

Cross Country Ski Association of Manitoba – Annual General Meeting – 2022-Oct-22

Recreational Skiing report by Kevin Miller

2021-2022 was the year after “the year of recreational skiing” ... not the pandemic-induced boom year of 2020-2021, but it also wasn't a “normal” year. Supply and demand for cross country skiing equipment was closer to being in balance, and there were far fewer people on the trails, but that was probably due to brutally cold weather in January and a generally very cold winter overall.

As in previous years, my time and effort for recreational skiing falls under three main tasks:

- *Where to Ski* website administration.
- Establishing and maintaining relationships between trail owners and CCSAM.
- Managing 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 added a few new trail systems last winter.
 - Many trail conditions reports were posted by trail owners and trail users. Monitoring them and moderating discussion is a minor task.
 - Other *Where to Ski* tasks include helping Karin handle feedback via email, and using the site's WordPress dashboard to resolve a few minor technical issues. Major technical issues are escalated to the website developer by Karin.
- Establishing and maintaining relationships between trail owners and CCSAM.
 - Most of this work is ongoing / ad hoc.
 - In early November 2021 and again in early May 2022, CCSAM recreational skiing volunteers and staff met via Zoom with a number of Manitoba Parks staff, including staff from a handful of provincial parks. These were our 2nd and 3rd twice yearly meetings. Topics included Manitoba Parks' Trails Strategy project, the perennial problem of walkers negatively affecting groomed ski trails, grooming issues (specifically at Birds Hill last year and at Grand Beach every year), changes to trail designations and trail grooming at Beaudry, and plans for 2022-2023. These are very useful meetings. Thanks to Ken Schykowski (retired Manitoba Parks employee) for facilitating them.
- Managing recreational skiing issues.
 - In 2021-2022, the biggest issues were the non-grooming of Birds Hill Park trails after a serious grooming machine failure in late February, walking on ski trails, and the extreme cold (which we can do little about).
 - The Recreational Skiing Committee had a number of email discussions about a number of miscellaneous issues, notably Manitoba Parks' Endowment Fund.
 - In September, CCSAM again decided to cancel the annual Swap Shop. It had been held in mid November for over 30 years.
In recent years, the vast majority of equipment for sale at the Swap Shop has come from local ski shops which are clearing out previous years' stock. Again this year, there is little to clear out, so the Swap Shop would have had a shortage of items for purchase.
I wrote a news story that announced the cancellation and suggested online platforms where ski equipment could be bought or sold: <https://www.ccsam.ca/swap-shop-cancelled-for-the-3rd-year-in-a-row/>.

I'm looking forward to 2022-2023 ... especially the first year of snow making at the Windsor Park Nordic Centre.