

Dead Ox Trailblazers is a multisport club that began in 2007 as a ski club. We are based out of McCreary on the east side of Riding Mountain National Park. Our mandate is to encourage others to enjoy being active in the outdoors and we do this by reducing barriers, like supplying ski equipment, for activities like XC skiing, hiking and biking. We are the only club offering outdoor programming in the area between Neepawa and Dauphin.

This year we ran a Jackrabbit program with 10 participants. Several were first time skiers. We will offer this again starting in December. Luckily our clubhouse is large enough to facilitate distancing of family cohorts at their assigned table. We hope to have more volunteers to help get kids outside in a timely manner. All bunnies have parents with them so that is easier.

We had 66 school aged children XC skiing through our ski at school 5 week program. We hope to offer some form of skiing to the schools again but have to figure out how. They usually bus to the clubhouse and then to trailheads so that is a limiting factor with Covid. We may have to adapt and offer the program in town where kids can walk to skiing. Introducing them to trail skiing is the coolest part so that would be disappointing. An after school program may work? Challenging times.

We plan to offer some individual clinics to women and new skiers. The aim will be to get them prepared for trail skiing. We offer club ski days occasionally through the season.

Our club belongs to the volunteer grooming Riding Mountain Trail Stewards which will meet in early November. We will continue to budget to groom Oak Ridge, Scott Creek and Bald Hill trails in RMNP as we have for the past 6/7 years. This is the result of federal cuts to the Parks Canada budget during the Harper years. We would love to groom Whirlpool, the North Escarpment and other trails off Road #19 but need another willing volunteer. This entails hauling a trailer up the road. Call if you are keen.

Dead Ox Trailblazers are looking forward to a productive, safe and snowy season. Thanks to CCSAM for all the support.