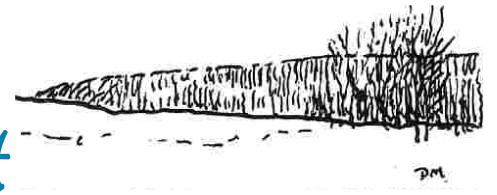




Bittersweet

CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB



NEWSLETTER • November 2020

Warning! Deer Hunting Season

This year the deer hunting season runs from:

October 19 - November 29.

During this period, deer hunters may be hunting on any of our ski trails. For safety reasons, therefore, the public will not be allowed access to any private land without permission of the landowner. On Crown Land, (*Wildlife Management Area*) where hunters may be at any time, the public should wear articles of blaze orange clothing. So, be wise. Stay out of the woods during deer hunting season! Bittersweet Trails will not be groomed until after the hunting season, November 30.

End of An Era

Hartley Woodward, the visionary who founded, maintained and championed Bittersweet Ski Trails for over 40 years, has sold his home and retired to Portage. He has left behind an impressive legacy! The Bittersweet Ski Trail system, now spanning 33 km, began as a little track in the Woodward pasture. Hartley designed and built many of the trails, and even the trail groomer, still in use today. The Ski Hut, dismantled and hauled to its present site where it was reassembled is yet another reminder of the influence of this modest man. We wish Hartley a healthy and happy retirement!



The Tradition Carries On

Happily for Bittersweet, the new owners, Laura McMaster and Jason Playter, will continue the Bittersweet tradition of permitting parking on the driveway at the trail head. Jason will continue, as in the past, to help with trail grooming and machine maintenance.

Covid 19 Concerns

Bittersweet Trails will continue to be groomed this winter, but the Nordic Centre will remain closed for the duration of the pandemic. The Ski Hut will remain open as an emergency shelter. All of our outhouses will be stocked with paper and hand sanitizer. Please maintain social distancing and appropriate covid protocol at the Ski Hut. Skiers are advised to come dressed for skiing, and to bring their own refreshments. We look forward to the day when we can once again safely welcome skiers into our Nordic Centre.

Membership Fees

Members will note a slight raise in Member fees this year:

Single Membership: \$80
Family Membership: \$125

To pay the fees, please go to zone4.ca. Search Bittersweet Ski Club for the current registration.

If you do not feel comfortable navigating the website, please ask someone to help you. (It costs our Club extra money if we have to do this registration for you.) You can pay by credit card on the website, or click the option to pay by cheque, and then just drop your cheque in the donations box at the Nordic Centre.

The screenshot displays the ZONE4 website interface. At the top, the ZONE4 logo is on the left, and the text "Simplify your timing and online registration" with a "Try it Free" button is on the right. Below this is a navigation bar with links for "Products", "Timing Services", "Contact", "About Us", "Help", and "Admin Sign In". A search bar is located below the navigation bar. The main content area shows a list of events under the "All Events" tab. The events listed are:

- 2020-2021 Beaver Valley Nordic Ski Club (Beaver Valley Nordic Ski Club) - Registration opened 10 hours ago.
- NSCX #4 Haliburton Museum (2020-11-08, Halifax, Bicycle Nova Scotia) - Results posted 19 hours ago.
- ENSC Jackrabbits & Learn to Ski 2021 (Edmonton, Edmonton Nordic Ski Club) - Registration opened 2 days ago.
- Downtown Nordic Jackrabbits 2020-2021 (Winnipeg, Downtown Nordic) - Registration Closes in 3 days.
- Avalon Nordic Clothing 2020/2021 (St. John's, Avalon Nordic Ski Club) - Registration Closes in 3 days.

New Bittersweet Signs

Two large, attractive new signs have been erected on Assiniboine Hills Trail, one at the junction with #242, and the other at the Bittersweet gate. Bittersweet is grateful to the Tiger Hills Foundation for a generous grant to help fund the signs. We also have new, larger trails maps located at many of our major trail intersections. We hope that these new signs will be helpful, especially by skiers new to our trails.



Bad News in the Bittersweet Community

On the early morning of Thanksgiving Sunday, Corey and Sally Willms lost their home to fire. It was a beautiful hundred year old house, tastefully renovated. Thankfully, all of the family, with their pets, escaped unharmed. But the house is a total loss. A benefit fund has been set up and administered by West Park School in Portage. They would welcome any donations. Bittersweet Ski Club has donated \$500 on behalf of our membership. We wish Corey and Sally good luck in the future as they go about rebuilding their lives.



Olympia Cycle & Ski

A major supplier of ski equipment in Manitoba reports record sales of ski equipment this year! We hope that many of these skiers find their way to Bittersweet this winter!

Volunteers

Here is where we salute all those many volunteers who have come to help us clear, saw, chop, clip, and mow our trails this fall. It has been an awesome task, and without all the help, it could not have been done! Yes, those who volunteer really do make the world go round!



A Wildlife Note

On Thanksgiving Day, Glen McMaster, while mowing North Star Trail, identified a Great Grey Owl! Glen knows birds, so we are certain of his identification of this large, boreal owl, considered rare in the prairie habitat. We are even more certain now that Laura, his sister, recently saw and photographed a Great Grey Owl while working on one of our trails! What a treat to know that one of these magnificent birds might be seen on the Bittersweet Trails! Watch for it as you ski this winter. Our resident owls include the Great Horned Owl, the Barred Owl, and the Saw Whet Owl.



Emergency Phone Calls

Please note that two of our Emergency Phone Numbers are no longer operational.
In case of emergency, please call McMaster's (204- 252-3270).



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