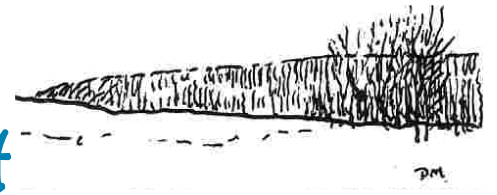




Bittersweet

CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB



NEWSLETTER • Winter 2017

Happy new ski season, Everyone!

It is difficult to overstate the destruction of the windstorm that swept through our area on July 20. Over 400 trees fell across the trails. Many more fell throughout the forest, most of them huge mature poplars that snapped part way up the trunks, dropping heavily leafed tops to the ground. The trail out from Hartley's trailhead must be seen to be believed, and even then, 'incredible' is the word that comes to mind. Some trees, such as the giant that crashed across the bridge, show evidence of the twisting of the tornado.

Bad as it was, it could have been so much worse. No one was hurt. Unlike our neighbours in nearby Long Plain, no homes were lost, or even damaged. Our call for help to clear the trails was answered by a steady stream of volunteers, all of them ready to work. Of the 71 volunteers, many came from Winnipeg. In addition, Anna Mandael of Fairholme brought a busload of lively sharp-eyed students who cleared the Omega trail of the last of the branches, while our Jackrabbits did the same on North Star. We are grateful for the help of every one of the volunteers.



Where's the trail?

We are ever grateful to Glen and to Jason, both of them trained and experienced chain saw operators, who came on their days off to saw their way through the mess. Things progressed steadily, especially after the tractor was put to use, pushing rubble off the trails, so it was no longer necessary to cut trees into person-sized pieces. The majority of the work was completed in six weeks.

Our woods are greatly altered by this storm.

Autumn Activity at Bittersweet

In the midst of our trails preparations, we were happy to host several school groups, though we had to hurry to prepare 5 km for xc runners. Students from Pine Creek School Division spent an afternoon running a 5 km route. October 7 brought 400 Hutterite students and their teachers from all across southern Manitoba in a big XC run event. Those students could run 5 km or 10km, and many chose 10km. Later that same day, 30 students from Winnipeg's Westgate Collegiate came to hike the trails, learn about prairie and indigenous culture, and to camp overnight. We always enjoy having young people such as these come to Bittersweet, and we are grateful to their teachers who prepare and lead them.



Westgate collegiate students learned about the history and construction of the Plains tipi.

Students from Pine Creek SD heading out on their run

Autumn Work

When trail clipping crews were able, many of the volunteers clipped the overhanging hazel bushes to a trim line, better than ever before. The classic trails were a sight to behold! Unfortunately, the first snowfall of the year was a major snowstorm of heavy wet snow which piled up and pushed many saplings and bushes over our pristine trails, blocking them once again. It has been the worst that our old timers can remember. To make things even more difficult, a number of mature trees which had survived the summer storm now came crashing down under the snow load. Once more we relied upon Jason and his chain saw, supported in difficult conditions by yet more crews of workers. Eventually, working with two grooming machines in tandem, and crews of four men, our trails are once again open, base packed, groomed, and ready for skiers



The twisted and debarked tree that crashed onto the bridge



Opening yet another blocked trail



Membership Fees

Bittersweet Ski Club is a member of the Cross Country Ski Association of Manitoba. CCSAM collects a percentage of every member's fee, and over the years, that percentage has been rising, leaving our Club with an ever smaller balance. This year, Bittersweet membership fees are increased as follows:

Single membership \$40

Family membership \$75

Please complete and send the attached membership form . Please print and complete the attached form and send with your cheques to:

Kim Young, Treasurer

Box 295

Austin MB

R0H 0C0



Glen in hip deep snow



Even the Gator gets stuck

Bittersweet Annual Loppet February 12, 2016

Mark your calendars! Bittersweet's Annual Loppet is scheduled for Sunday, February 12, Louis Riel Day. Ours is a non-competitive event, focusing instead on families having winter fun together. The day always ends with a sit down dinner in the Nordic Centre. We will send more details closer to the date.



Hutterian Brethren
Signs & Designs

Tel: (204) 272-5131

E-mail: tirzahm@hbbookcentre.com



Bittersweet

CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB



Membership Application Form

Yes, I want to be a member of the Bittersweet XC Ski Club!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

I've enclosed my cheque for: \$40 (*single*) or \$75 (*family*)

If this is a family membership, please list the members of your family:

Name 1: _____ date of birth: _____

Name 2: _____ date of birth: _____

Name 3: _____ date of birth: _____

Name 4: _____ date of birth: _____

Name 5: _____ date of birth: _____

Name 6: _____ date of birth: _____

Please complete **membership** and **waiver** forms and mail along with your cheque to:

Kim Young, Treasurer
Box 295
Austin MB
R0H 0C0

*(Please submit membership renewals before Christmas. Thank you!
Cheques may also be dropped off in one of the donation boxes)*

CLUB WAIVER & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS FORM

IN CONSIDERATION OF **Cross Country Canada** (hereinafter called **CCC**), Cross Country Ski Association of Manitoba Inc. (name of Ski Division, hereinafter called the **Division**) and _____ Ski Club (name of Club, hereinafter called the **Club**) accepting my application for membership in the **Club** and thereby allowing (subject to certain limitations and conditions such as applying for a valid CCC race license) my participation at events, competitions and activities run or sanctioned by one or more of **CCC**, the **Division** or the **Club**, I agree as follows:

Part One - WAIVER and RELEASE (FOR ADULT REGISTRANTS ONLY)

I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, waive any and all claims that I have or may in the future have against **CCC**, the **Division** and the **Club**, their executive directors, servants, agents, sponsors, supporters, employees, contractors or volunteers (all of whom are hereafter the Releasees) and to release the Releasees from any and all liability for any loss, damage, expense or injury including death that I may suffer or my next of kin may suffer as a result of my participation in any event, competition or activity run or sanctioned by one or more of the Releasees (hereafter the Event), due to any cause whatsoever, including **negligence, breach of contract, or breach of any statutory or other duty of care owed on the part of the Releasees and further including failure on the part of the Releasees to safeguard or protect me from the risks, dangers and hazards associated with the Event as set out below in Part Two.**

I hold harmless and indemnify the Releasees from any and all liability for any property damage or personal injury to any third party resulting from my participation in the Event.

I further waive and release any and all recourse which I may now have or may in the future have resulting from any decisions of the Releasees in association with the Event, including any claims I might have in connection with any cancellation or rescheduling of the Event for whatever reason. I have read and understood this Waiver and Release prior to signing it. I am aware that I am an adult and that by signing this Waiver and Release I am waiving certain legal rights that I or my heirs or next of kin may have against the Releasees.

ADULT MEMBER'S SIGNATURE

Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Part Two – ACKNOWLEDGMENTS (FOR ALL REGISTRANTS)

Risks and Dangers: I acknowledge that skiing and participating in any event, competition or activity run or sanctioned by one or more of the **CCC**, the **Division** and the **Club** (hereafter the Event) involves risks and dangers including, but not limited to: accidents that occur traveling to and from the Event; slips, trips, falls or collisions; encounters with other skiers, obstacles (man made or natural) or wildlife; steep and varied terrain, uneven snow conditions; falling snow or ice; adverse weather conditions; frostbite; hypothermia; exhaustion. I freely accept and fully assume all risks, dangers and hazards associated with my participation in the Event and the possibility of personal injury, death, property damage or loss resulting therefrom.

Health: I declare that my physical condition, to the best of my knowledge, is adequate to participate safely in the Event and that no physician or other medically qualified individual has advised me against participating in the Event. I further acknowledge and agree that it is my choice whether I will obtain a physical examination prior to participating in the Event, and I hereby acknowledge and agree to assume all risks associated with not obtaining such examination, or if I do obtain an examination and am instructed not to participate in the Event, I hereby assume all risks associated with my participation.

Follow Rules: I hereby agree to abide by the Rules and Regulations imposed by **CCC**, the **Division** and the **Club** in association with the Event, and to follow the instructions of the officials during the Event

Cancellation or Rescheduling: I acknowledge that the **CCC**, **Host Division** or **Host Club** may choose to cancel or reschedule the Event if travel or Event conditions are deemed unsafe (e.g., weather, road conditions, snow conditions, health advisory). I accept that these organizations will not be liable for any costs I may bear as a result of such cancellation or rescheduling, except as provided for in the Event information package.

Image Use: I authorize and consent to the publication in any format or media by **CCC**, the **Division** and the **Club** of any materials containing my name, likeness or image in association with my participation in the Event, and I release to **CCC**, the **Division** and the **Club** and all persons acting under authority or license from them, from any claims I might have due to the initial or authorized subsequent publication of such material.

I have read and understand the above acknowledgements and accept the terms and conditions of participation and confirm all information is true and accurate.

ADULT MEMBER'S SIGNATURE

Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

MINOR MEMBER'S SIGNATURE

Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

MINOR'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

As the parent or guardian of a minor participant at the Event, I have read and understand the above Acknowledgements and accept the terms and conditions of participation on behalf of the minor and confirm all information is true and accurate.

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____