

# Cross Country Ski Association of Manitoba – Annual General Meeting – 2023-Oct-21

## Recreational Skiing report by Kevin Miller

Winter 2022-2023 was fabulous for cross country skiing: early snow that stayed, generally mild January temperatures, and a very cold March that prolonged the skiing season. From a weather and snow perspective, it was one of the best ski seasons I've experienced.

The upcoming skiing season might be only a month away, but it's an El Nino year, so ... fingers crossed.

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.
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- *Where to Ski* website administration:
    - I try 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 also add a few new trail systems every winter.
    - Many trail conditions reports are 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.
    - CCSAM's new-in-November website should reduce some of the work, and it should also enhance the usability of the site.
  - Establishing and maintaining relationships between trail owners and CCSAM.
    - Most of this work is ongoing / ad hoc.
    - In early November 2022 and again in mid May 2023, CCSAM staff and recreational skiing volunteers met via Zoom with a number of Manitoba Parks staff, including staff from a handful of provincial parks. These were our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> twice-yearly meetings. Topics included Manitoba Parks' Trails Strategy, equipment issues (especially the Pisten Bully at Birds Hill Park), CCSAM's grooming workshop in March, ATVs / snowmobiles / walkers negative impacts on groomed ski trails, a review of the ski season at each of the provincial parks, fall preparation for maintenance and grooming, and plans for trail changes in 2023-2024. These are very useful meetings. Thanks to Ken Schykulski (retired Manitoba Parks employee) for facilitating them.
  - Managing recreational skiing issues.
    - Compared to previous years, there were fewer recreational skiing issues in 2022-2023.
    - Problems with ATVs / snowmobiles / walkers on ski trails – especially wrecking classic tracks – always exist, but last year was fairly good.
    - Discussion about injuries and trail safety emerged when 6 members of one recreational ski club sustained minor to major injuries in 3 successive weekends last February. This is ongoing.