Ken & Anda
- Baumgart, Roy & Eleanor
- Coderre, Robert
- Cotnoir, Gérald
- Cousineau, Mike
- Critchley, Patrick
- Davis, Jim & Marilyn
- De Laplante, Marc & Francine
- De LaPlante, Marilyn
- Del Guidice, Bruce
- Flatman, Janet
- Hardy, John
- Harterre, Trevor
- Kanya-Forstner, Nick
- Mahy, Larry
- Malo, Larry / Woods, Nancy
- McNair, Gerry & Noëlla
- Schultz, Jane
- Schwertfeger, Lynne/Kvas, Richard
- Vaillancourt, Charlie
- Vodusek, Brenda
- (Anonymous)

\$500 TO \$999

- Arnold, Doug
- Barber, J. A.
- Bielek, Jim
- Boudreau, Albert
- Ciccione, Dr. M. V.
- Ciccione, Mario
- Davidge, Glen
- Drouin, Réal
- Girones, Lorenzo
- Houston, David



Kleinhuis, Paul
 Lauzier, Germain & Michelle
 Londry, Mary & John
 Longworth, Carolyn
 MacDonald, Allan
 MacDonald, Anne
 McKinnon, Ralph
 Mills, Elizabeth
 Paquette, Chris /Petroni, Tina
 Peltoniemi, Raimo
 Stalker, Mary
 Tunncliffe, Grant & Nan
 (Anonymous)

\$250 TO \$499

Aubrey, John
 Bazeley, Theresa
 Boudreau, Marcel
 Brain, Daryl
 Cantwell, Chris
 Ciccone, Lino & Chantal
 Dasovich, George & Susan
 Demers, Richard
 Ellery, Susan
 Emms, John
 Feldman, Tori
 Francis, Don
 Fréchette, Guy & Miriam Venilainen
 Gagnon, Claude J.
 Gagnon, Stephen
 Garlock, Irvin
 Gilles, Judy & Len
 Ginglo, Ray & Peggy
 Hickey, Jane
 Hook, David
 Huggins, John
 Kayahara, Gordon
 Keddie, Don
 Leduc, Darlene
 Luhta, Erik
 Luhta, Lorne & Diane
 Mascioli, Ann (L_M Holdings)
 McArthur, David
 McLaughlin, David
 Murray, Luc & Marianne
 Pacaud, Gail
 Paquette, Eric
 Perreault, Gerald
 Prepp, Carolyn/Bernardi, Dan
 Scott, David & Janet
 Sech, Michael
 Simmons, Glenn
 Stringer, Diane
 Tartlon, Celine

Touchette, Denis
 Vodusek, Joe
 Wagner, Dennis
 Wyatt, Don

\$100 TO \$249

Allard, Cheryl
 Andreatta, Dan
 Anthony, Troy & Carol
 Aubé, André
 Audet, Michel
 Auger, Chuck
 Bachmann, Ed
 Banks, Shaun
 Barber, Sandra
 Blood, Joanne
 Boisvert, Robert
 Boulanger, Frank
 Bourdon, Maurice
 Brûlé, Denis
 Buchar, Michelle
 Caissey, Ina
 Castilloux, Claude
 Ceasar, Brenda
 Cecconi, Deb & Rick
 Ciccone, Tony
 Clément, Marjolaine
 Clermont, Joan & Bob
 Cremin, Derrick
 Cumming, Carol-Ann
 d'Arcangelo, Bruno
 Davidson, Darlene
 Dell'Edede, Dona
 Dell'Erede, Frank&Michelle
 Delli'Quadri, Raphael
 Denis, Ray
 Deyne, Greg
 Dupont, Chris
 Faulkner L. Butch
 Fennuk, Brad
 Fleury, Joanne
 Folinsbee, John
 Foster, Bonnie
 Francis, Katherine
 Gibson, Trish
 Gliddon, David
 Gomerich, Elaine
 Greenaway, Peter
 Hayes, Jim
 Heino, Alan
 Huggins, James
 Jones, Deborah & David
 Kardas, Pam
 Keast, Todd

Kelly, Phil
 Krupka, Dave
 Kullas, Natasha
 Labine, John & Helen
 Lacasse, René
 Lajeunesse, André
 Lake, Mert & Norah
 Lambert, Martin
 Laurin, Real
 Lebrun, Denis
 Leggett, Tony
 Lessard, Kenn
 Longworth, Dorothy
 Lucas, Rhys & Karin
 MacKay, Mary
 Maisonneuve, Renée
 Malette, Rachel
 Manseau, Kelleigh
 Martin, Mireille & Iain
 Massicotte, Yvan & Carole
 McGillis, Bill & Linda
 McGovern, Stephen
 McNair, Neal
 McTiernan, Donna
 Montgomery, Kevin
 Morin-Secord, Colinda
 Morin, Keith
 Morin, Veronique
 Morton, Lesley
 Noël, Pierre
 O'Connor, Robert
 O'Malley, Flo
 Paquette, Marcel
 Paradis, Marilyn
 Petroski, Hélène
 Poupard, Lillian
 Power, Amy
 Provost, Lise
 Rigg, Leata
 Rinaldi, Barbara
 Roos, Paul & Coulson Cathy
 Roy, Francis
 Roy, Robin
 Semadeni, Wendy
 Smith, Stuart
 Splane, Bruce
 Steele, Tom
 Stewart, George
 Stewart, Larry
 Stringer, Jane
 Sullivan, John
 Sutton, Don&Sue
 Sweezy, Carol
 Theriault, Dan
 Vickers, Ray

Vodusek, David
 Wallbridge, James
 Wearing, Lee-Ann
 Yee, Debbie

\$50 TO \$99

Amodeo, Kelley
 Beaulieu, Levis
 Belanger, Nancy
 Ceasar, Don
 Charette, Gerald
 Chartrand, Nicole
 Davis, Peter
 Dion, Norm
 Disley, Norm
 Fortin, Linda
 Gadoury, Laurier
 Garces, Pat B.
 Golinowski, David
 Gotz, Imola & Jeremy
 Goyer, Claude
 Hope, Barry
 Labine, Patricia & James
 Lamontagne, Anne
 MacDonald, Michael
 Marttala, Michele
 McGirr, Dave
 McKane, Brian
 Michaud, Jean
 Middleton, Brenda
 Mongrain, Alain
 Morandin, Lino
 Paquette, Gerald
 Parr, Alec
 Perry, Wayne
 Pollon, Mary-Lou
 Purificati, David
 Pye, Joan
 Quesnel, Paul
 Rainville, Rémi
 Rodrique, Carole
 Russell, Odyle
 Schrader, Wendy
 Smith, Lucie
 Sustar, Mary-Ann

1000 km Club

The list is shorter than usual this year and the reasons why don't need to be restated. Still it's strange to see no one listed as skiing more than 2,000 km and it's even stranger to **not see** several names who have been achieving the 1,000 km mark for many years.

Congratulations to those made the list this season.

Laurie Bezzubetz	1900
Claude Gagnon	1515
Greg Deyne	1320
Sue Kaczmarek	1320
George Dasovich	1319
Suzanne Dasovich	1319
Jane Schultz	1255
Raimo Peltoniemi	1124
Robert Coderre	1077
Denis Brûlé	1052
Real Paquette	1048
Mary-Anne Martin	1047
James Gosselin	1042
Mike Cousineau	1030
Kevin Montgomery	1026
Don Keddie	932
Joe Vodusek	907
Marcel Paquette	891
Claude Castilloux	853
Rene Lacasse	841
Norm Disley	804
Jessica Demers	792
Jim Bielek	769
Bea MacDonald	744
Gerry Perreault	730
Kim Wagner	722
Brenda Ceasar	716
Nick Kanya-Forstner	707
Bruce McIvor	703
Elizabeth Roy	680
Theo Manseau	673
Rob White	660
David Kapias	648
Ray Denis	604
Erik Luhta	596
Lorne Luhta	594
Rick Demers	502

Inside Track Editor

We need an editor to put together this newsletter three times a season. This is a volunteer position that requires you to have:

1. A personal computer.
2. Computer skills in word processing.
3. Good language skills in English.
4. Ability to work in French. (This is not a requirement but it will be a definite asset.)

If this task is of interest to you, please contact Gerry McNair at 264-9093.

We promise that you will get assistance as you work into the job. This will include help in collecting the information and in editing the content. Also, you will not be expected to create the entire publication because chairs of committees, coaches and others will contribute to the content by writing articles.

If you are all interested, please call and inquire. It can be an interesting job.

Summer Contacts

During the off season the chalet and gargages are generally locked. If you wish to get into the chalet before the start of the next season, you may contact one of the following to arrange a time:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Gerry McNair | 264-9093 |
| 2. Gerry Perreault | 264-6939 |
| 3. Don Sutton | 235-2864 |



Enjoy The Summer