



# The Inside Track

A Newsletter for Members of the Porcupine Ski Runners

Fall Issue

[www.porcupineskirunners.com](http://www.porcupineskirunners.com)

November, 2009

## A NEW SEASON – A NEW CHALET!

### Our New Home



## We Did It!

Greg Deyne, President, Porcupine Ski Runners

I'm sure all members have been following the construction of the new chalet as they drive along the highway east of Schumacher. With a few minor modifications from the original plan the building is now well underway with completion now scheduled for mid December. A contingency plan follows for trail use. Cy Rheault Construction and ANO Architects tell us the job will be finished in mid December.

I'm sure all club members will thank the building committee and the fundraising committee for their hard work in seeing this project to completion. In particular we should all thank Gerry and Noella McNair for the innumerable hours they have spent planning, nurturing and overseeing this project.

## CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Construction is disruptive to the normal operations of any business and our project is no exception to the rule. We are trying to minimize the effects of the ongoing construction so that our ski season will be as full of activity as we can make it. But there will be some disruption for a period of time because until the work on the grounds at PSR is completed, the public will not be able to access the trails as we usually do and we will not have a chalet, washrooms nor parking lot. However, we do not expect all that to stop our members from skiing.

1. We are asking the contractor to make every effort to have the work on the grounds completed by **December 1, 2009**. This work includes the entrance road reshaped, the septic system rebuilt, the new waterline installed, the parking lot improved and the ground around the chalet graded.
2. For early skiing in November and before we can drive into the PSR chalet site we suggest that you access the trails from Gold Centre. Our trail crosses the road which leads from Gold Centre to the Hydro One sub-station. We can get to the Yellow/Jr Olympic trails from this point. It is possible to park along this road which has little traffic but there will be no washrooms, change rooms or heated building so please plan your outing accordingly. If you are unsure of this location, please ask any director for some guidance. Our trail crew will be able to use the grooming equipment even as the construction is on-going and they will work on providing trails suitable for early season skiing just as they have done in past years.
3. Once the ground-work construction is completed, the contractor will fence off the remaining construction area and we will be able to use the roadway, parking lot and get to the trails as we usually do.

4. Our first option at this point is to be able to use a portion of the chalet while construction is completed on the remainder of the chalet.
5. Should the entire chalet be fenced off for the public until the construction is complete, we are looking into plans to provide a trailer facility that will provide a heated shelter and change rooms. Toilet facilities may be limited to a rented outside unit.
6. By Christmas we expect to be using the new chalet.



Please bear with us and make the most of what will certainly be some inconveniences for a short period of time. We trust that the new facility will be worth the wait.

## MEMBERSHIP

By: Gerry McNair

Enclosed with this newsletter is an APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP form. Please complete the application 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.

Membership fees have not increased for this year. We try to keep fees as low as possible and over the years we have been quite successful in doing so. To judge our success you need only compare our rates with almost any other recreational organization. At this time we don't know what impact the new chalet will have on our expenses. Yes, it's a larger building but it's a much more efficient structure. Our old chalet literally leaked heat. We do, however, anticipate higher costs for operating the new facility and we'll have to analyze the impact at the end of the season. In the meantime, we have strength in numbers – so send in your membership and enjoy another great season of cross country skiing and/or

snowshoeing.

We will be using membership cards again this year as a means of identifying members. Please carry your card with you when you come to the club or perhaps leave it in your car if that's the way you generally travel to PSR.

Porcupine Ski Runners is a *Cross Country Ski & Snowshoe Club*. Of course, that means that we have snowshoe trails. If you have a membership to ski, then you may use the snowshoe trails without additional cost. Or, you may join as a *snowshoe only* member at a lesser cost 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 are continuing the opportunity to buy a shared membership with Iroquois Falls Cross Country Ski Club. This is an excellent opportunity to enjoy the trails at a different club with very little cost.

Cost: \$15 for an individual

\$25 for a family

With this shared membership you may ski at Iroquois Falls without additional cost. If you are interested, simply check the appropriate box and include the payment with your payment for membership in PSR. There is no need for a separate cheque.

With the extra, last minute grant money that we were awarded, we are able to build the locker room extension. This means we can build more lockers than we had in the old facility and we are working hard to achieve that even for this season. We need access to the new chalet to complete the locker job. The PSR board has a new policy for locker rentals and we urge you to read the article in this newsletter on page 5 regarding locker rentals.

## Nordic Centre Project/ Projet Centre Nordique Major Sponsors / Commanditaires



City of Timmins



**RED**

**Schumacher Foundation**

Rural Economic  
Development

THE ONTARIO  
TRILLIUM  
FOUNDATION



LA FONDATION  
TRILLIUM  
DE L'ONTARIO



**Other Local Sponsors Included: club Richelieu. Girones and Associates. Venture Centre/Centre de développement. and CIBC**

### **NORDIC CENTRE PROJECT**

By: Noëlla McNair

Just to refresh your memory, in the summer of 2008 the board of PSR decided to postpone the Nordic Centre Project until the summer of 2009. Trying to raise additional funding to complete the entire project continued to be a difficult goal to achieve but the board was determined to build in 2009. When we did go to tender in the spring of 2009, we had sufficient funding to do only the basic project which meant that several features of the chalet would not be included and such things as the parking lot would not have been improved.

On May 12, 2009, infrastructure money was made available for recreational projects. Because our project was ready to go, we were able to put together a proposal within two days. We are

grateful to Cathy Ellis of Timmins Economic Development Corporation for advising us of this program and assisting us to finalize our application. By the end of June the good news came – we had been granted \$733,650 from Recreational Infrastructure Canada in Ontario (RInC) meaning that the funds were provided equally by federal and provincial governments.

Receiving the grant money from RInC meant that PSR could proceed with the whole project – a larger chalet, an enlarged septic system, a new waterline, a safer access road and an improved parking lot.

**PRESENT STATUS**

Construction began in August. The contractor, Cy Rheault Construction, has scheduled a completion date for December 20, 2009 with the exception of paving the entrance road. The paving will be done in warmer weather next summer. PSR workers have been able to access the garages and trails during the construction and preparations for the coming season have been carried out. The contractor is cooperating to allow us access to the trails as early as possible even as the construction continues. See the contingency plan outlines on page 1.

**PROJET CENTRE NORDIQUE**

Par: Noëlla McNair

***À la suite de plus de quatre années de planification et de prélèvement de fonds, Porcupine Ski Runners célèbre l'implémentation de son projet centre nordique.***

Aujourd'hui Porcupine Ski Runners (PSR) veut reconnaître l'aide et l'appui dirigés envers notre projet par le secteur public – les gouvernements municipal, provincial et fédéral ainsi que le secteur privé – les entreprises et les individus. En tant qu'organisme à but non-lucratif géré entièrement par des bénévoles, PSR est reconnaissants que les secteurs public et privé ont su apprécier les efforts de PSR et leur contribution envers notre communauté en ce qui a trait aux loisirs, à la condition physique et au maintien de la santé. Ce nouveau Centre nordique encouragera PSR à offrir encore plus de programmes pour le bien-être de la communauté, et ce, à l'année longue.

Le projet Centre nordique est évalué à environ 1,5 million de dollars. Le projet comprend la construction d'un nouveau chalet ainsi que l'agrandissement de l'installation septique, l'établissement d'une nouvelle conduite d'eau, la reconstruction du chemin d'accès et l'amélioration du terrain de stationnement. Beaucoup ont contribué au succès de ce projet mais il faut signaler le dévouement et les contributions de temps et d'argent de nos membres bénévoles.

Tel que mentionné ci-haut, ce projet est le résultat de quatre années d'efforts assidus. Voici la chronique de cette évolution :

		•
2005	Printemps	• La campagne de prélèvement de fonds débute.
	Été	• La ville de Timmins devient le partenaire de PSR pour la remise de reçus d'impôts. • The Venture Centre / Le Centre de développement contribue 5 000 \$ envers une étude de faisabilité complétée par J.L. Richards.
	Automne	• Schumacher Foundation annonce un don de 50 000 \$ américains.
2006	Printemps	• PSR soumet des offres à diverses agences gouvernementales. • The Daily Press parraine l'encan Get on Track. • CTV contribue des annonces publicitaires. • PSR choisit le site. • Goldcorp contribue 10 000 \$. • La Ville de Timmins s'engage à contribuer 100 000 \$.
	Été	• PSR engage ANO Architects et SRQ Engineering comme responsables du projet.
	Automne	• FedNor contribue 43 100 \$. • La SGFPNO contribue 250 100 \$. • ANO soumet leur premier dessin. • On complète une étude environnementale.
2007	Hiver	• PSR approche ANO pour modifier les dessins de façon à permettre plus de flexibilité. • PSR approuve les dessins modifiés. • Club Richelieu contribue 5 000 \$.
	Printemps	• Girones and Associates contribue 5 000 \$. • Le Développement

		économique des collectivités rurales (DÉCOR) approuve 95 857 \$.
	Été	• PSR remet le début du projet à 2008
	Automne	• Xstrata Copper contribue 50 000 \$ (le nouveau chalet portera leur nom).
2008	Hiver	• CIBC contribue 5 000 \$.
	Printemps	• La Fondation Trillium approuve 45 000 \$.
	Été	• Le projet est mis en adjudication. • PSR remet le projet à 2009.
2009	Hiver	• On apporte des modifications aux dessins.
	Printemps	• Le projet est remis en adjudication. • PSR soumet une demande à ILC (Infrastructure de loisirs au Canada) pour des fonds en vue de compléter le projet en entier. • PSR engage Cy Rheault Construction.
	Été	• ILC annonce que PSR a réussi à obtenir 732 000 \$ pour leur projet. La moitié de ce montant provient du programme Loisirs Ontario. • La cérémonie d'inauguration des travaux aura lieu le 16 juillet 2009.



### SKI RUNNERS IS NOW ON FACEBOOK

By Claude Gagnon

Have you ever wondered what the conditions are like on a given morning or wondered what is happening at the club? You can now read about it or even become a reporter.

To get interactive go to:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=142010652573>, where you can see the latest news and discussions about the new chalet.

This is an attempt to be more interactive, as well as a way to become more informed on current ski conditions. We hope to get members' input on all concerns. Although the website will remain our main source of generic information Facebook promises to be a new way of sharing members ideas or thoughts.

### LOCKERS

Ski lockers have been a popular feature at Porcupine Ski Runners ever since we first introduced them in 1983. We had only 12 lockers at that time and increased to 52 in 1988, then 112 in 1993 and eventually 130. They have always been "Sold Out." And we have had a waiting list.

With the new chalet we have quite a large room for lockers. We are working on building 168 lockers for this year but there is room for more and we'll build them if there is a demand.

The PSR board has decided that there will be an initiation fee of \$200 in order to rent a locker in the new chalet. Members who have already donated at least \$200 to the Nordic Centre Project have already satisfied the initiation fee requirement. To renew your locker rental please ensure that you have contributed at least the required \$200.

We hope to eliminate the waiting list. We have about 30 members listed on the current waiting list and they have all contributed at least \$200 to the building project. We will reserve a locker for these members.

If you have inquiries about locker rentals, please contact Diane or Lorne Luhta 235-8048  
[Luhta@ntl.sympatico.ca](mailto:Luhta@ntl.sympatico.ca)



A big Thank You to all team members and Captains. This is the final year and most teams have reached the final destination target of 8 000 km.



All team member names are still eligible for a draw-prize – the Olympic VIP package for their continued participation. Winners will be announced as soon as it happens.

Janet Regimbal and Brenda Ceaser have been winners from PSR thus far...

Contact John Hardy for more information

## JACK RABBIT PROGRAM

By Cheryl Allard

The snow has begun falling again but the trails are not groomed (yet!) It is time to think about taking out your skis and getting ready for another exciting season of JACK RABBITS. The leaders have been training throughout the summer and are ready to go!

The new season is scheduled to begin Jan 10<sup>th</sup> – first Sunday after Christmas holidays for approximately 10 lessons or until the snow leaves us. Lessons will begin at 1:30 until approximately 2:45. We hope to see all past Jack Rabbits and new faces and friends.

Dry land training for the level 3 and track attack group continue on Wednesdays at Northern College and Saturdays at Kamiskotia Ski Resort. Please contact Cheryl or Kelleigh for more information on this program. 235-4456 267-0323.

Don't wait for the lessons to begin to get out and enjoy the wonderful winter weather!! Hope to see you on the trails,

## SKI SWAP

Are you pulling your ski equipment out and re-evaluating your needs? Your stuff is aging, the kids are growing, and you want to stretch your budget as far as it will go.

The PSR annual ski swap is back to help with your sporting dilemma. On December 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm we will be accepting skis that are to be waxed for the upcoming season, used equipment and previously loved children's ski clothing. On December 6<sup>th</sup> numbers will be issued at 8:00 am, the sale will start at 9:00 am and be finished by 2:00 pm. Numbers are distributed to ensure everyone that comes, gets properly served and sized, in a timely and orderly manner.

This year, we are fortunate to have the Northern Tel heated garage to accommodate us. We will be selling used ski equipment, new equipment from local stores, waxes, hot beverages and we'll take orders for ski jackets with the PSR logo. Membership registrations including the Jack Rabbit Program will also be available. The garage is part of the Northern Tel main building and is located at **850 Birch Street South**.

Pricing for ski waxing has stayed the same as last year. Skis with summer prep are \$10, regular waxing is \$20 and skis that still have klister on them are an extra \$5. Due to the limited number of volunteers waxing, it is preferred that older skis be dropped off for waxing on Saturday, in order to accommodate the ski swap skis being purchased on Sunday that may require waxing.

Twenty percent of all equipment and clothing sales goes to support the PSR race team. The team currently consists of 6 dedicated individuals from the ages of 12 to 17. They train year round in order to compete provincially with the hopes of going to the Nationals. This year, Nationals are being held in Whitehorse, Yukon.

For information about Jackrabbits or the Ski Swap contact Cheryl Allard 235-4456 or Kelleigh Manseau at 267-0323.