



Bittersweet CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB



NEWSLETTER • March, 2015



Hartley at the Ski Hut with his Kubota .

Early this season, Hartley Woodward announced his retirement, effective April 2015, as Manager of the East Side Trails. Hartley is the founder of the Bittersweet Ski Trails, and he has been a major contributor in developing and maintaining the trail system over all those years. The Bittersweet Ski Club extends its heartfelt appreciation to Hartley.

His shoes will be difficult to fill.

Hartley, once again, all of us at Bittersweet thank you for all those hours and years, your skill and experience in attending to the trails in all seasons, so that we can enjoy great skiing at Bittersweet.

Other Changes

Following Hartley's announcement, it was clear that some management changes were needed. Scott Smart has volunteered to take over Hartley's grooming duties next season, as well as continuing with his present job of grooming the skate trails. There it is: Volunteers make the world go round!

A second John Deere Gator has been purchased, and the Club will raise funds to eventually own it. Glen McMaster will purchase Hartley's trail clearing equipment, to be used whenever heavy trail work is required.

Annual Bittersweet Loppet, Sunday February 15

The tent was pitched. Check lists were all completed. Trails were in pristine condition. On Saturday night, everything for the loppet was ready to go. But overnight, as few cm of fresh snow drifted down, filling in the tracks. Promptly at 7 AM, in the dark, Glen McMaster on the King Quad began grooming the skate trails, while at the same time, Don and Ardythe began grooming the classic trails. All grooming was completed by 10 AM, just in time to welcome the loppet participants. (whew!)

A huge parking lot had been cleared by Russell Hooey, so there was ample room for all the cars, as well as the large tent set up by Jason Playter.



Jackrabbits having fun on their specially prepared trails.

Bittersweet Loppet is a day where the contributions and cooperation of many come together to create a time of good fun and fellowship for all. From the first of the jackrabbits out having fun, (and demonstrating their developing skills) to the last plate of dinner consumed, it was a Good Day.

Special Thanks

Special thanks to the following, each doing a part to make the day a success:

- **Russell Hooey**, the RM of South Norfolk snow plow operator, who came out specially to clear the parking lot.
- **Pam May & Kim Young** who, in addition to leading the Jackrabbits program, took on the raffle, and amassed a huge assortment of tempting items to be bid for, thus earning a good number of dollars for the Club
- **Harvey Watson, Harley Henry, & Dennis Ortman**, the horsemen, who arrived with their teams and sleighs, offering sleigh rides to everyone.
- **Jason Playter**, whose giant heated tent is a sought out destination for returning skiers. That tent requires several hands and a good half day to set up or take down.
- **Jason, our King of the Grill, and wife Laura McMaster**, who together served a delicious hot dinner for us all, just when we needed it .
- **The trail groomers**, as mentioned above, who were out grooming before sunrise.
- **The Club women**, (we cannot be sure how many), who donated all the tasty dessert treats we enjoyed at dinner.
- **Ron and Leta Owens**, who donated over 70 dinner plates to the Club, so we no longer have to spend money on renting dishes
- **Luc Gamache**, who photographed some of the action that day.
- **Corey Willms & Glen McMaster**, the sweeps, who 'swept' the entire system at day's end, ensuring that no one was left out on the trails.



*Snug under buffalo robes,
a group heads out for a sleigh ride.*



*An impressive array of prizes
to be won at the raffle table.*

A Special Note of Thanks

Bittersweet Ski Club wishes to acknowledge the generosity of Olympia Ski and Sport, Portage Avenue in Winnipeg, who donated several hundred dollars worth of ski gear for our raffle.

We can all show our appreciation by shopping there for all our skiing needs.



A parade of young jackrabbits ready for fun



Another sleigh ride heading out