Cross Country Ski Association of Manitoba – Annual General Meeting – 2026-Oct-26

Recreational Skiing report by Kevin Miller

The 2025-2026 skiing season started slowly, but very good snowfall in December, only 2 weeks of really cold weather, and a slow spring melt resulted in a good skiing season.

Making Grand Beach Great Again!
CCSAM staff and recreational skiing volunteers again met via Microsoft Teams with a number of Manitoba Parks' staff pre-season (November 2025) and post-season (May 2026). These were our 8th and 9th meetings since May 2021. (Our 10th is next week.) They are useful meetings because discussing cross country skiing issues with the "owners" of the trail systems in 11 provincial parks is important, and some positive results can be achieved. Thanks to Ken Schykulski (retired Manitoba Parks' employee) for facilitating these meetings. The big story was Grand Beach acquiring a new Austrian-made Mueller snow tiller in late December and putting it to work on the metres of snowfall that fell earlier in the month. The result was excellent conditions at Grand Beach all winter long. Some people skied there as many times last year as the previous 5 years combined.

CCSAM staff and volunteers organized the 3rd *Open House & Gear Swap* in November 2025. 2026's Open House & Gear Swap will be on Friday/Saturday November 20th/21st.

CCSAM's website is now almost three years old. I continue to support the *Where to Ski* section. *Where to Ski* is well-used for posting grooming reports and trail conditions reports. (Page 2 of this Recreational Skiing report summarizes 2025-2026 postings on *Where to Ski*. Note that a number of trail systems – Falcon Ridge, Pinawa, Sandilands, Pine Falls, Burwalde Woods – post their grooming reports on their own website, Facebook page, or Trailforks, and *Where to Ski* links to those sites.) *Where to Ski* 's software framework is 10 years old and no longer compatible with security updates. *Where to Ski* is currently working fine, but it has "broken" twice in the last year (and been fixed), and will probably break again in the future (at an inopportune time). *Where to Ski* needs to be rewritten, but we will likely need to make a major update to the entire CCSAM website sometime after our merger with Biathlon Manitoba, so we are hoping the current website can make it though the upcoming winter without us having to sink money into it.

As we head into this winter, discussion about likely effects of the Super El Niño is rampant everywhere, especially how it will effect winter activities in various regions. We won't actually know until winter plays out, but it is very likely the upcoming winter in Manitoba will be mild (better than bitterly cold) with possibly average snowfall and probably many bouts of melting and therefore icy trails. The 2023-2024 El Niño was not kind to cross country skiing in Manitoba, but if the upcoming winter has above average snowfall, it could be a pleasant season of skiing.

Where to Ski 2025-2026 -- postings

	Ski trail operator	Skiers
Provincial Parks		
Birds Hill	7	48
Beaudry	13	9
Turtle Mountain	11	0
Spruce Woods	13	2
Hecla	6	1
Whiteshell	16	1
Grand Beach	17	12
Totals	**83**	**73**
Winnipeg		
Windsor Park Nordic Centre	21	3
Wildwood	19	9
Assiniboine Park	9	2
Assiniboine River trails	2	7
Churchill Drive	0	4
Winterpeg (Winnipeg Trails)	17	0
City of Winnipeg Parks	0	6
Bourkevale Park	9	1
Larters	17	9
Totals	**94**	**41**
West		
Bittersweet	35	4
Shannondale	8	0
Rossburn	38	0
Pumpkin Creek	4	1
Neepawa	8	0
Birch	11	3
Burwalde Woods	0	1
La Perdrix	6	0
Totals	**110**	**9**
East		
Sandilands	4	2
Seven Sisters	5	1
Pinawa	0	2
Monominto	2	0
Falcon Ridge	0	1
Pine Falls	0	1
Agassiz Provincial Forest	5	3
Totals	**16**	**10**
Grand Totals	**303**	**133**