

Cross Country Ski Association of Manitoba – Annual General Meeting – 2024-Oct-28

Recreational Skiing report by Kevin Miller

Winter 2023-2024 started very early on October 25th with 3 snowfalls totalling 20 cm by October 30th ... but a week later it was all melted. This set the stage for an extremely mild winter of: snowfall → melting → icy trails. It was definitely not a good winter for cross country skiing.

CCSAM staff and recreational skiing volunteers again met online with a number of Manitoba Parks' staff in early November 2023 – our 6th meeting since May 2021. These are useful meetings. There were two notable results from this meeting:

1. We learned that Manitoba Parks' new Trail Office for the new Provincial Trails Strategy (released in June 2023) has begun operating.
2. Manitoba Parks decided to abandon their obsolete in-house system of posting grooming reports on Manitoba.ca (on Thursday only), and instead planned to post those reports on our *Where to Ski* website as grooming occurred. The staff at two parks ended up posting directly (thank you!), but others emailed their reports to me for posting. The net result was very timely ski trail grooming reports from provincial parks ... for as little grooming that occurred during the poor-snow winter.

Thanks to Ken Schykulski (retired Manitoba Parks' employee) for facilitating these meetings.

BTW: The spring "after ski season" meeting with Manitoba Parks was cancelled because of the lacklustre skiing season.

CCSAM staff and volunteers organized an [Open House & Gear Swap](#) in November 2023.

CCSAM launched a new website in November 2023, so I spent a fair amount of time dealing with *Where to Ski* website issues. Troubleshooting and solving new-website issues is almost inevitable. In particular, **many** skiers told us they could not find trail condition reports on the new website, or that it took too many clicks to get to trail condition reports. This told us two things:

1. The average recreational skier – and there are many of them – uses our website for one main purpose.
2. We needed to make some changes to some aspects of website navigation. Karin, the website developer, and I designed and made changes very promptly.

Obviously, all cross country skiers in Manitoba are hoping for much better snow conditions during winter 2024-2025.