



The Inside Track

A newsletter for members of Porcupine Ski Runners

50th Anniversary 1973 – 2023

Annual Report and Special Edition – Fifteen years 2009 to 2023

Anniversary Issue #3
May 2023

The Inside Track is distributed to members of Porcupine Ski Runners to keep them informed about club activities.

This is the third of three special editions to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the club.

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Editor: Gerry McNair

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on September 12, 2023 at 6:00pm. Members will receive notice of the meeting prior to the meeting date. The board of directors (returning and new) will be elected as we prepare for a new season.

Summer Hours

During spring, summer and fall the chalet does not have regular hours of operation.

If you have a need to get into the chalet, you may call one of these persons for assistance:

Ray Denis	705-288-2253 (Primary contact)
Gerry McNair	705-264-9093 (Alternate Contact) Cell: 705-266-4213
Alan Heino	705-264-9107 (Alternate Contact) Cell: 249-361-6318
Robert White	705-268-0935 (Alternate Contact) Cell: 705-465-1554

Newsletter Assistance

We are interested in recruiting a volunteer to work on producing our newsletter.

If you have good command of English and skill in using a computer (word processing), please consider offering your assistance. You will initially assist with the production and, if appropriate, you may become the editor.

If this interests you, contact Gerry McNair at gerry.mcnair@gmail.com



Chalet 2010

President's Report

Christine Dorion

2022/2023 was a Milestone year – Porcupine Ski Runners celebrated 50 years as a non profit facility that was incorporated as a cross ski club in 1973. Snowshoeing has since been added to our trail system which has made the club open to a wider group of people. To make this a fun season we brought back a few events from past years, we hosted a local race and a provincial race, we had a banquet which followed the Annual Loppet and we generally tried to have fun.

With the pandemic behind us the club returned to normal operations with some new members, returning members and day users enjoying the facilities and obviously the great trails. Thank you for the support. We have a great facility right here in Timmins with some amazing volunteers that make the whole thing work. Many thanks to everyone involved in operating the club – without all of you this would not be possible.

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History of Porcupine Ski Runners 2008 to 2023

Diane Luhta and Gerry McNair

- 2007-09 The focus during these years was planning and raising funds for the Nordic Centre Project.
- 2009-10 Directors accepted one contractor's bid to do the work for the Nordic Centre Project. A last minute grant allowed the entire project to proceed and the Xstrata Copper Chalet was opened in February, 2010. The project, which included an improved parking lot and entrance road, cost \$1.8 million. Xstrata Copper donated \$50,000 and earned the right to have their name on the new building. A number of government grants assisted in financing this project with the Ontario government contributing the most. The Lounge was named "Le Salon Nordiq Noëlla and Gerry McNair Nordic Room" in recognition of the leadership and countless hours of work put into the Nordic Centre Project by the McNairs.



- 2010-11 Cheryl Allard and Kelleigh Wright administered a project to start a rental ski and snowshoe system with only snowshoes the first year.
- 2011-12 Rental skis were added to the rental system. Directors hired a Chalet Manager and the Alpines snowmobiles were replaced with Scandics. The club hosted an Ontario Cup race as the first "big race" in the new facility.
- 2012-13 Directors held a Strategic Planning session to review the club's mission and to plan aspects of its operation with respect to the new chalet.
- 2013-14 The Board developed a plan for summer rental of the Lounge. Under the leadership of Greg Deyne, PSR hosted Ontario Secondary School XC Ski competitions with about 550 competitors. The Board, and the membership, approved a revised and updated version of its By-Laws. The Race team honoured Yvan Massicotte by installing a memorial clock in the gable of the chalet.
- 2014-2015 Neal McNair developed an online membership registration system and he also redesigned the website. The club purchased a Piston Bully to replace the oldest BR400.

- 2015-16 David Vodusek implemented a plan for a playground within the Green trail loop. Lorne Luhta designed a new section for the RED trail; it is a more challenging section suitable for races and experienced skiers.
- 2016-17 Timmins Biathlon entered an agreement with PSR to operate a biathlon club. Volunteers built a trail-side shelter at the top of Birdfeeder Hill. PSR hosted its second Ontario Secondary School XC Ski Championship with 565 competitors
- 2017-18 An Alpina Sherpa was purchased to do trail grooming previously done by smaller snowmobiles. Led by Denis Charette and Rhys Lucas the Board held a Strategic Planning session.
- 2018-19 New Vision, Mission and Values statements were developed based on input from the strategic planning. Mike Kornell led an effort to have PSR host its first National ski competition – the Canadian Masters. Christine Dorion designed an automatic locking system for the chalet which relieved volunteers who had done the unlocking and locking job for 21 years.
- 2019-20 PSR hosted the Youth Championship with 166 competitors.
- 2020-21 COVID-19 pandemic caused the directors to plan to operate with many restrictions. While this restricted indoor activity, cross country skiing and snowshoeing were not restricted activities and the club had a record membership number of 1272.
- 2021-22 Pandemic restrictions still existed until late in the season. For a second year there was no Loppet and few school group visits but most other activities were close to normal.
- 2022-23 PSR celebrated its 50th anniversary with the annual Loppet, a dinner and other special events.



Trail Grooming 2008 to 2023

Lorne Luhta with additions by Gerry McNair

Making the ski tracks after grooming is completed had always been done using a snowmobile pulling a track setter. In the 2009-10 season a track setter was added to one of the BR400. This did help to speed the job but it could not be used exclusively at all times and much of the track setting was still done with snowmobiles.

In 2011 we replaced two old Alpines with new Scandics snowmobiles. We also purchased up-to-date Yellowstone Ginzu grooming/track setting equipment for these machines. These were used early in the season when we don't have enough of a snow base for our BR400s, and during the season after a light snowfall or to quickly freshen the skating and classic tracks without having to use the big machines. We also purchased an ATV for summer trail work including pulling a "brush hog" to cut summer growth on the trails.

In 2014 we purchased a Piston Bully to replace the older of the aging BR400 machines. This machine does an excellent job of both grooming and track setting in one pass. Then in 2016 we purchased an Alpine Serpa to replace one of the Sandic snowmobiles. This machine is a large snowmobile and it is much superior to the Scandics.



Pisten Bully

Even though they are definitely the most important jobs at the club, trail grooming and track setting are not high profile. The reward for the trail groomers is seeing a job well done and being appreciated. There is great camaraderie among the groomers; it's like a club within a club.

At our 50th anniversary we see that the trail grooming equipment has grown from a value of \$250 to well over half a million dollars. Instead of a tarp covering a snowmobile we have 2 well equipped garages.

Nordic Centre Project

Gerry McNair

With a final payment made, final reports being completed and only a few deficiencies to clear up, it feels good to say that the project is complete. It's also a pleasure to watch the club, its directors and members adjust to the new chalet. We are finding that the building is functional for our purposes but we're still experimenting with the optimum way to handle various things. It's certainly great to work with good facilities.

The project took a long time to complete as we all know. But those delays, caused by a series of circumstances, actually worked in our favour because raising all the money for the project also took a long time. In fact we began to set money aside for building a new chalet as far back as 2005.

Some numbers and details:

1. The project included constructing a new chalet, redesigning and installing a new septic system, installing a new waterline with a new hydrant, re-surfacing the parking lot, re-shaping and paving the entrance road and improving the landscaping.
2. Total cost of the Nordic Centre Project (dating back to 2005) is \$1,848,587 with tax. That includes feasibility

studies, environment testing, architectural designs, engineering and construction.

3. Cost with tax deducted is \$1,757,318. (GST/HST is refunded to PSR so in the end it is not part of the cost.)
4. The total revenue raised for the project is \$1,774,528 – slightly more than the cost.
5. The club made a direct contribution of \$100,000 to the project.
6. Most of the money came from 10 different government sources and private foundations. \$1,446,619.
7. Businesses contributed \$94,560 – not including the 2006 auction.
8. PSR members donated \$81,324.
9. Clubs, organizations and schools assisted with \$26,546.
10. The balance came from a variety of fundraisers and individual non-member donations. Fundraisers included the 2006 auction but also smaller efforts organized by PSR members that included: ski-a-thon, ski lessons (eg "Learn to Loppet"), film festivals and others.
11. We paid out about \$3,000 in overdraft interest fees.
12. There is no debt resulting from this project.

Published in the Spring Issue 2011 of the Inside Track

Annual Reports

Jackrabbits Christine Dorion

Jackrabbit 2022/2023 was once again successful. Over 50 kids and some parents joined us. Many children enjoyed their outdoor play at Porcupine Ski Runners learning to ski, making friends and most importantly having fun. A BIG THANKS to all my volunteers in helping out in many different ways. Head coaches Dan Girard, Annabelle Gagner come back year after year to help so a big thanks. Another person, Kim Draper, who took on the little ones and did a great job.

This season we had many past or current racers help out. Marissa, Brielle, Julianne, Emma, Elizabeth and Mari. High school students Nicholas and Kendra joined us again. Good job guys. Some parents also helped out which improves the program in many ways. Thanks to the parents who make this opportunity available to their children.

To all the kids who joined the program we always look forward to seeing you next year. Have a great summer and see you all next season.



Personnel Alan Heino

For the 2022-2023 Season Brent Cleverdon, our Chalet Coordinator, was responsible for managing the rental room, waxing rental room skis and skis from members and guests, as well as performing janitorial duties. Our four student employees: Bryson Lanzellotti, Keenan Cleverdon, Ella Robinson and Isabelle Cleverdon provided assistance with these duties after school and on weekends. Bryson provided team leadership to all of our student staff and managed the rental room, every other weekend, when Brent's was off. In addition, the students cooperated

well in taking turns working as gatekeepers.

Collectively, the staff worked well in providing rental room services for individual and family equipment rentals, and for school and group rental activities held during the 2022-2023 season. The school and group rentals returned to normal levels this season following much reduced levels during the pandemic.

Thanks to Christine Dorion for providing assistance with recruiting our newest students Bryson, Isabelle and Ella. Thanks to Brent, Christine, and Gerry McNair for providing orientation training to Bryson, Isabelle and Ella especially in regards to rental room duties. And thanks to our Treasurer, Beverly Beaven, for

processing the bi-weekly payroll submissions for our staff in a prompt and accurate manner.

1000 Kilometre Club

John Sullivan

This year, as part of our 50th anniversary, PSR issued a challenge to members to ski 1000 kilometres or more, with a goal of having at least 50 skiers do so. Although we did not reach this mark, we did have 18 members do so despite having a later fall start and earlier end to the ski season than last year. Overall, still impressive.

The distance leader this winter was Greg Deyne who racked up 2023+ kilometres. Yes, according to Greg there is some significance to this number. Also of note, both Emma Deschalets and Jillian Daguerre have made the list again this year. These two young athletes are part of the PSR race team. Emma is also on the biathlon team. Congratulations to the Wray family for logging so many kilometres together.

Here are the results taken from the distance board as of April 12th. As always, please excuse any errors or omissions.

Did Greg really plan to ski 2023 km in 2023???

1000 km Club Members - 2022-23

Greg Deyne 2023+
Kevin Montgomery 1806
Steve Osawa 1683
Jillian Daguerre 1682
Jane Schultz 1605
Ray Denis 1526
Claude Castilloux 1486
Stan Vasiliauskas 1359
Emma Deschalets 1342
Ned Bosnick 1278
Alan Heino 1263
LouAnn Visconti 1235
Jan Deyne 1188
Leah Fedat 1145
Dave Schultz 1111
Erik Luhta 1065
Gord King 1001
Dave Mullen 1000

Honourable Mention

Neal McNair 733, Denis Brûlé 555, Andrew Wray 534, Dean McGee 647, Vicki Bernstein 553, Bill Shand 526, Norm Disley 606, Julianne Wray 549, Anna Wray 504
Robert White 589, Muriel Wray 535, Raphael Delli Quadri 500

Facilities Report

Alan Heino

In our thirteenth season in our new chalet, we continued to manage our facilities well. Fortunately, we were able to resume hosting club competitions at PSR – see Events report. We also benefited from a strong membership and demand for equipment rentals during the ski season and continued to hold weekly events discussed under the Events section. We also had good demand for ski waxing from our members and guests during the season; this service was fulfilled by Brent with

assistance from Bryson and the rest of the students.

For our day-to-day operations, rental room opened on Saturday December 17th for the season with weekday rentals available 12pm to 5 or 6pm and weekend rentals available 10am to 6pm. The ski/snowshoe equipment rentals initially started slow and picked up during the Christmas holidays and increased from January to March with the return of rentals from numerous school groups as well as rentals from individuals and families and other groups.

We held our rental room promotions (30% discount on rentals and day fees) on three occasions during the season: the first was held during the Christmas holidays' period (December 24th-January 8th), the second was held for the Family Day Weekend and the third was held for the March break. Hopefully, many of this year's rental equipment users will

consider purchasing memberships next year. After a very good ski season, we closed the rental room effective April 10th.

Brent and our students continued to provide waxing services and wax sales to members and guests in the rental room during the season. The waxing services and wax sales have become increasingly popular during the past few seasons.

During the off-season, the Porcupine Ski Runners lounge will be available for rent to interested parties. To date, we have some reservations for rentals of our Lounge: starting April 29th and more in the following months. Please access the following link for more information on lounge rentals and to access the Rental Request Form:

[Porcupine Ski Runners - Facilities Rental](#)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the other valued members of our Facilities committee: Gerry McNair, Ray Denis and Robert White, as well as all of our staff for all their contributions in managing the facilities in a first class manner.



Events

Christine Dorion

The 50th Anniversary of the club is a time to celebrate and that's what we tried to do as we enjoyed the winter with many events. Some were just returning events after cancellations for a couple of years caused by the pandemic, some were a revival of events we had in earlier years and others were a continuation of current practices.

Loota Loppet

A good number of years ago we held non-competitive events called Loota-Loppet. It's sort of competitive but the participants compete with themselves as they begin by giving a prediction for the time they think they will require to ski a distance, or trail, of their own choosing. A volunteer notes the start time for each skier and then records their finish time to calculate the time it took to complete skiing the distance. Competitors may not carry a watch or any timing device during the ski and your performance is judged by how close you are to your predicted time. The event organizers arrange some sort of prize or award for each participants and winners may be declared.

We reintroduced the Loota Loppet by hosting two this season. It's strictly a fun event that requires no training or special skill and it's not limited by age – anyone may compete. We'll bring this fun activity back next year so come join us next season.

Tuesday night snowshoe and Thursday ladies' night

These events were brought back this season.

The Annual Loppet



The pandemic caused this loppet to be cancelled for two years. We were happy to again host this popular event. There were 141 persons participating this year – not a record but close to it. For some this is a competition while others just do a recreational ski without competing with anyone. There is also a snowshoe component of the Annual Loppet that is a poker-run.

There are plenty of prizes given out at this event and the socializing before and after is a definite pleasant part of the day.



Christmas Sweater Day



We had ugly Christmas sweater day. A number of skiers brought some pretty nice outfits out on the trail.

Rookies vs Vets

The annual rookies vs vets relay race was run near the end of the season and it was finished off with some yummy pancakes. The vets won this year but those kids did give them tough competition. This relay race is all about fun and having the opportunity to participate in a relay race which requires some team work.



Events reports continued on page 7

Events (Continued)

Christine Dorion

Ontario Youth Championships

The 2020 Ontario Youth Championships was awarded to Porcupine Ski Runners but it was delayed by the pandemic. We finally managed to host the event this year. There were approximately 200 racers that competed and joining them was perhaps another 200 parents, coaches and support people. They came from all parts of Ontario and some parts of Québec. The competition is focused on introducing young skiers to racing and involves youth under the age of 13. We saw some tears and some very happy kids.

We reserved the Dante Club for a banquet which proved to an enjoyable gathering. Once again Porcupine Ski Runners got to showcase the beautiful facility and trails. We received much praise during this event and many will definitely return to the city to ski again. Races of this size bring in money to the club which help with operations and reserve funds. But these events also require much organization, many volunteers and hours of work. We had over 60 volunteers for this event and everyone did an amazing job; the race ran smoothly which again was expressed to us by the many visitors.

50th Anniversary Banquet

We celebrated the 25th anniversary of Porcupine Ski Runners with a banquet and we copied that idea for our 50th anniversary. The meal was catered by McIntyre and it was held in the conference room of the McIntyre Arena. This took place after the Annual Loppet and about 100 members attended. We had some fun games after dinner with a *The Prices Right showcase*. Also draw prizes and picture slides. Diane and Lorne Luhta, who are founding members of the club, recalled some of the trials and successes that occurred as the club evolved to what it is today.

Thanks to the volunteers for making all these events possible and thank you to all the participants. Participation to events makes the club that much more special and fun.



Trails & Equipment

Lorne Luhta

Skiers at Porcupine Ski Runners experienced exceptional groomed trails this season even though it was a little shorter than average. Special thanks goes to our grooming crew of Rob White, Denis Brûlé and our leader Ray Denis. Besides grooming the trails, these fellows also take care of the maintenance of the grooming equipment and the garages.

With the first significant snowfall at the beginning of the ski season, we pack and groom with our Alpina Sherpa (the snow sled on steroids) which pulls a roller, then a small drag and finally a Ginzu groomer and track setter. With more snow

we use the Bombardier BR 400 to pull a large drag to smooth the snow on the trails. Finally, with an adequate snow cover, we use our Pisten Bully 200 Edge which has a tiller and dual track setters. As you have experienced, the trail conditions are excellent after this grooming. When we hosted the Ontario Youth Championships – which attracted athletes, coaches and parents from across the province – we had all kinds of compliments on our organization, trails, facilities and on the trail grooming.

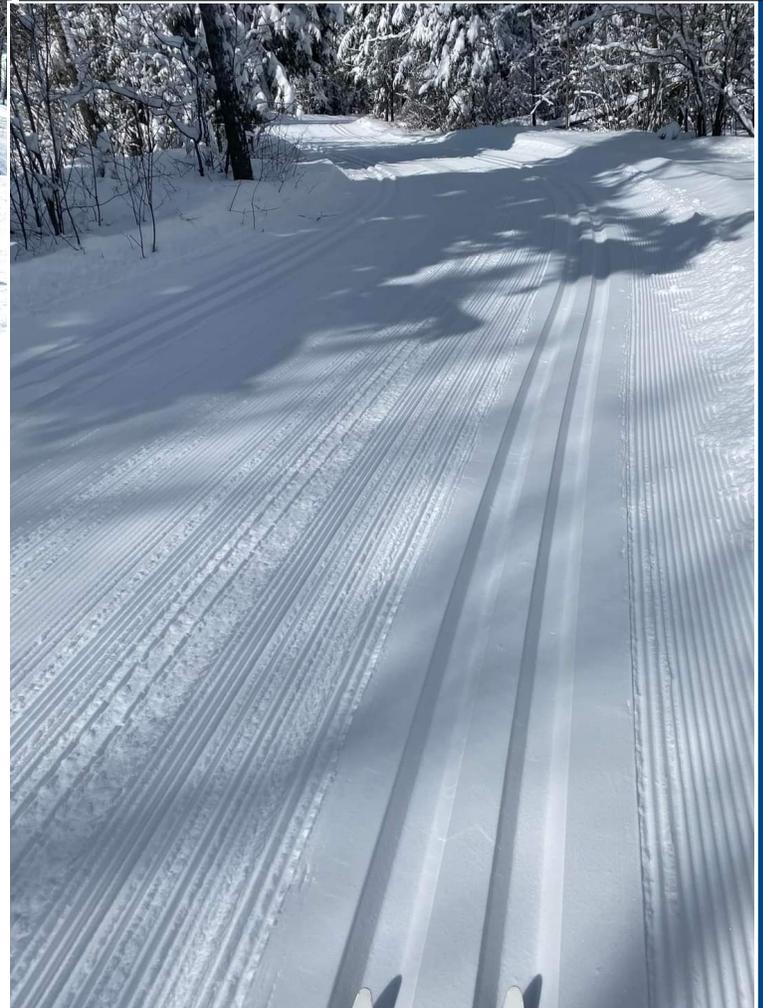
Just before our ski season began and after our trail brushing was done we had an emergency situation. The wind and ice storm which we had in mid November brought down close to 200 trees onto the ski trails. Also more were down on the

snowshoe trails. Led by Ray Denis a group of volunteers took 2 weeks to cut and remove those trees from the trails. Volunteering for this task were: Greg Deyne, Rhys Lucas, Rob White, Denis Brûlé, Steve Osawa, John Sullivan, Ben Daguerre, Al Heino and Steve Kukulka.

Our club is planning to replace the 37 year old BR400 with a new Pisten Bully 100. This machine is a little smaller than our PB 200. Our trail groomers travelled to North Bay to inspect their new BB100 and are satisfied that it would be an asset in our trail grooming. Cost would be close to \$365,000 and we are looking at obtaining possible grants and additional fundraising to add to the money we currently gave in our reserve fund in order to purchase the machine.



Left
Ray with Alpina Serpa



Right
Groomed trail and tracks set with Pisten Bully

Junior Development Ski Team

Andrew Wray

The PSR Junior Race Team successfully navigated another ski season which spanned parts of 5 months in 2022 and 2023. From late November to early April, the all-female squad honed technique, strengthened stamina and cardiovascular conditioning, as well as gelled as a team. Together, they faced some less than ordinary challenges—cancelled events, equipment shortages, and uncooperative weather—and through it all maintained optimism and demonstrated great determination. Team members included: Anna Wray (U10), Muriel Wray (U12), Elisabeth Girard (U12), Chantal Kukulka (U16), Nicole Kukulka (U16), Emma Deschatelets (U16), Jillian Daguerra (U16), and Marissa Pladzyk (U18).

Members of the 2022-23 team competed in all but 1 of the official Ontario Cup Series's races, including Ontario Youth Championships (OYC) and Ontario Winter Games (OWG), as well as many of the Northern Ontario District's (NOD) race series races. In all competitions, team members set personal bests, represented PSR well, and came home with hardware.

One notable event which many PSR team members attended was OCup #3 hosted by Walden Nordic in Sudbury, Ontario. The event took place late in January following a series of extraordinary weather, which made training and maintaining fitness difficult on skis. Skiers supplemented on-snow training with cardio and core workouts in an attempt to prepare for the race. The 2-day event included over 300 athletes and coaches who had to navigate the plunging temperatures and lack of fresh snow, and participating in a pursuit style race—skiers' results from previous day determine not only start time for the next day, but total time was accumulated and ranked for placement over both techniques. Despite the weather—and much thanks to Coach Lorne's waxing techniques—PSR racers managed to secure tremendous results. In the U-10 category, Anna Wray medaled in both techniques—classic and skate—as well as the pursuit, receiving 3 bronze medals. In the U-12 category, Muriel Wray and Elisabeth Girard competed hard. Muriel finished 9th in classic, 10th in skate, and 8th in the overall pursuit, while Elisabeth finished 12th in

classic, 9th in skate, and 10th in the overall pursuit. The U16 category saw the most competitors competing in any category, including 4 PSR racers: Chantal and Nicole Kukulka, Jillian Daguerra, and Emma Deschatelets. Chantal finished: 6th in classic, 7th in skate, and 7th in the overall pursuit; Nicole finished: 15th in classic, 17th in skate, and 23rd in the overall pursuit; Emma finished: 22nd in classic, 27th in skate, and 30th in the overall pursuit; Jillian finished: 23rd in the classic, 20th in skate, and 19th in the overall pursuit. PSR coaches were very pleased with results and were proud of the team's overall effort.



In early February, all four U16 skiers (Emma, Jillian, Nicole, and Chantal) qualified for Ontario Winter Games in Renfrew County, representing almost half of the NOD's allotted female athletes (10). This 4-day event included sprints and distance races in both techniques with skiers from all over Ontario. They again competed hard in less than ideal weather conditions, making trails difficult to traverse. It was a great opportunity for athletes to meet with other NOD skiers, make friendships, learn new training techniques, and connect with coaches from around the province.

Later in the month, four PSR skiers attended OCup #5 at Lakefield College in Lakefield, Ontario. The team crossed their fingers, hoping the event would be hosted, as once again, the weather did not cooperate. A flurry of snow late Friday evening meant the race was on, but the format would change—there would be 2 skate races and no classic. Nonetheless, all skiers strapped on their skis and attacked the undulating and winding terrain. Marissa Pladzyk, a veteran PSR skier, led off early each morning in the U18 category in the icy and fast conditions, skiing 4 laps of the 2.5km (10km) technical course on Saturday and 3 laps (7.5km) on Sunday. Tackling the hills and leaning in to the corners, she completed each course, finishing 17th on Saturday and 16th on Sunday against stiff

competition. The youngest members of the team skied later in the day. They too had to traverse the technical terrain, skiing 2-1.25km laps (U10) and 3-1.25km laps (U12) on Saturday and 1 less lap on Sunday for each category. Anna Wray finished in 2nd place on both days, coming home with 2 silver medals. Elisabeth Girard and Muriel Wray competed in the U12 category. Elisabeth led the way both days finishing 10th and 9th, while Muriel finished 13th both days.

To finish off the month of February, PSR athletes participated in the club's own loppet. Skiers were excited to demonstrate their skills on home turf in a fun and spirited event. Jillian Daguerra won a gold in the 8km classic event. Emma Deschatelets continued the winning streak by placing first in the 8km skate event. There was a PSR podium sweep in the 20km skate event. Chantal Kukulka finished on top with her sister Nicole Kukulka in second and Marissa Pladzyk followed closely in third. In the 3km skate event, Muriel Wray finished mere seconds behind twin sisters who were in 1st and 2nd places to finish in 3rd, Elisabeth Girard completed the course in 4th, and not far behind was Anna Wray in 5th.

Rounding up the season's big events was the Ontario Youth Championships hosted by PSR. Though many of the team's athletes have aged out of the OYC categories, many of them came out to volunteer and encourage the younger skiers. The classic event took place on a sunny and warm Saturday morning, making it tough for the young athletes. Anna Wray skied to 3rd place over the 2km course in the U10 category, channelling her inner Klaebo as she sprinted to the finish line. Muriel Wray and Elisabeth Girard competed in the 3km course in the U12 category, demonstrating precision on the downhill sections, finishing 12th and 14th, respectively. On Sunday, the temperatures remained warm and the snow soft, less than ideal conditions for waxing. Anna challenged herself to attack the difficult hills in jump-ski style, completing the 2km skate course in 8th. Muriel followed her sister's lead and used a one skate technique to power home, finishing in 21st place. Unfortunately, due to sickness, Elisabeth was not able to compete in the skate event.

Continued on page 10



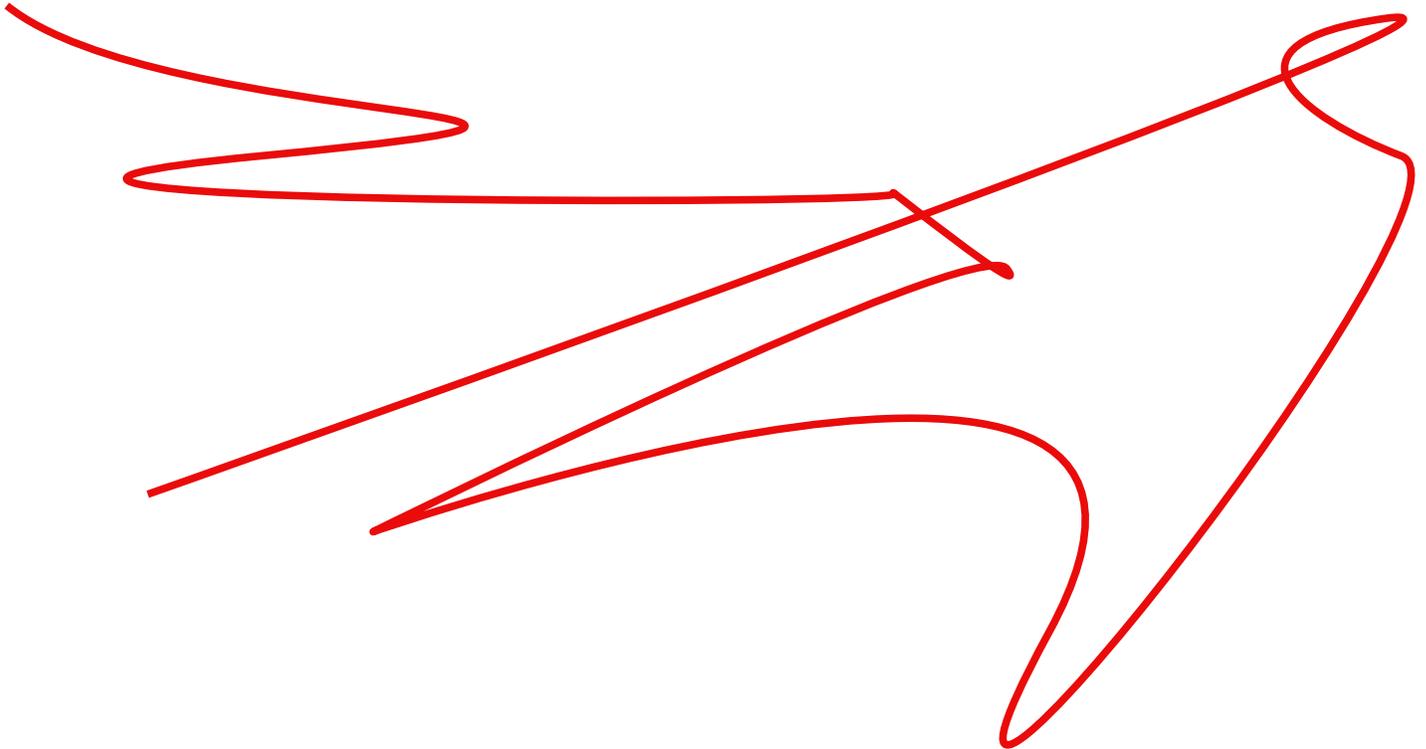
Coaches

For the month that followed OYC, the team focused on the technical side of skiing, receiving feedback on form and applying it over slow, long distance skis. The stormy and wintery end to March meant that athletes could put on lots of kilometres between storms and grooming. The official

season ended in Temiskaming at Temiskaming Nordic for their annual sprints and loppet. Athletes, coaches, and parents all received expert tips on waxing and technique through sessions led by Peter Wiltmann from NOD. Many race team members attended the weekend's events. Jillian Daguere took a risk and completed her first 10km skiathlon—5km skate followed by 5km classic. She placed 2nd overall in her debut. In the 5km skate event, Muriel Wray powered her way to 3rd place with Elisabeth Girard finishing in 4th. Anna Wray completed the hilly course in 12th place.

In April, the opportunities for crust skiing abated quickly, signalling an end to a less than ordinary and at that same time

extraordinary ski season for the PSR Junior Race Team. Skiers skied in blustery snowstorms, losing sight of the tracks but not of their focus. They trained in tough, torrential winds. Racers forged strength in frigid, freezing temperatures, all-the-while being dressed in layer-upon-layer of clothing. They climbed steep terrain, repeatedly challenging themselves to do it fast both with and without poles. They skied thousands of kilometres, spending hours on the PSR trails, sometimes just as the trail lights began to dim, but smiling nonetheless. And at the end of each and every practice, drill, time trial, interval, and race, one thing held true; they were a team.



Schools and Groups Report

Neal McNair

After a few years of reduced usage due to the pandemic and labour disruptions, the school groups came back in force in 2023. In total 13 different local schools registered with us to use our ski and snowshoe trails. We also had some participation under our group use policy.

School groups require considerable time from our administration volunteers and from our rental room staff. The benefits to PSR include over \$11,000 in revenue and, most

important, the exposure of potential new members to our trails and facilities. It is great to see so many local school kids getting outside and enjoying our northern winters. Thank you to all the educators and parent volunteers who lead these groups every season.

Participation and Revenue Summary:

- Total of 13 different schools and 5 different groups
- Total unique participants (estimate): 635
- Total revenue (Registration fees, trail fees and rental fees): **\$11,957.00**

Membership Report

Neal McNair

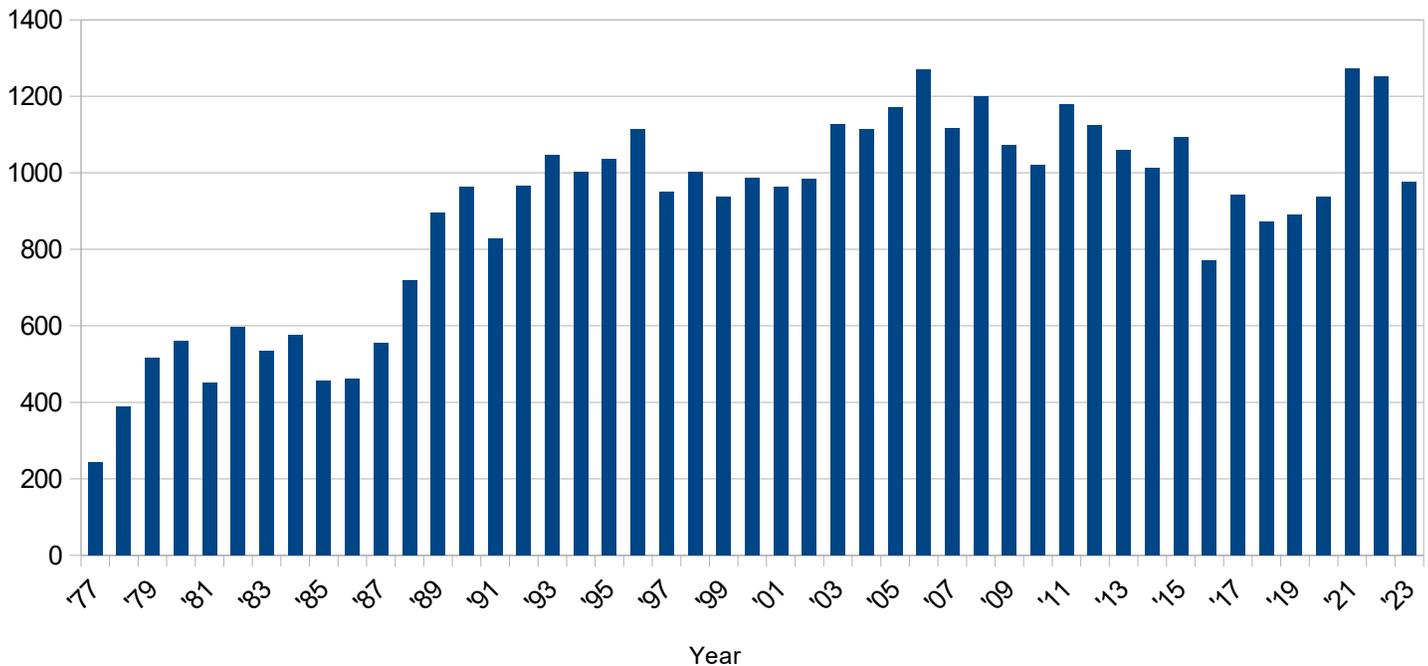
We had a total of 976 members this season. We expected a bit of a drop from the membership numbers we saw during the past two 'pandemic' seasons. While it would have been nice to hit the 1000 members mark again for the club's 50th anniversary, 976 is a great total and PSR remains one of the biggest XC ski clubs in terms of total members in not only Ontario but all of Canada.

Congratulations and thank you to the Board of Directors, the volunteers, the staff, and all PSR members for your efforts in maintaining and promoting the club in our community

The table to the right gives a detailed breakdown of our membership demographics.

Membership Details	
Total Members:	976
Ski Memberships:	884 (91%)
Snowshoe Memberships:	92 (9%)
Adult Ski	492 (50%)
Senior Ski	189 (19%)
Teen Ski	80 (8%)
Youth Ski	95 (10%)
Child Ski/Lifetime Member	26 (3%)
Adult Snowshoe	55 (6%)
Senior Snowshoe	32 (3%)
Teen Snowshoe	1 (0%)
Youth Snowshoe	2 (0%)
Total Female Members	568 (58%)
Total Male Members	408 (42%)

Porcupine Ski Runners
Membership Numbers



Timmins Biathlon Club

Angele Caporicci

Racing Team

The club had a very good season, finishing with several racing athletes achieving some good results at races. The weather affected several races this year and there were many cancellations but we were able to race later in the season. At the Chelsea Race both Chantal and Nicole earned a few silver and bronze medals. Andraya earned two silvers medals and our Master Racer Lynn Kieran earned a gold and a silver medal. Both Chantal and Nicole raced at Nationals for the first time. This was a valuable experience for them, as they raced up an age category, which meant they raced against athletes 1 to 2 years older than they are. They both finished in a very respectful 'middle of the pack', but they are the top Ontario Senior Girls Athletes. We are extremely excited to see what they will accomplish in the 2023-2024 season. We are planning to attend several races, including Nationals, which are set to be held in Hinton, Alberta in March 2024.

Bears program

The Biathlon Bears group was small but powerful this season. Our little athletes had a great season of fun, learning to ski and their marksmanship skills were honed in. We saw many clean targets on the range. This program is geared towards youths aged 8 to 14 years, where we focus on learning then mastering the ski and marksmanship (using an air pellet gun) skills. The program helps young athletes develop those skills while having fun. We had a great treasure hunt, time trials and club race. By the end of the season, several of them earned their badges in their respective categories, including their silver and/or bronze range and ski bear badges. We look forward to a fun year next season. The Bears program is open to any youth who wants to learn a fun but challenging sport. We look forward to seeing you all in December.

Editor's note;

Timmins Biathlon Club is an independent organization that is not administrated by Porcupine Ski Runners. All members of this club are also members of PSR and they use the facilities of PSR in accordance with an agreement negotiated with the PSR Board of Directors.

