

Cross Country Ski Association of Manitoba – Annual General Meeting – 2020-Oct-24

Recreational Skiing report by Kevin Miller

Much of my time and effort for recreational skiing in the past year was focused on the *Where to Ski* website and establishing/maintaining relationships between trail owners/clubs and CCSAM. Time has also been spent dealing with recreational skiing issues.

Where to Ski website administration

- I have tried to keep the group pages (trail locations) up-to-date by adding, changing, and deleting text in the descriptions and updating maps when required. I have also added and deleted a number of pages in the past 3 years.
- I often do cleanups of SPAM and abandoned Login IDs.
- I have monitored user-submitted trail conditions reports for appropriateness. The majority of reports are now posted directly by skiers, but there are still many that are sent via email, which I then post.
- We often receive *Where to Ski* feedback by email, which either Karin or I act on or reply to.
- I've been able to use the site's WordPress dashboard to resolve a few minor technical issues. Anything beyond that is escalated to Paul Clerkin by Karin.

Establish and maintain relationships between trail owners/clubs and CCSAM

- In previous years, many good relationships had been established, including Shannondale (David Lumgair), Bittersweet (Ardythe McMaster), Pumpkin Creek (Danielle Dumesnil), Burwalde Woods (Phil & Vera Froese), Agassiz Provincial Forest (Karen Nilsson, Lac du Bonnet Ski Club), Sandilands (Lauren Silversides, Chris Duester), Portage la Prairie (Sue Davidson), City of Morden (Stephanie Dueck), La Perdrix (Sue Davidson), Birch (Steve Scoles, Derek Eidse), Fisher Branch (Paul Gregory), Falcon Ridge (Caleigh Christie), Birds Hill Park (Joanne Podolchuk), and Manitoba Parks (Sloan Cathcart). Most of these relationships were maintained or strengthened in the past year, in particular Birds Hill Park.
- A few new relationships have been forged in the past year: Brandon Hills (Tom Keep), Pine Falls (Tammy Kunz, Duck Lake Ski Club).

Recreational skiing issues

- Pat McCarty-Briggs, Joy Goertzen, and I met early last winter to discuss recreational skiing issues. We had also met a year earlier when Joy was the Recreational Skiing rep on the Board.
- Pat has pursued many ideas about how to encourage cross country skiing.
- In January, CBC Manitoba ran a very good online story about cross country skiing in Manitoba: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/cross-country-ski-trails-manitoba-1.5420855>. Parts of it were also broadcast on The Weekend Morning Show on CBC radio and other CBC media.
- Groomed ski trails being negatively impacted (or destroyed) by non-skiers has been an issue for a long time. In the past few years, walking on groomed tracks has greatly increased, which has generated a lot of emotion in *Where to Ski* trail conditions posts. Pat recently contacted Joanne Podolchuk (Birds Hill Park's District Park Manager) to discuss ideas to avert walking on groomed ski trails this coming winter.

2020-2021

- Obviously the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will dominate recreational skiing issues this winter. Ski shops are reporting record sales of Nordic equipment in September and October. One shop owner has said their sales by mid October have been higher than their sales by late December in a normal year. Another shop owner predicts that all stores will be sold out by December 1st.
- In September, CCSAM cancelled its annual Swap Shop that is held in mid November. I wrote a news story that announced the cancellation and suggested an online procedure to buy and sell used equipment: <https://www.ccsam.ca/swap-shop-cancelled-online-buy-and-sell-suggestion>.
- Almost everyone expects significantly more people skiing this winter – which is great news, but we know there will be far less capacity in club houses, warming shelters, and washrooms due to physical distancing requirements. Clearly, this presents challenges that ski trail system operators will have to deal with. I expect to be making ongoing updates to many *Where to Ski* group pages (trail locations) to reflect changes that occur.
- I also expect that skiers will submit an increased number of questions and comments to CCSAM via the *Where to Ski* website.