

# **Fifty Years of the Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club\***

Updated January 31 2025

## **1975-78**

In early 1975 a small group of enthusiastic skiers pondered the idea of creating a cross country ski club. In October of that year a general meeting was held and an executive was formed and the Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club was born.

The club had no trails to call their own and no clubhouse. In 1977 the club leased a small hut located in the Nordin rifle range from the Department of National Defense for the sum of one (1) dollar for the ski season. During this time some ski trails were developed in the Nordin area by the club.

1. [MCCSC Executive 1976 - 1977](#)
2. [MCCSC Executive 1977 - 1978](#)
3. [The Brief – A Proposal](#)
4. [Outdoor Recreation Council Proposal by Marilyn Boston](#)
5. 1978 Requests to Ski – [Golf Course](#) [The Enclosure](#)
6. [MCCSC Constitution 1975](#)
7. [Alex Boston leading Adrian Boston, then Bill and Juanita Purtell and Marilyn Boston](#) Making their own trail
8. [Tim Crowe, Adrian Boston, Alex Boston, Pierre Boudreau](#)

North 100 1978 – 1985

1. [The North 100 Registration and Information for the first North 100 - 1978](#)
2. [John Nimchuck, founder of the North 100](#)
3. Photos [1.](#) [2.](#) [3.](#) [4.](#)
4. [Brian Richard and Edith Boudreau – North 100](#)
5. [The First N100, 1978](#)

## **1979-1982**

In the spring of 1979 the DNR hut that the club was using burned to the ground, leaving the club without a clubhouse. In the fall of 1979 the club was able to purchase 5 units of a woodlands camp from Boise Cascade pulp mill ([Request](#) [Receipt](#)). These units were set up on land owned by Tom Preston located at the end of the Old King George highway. This new-to-the-club 60x20 building became the ski club's main lodge. The ski club continued to build new ski trails in the Nordin area and remained there until 1982.

1. [FFC Trail Map](#)
2. [Before the Bridge!](#)
3. [The Clubhouse](#)
4. [The Club House Improvements](#)
5. [MCCSC in 1981](#)
6. [Young Competitors 1981](#)
7. [Evolution of a Young Club](#)
8. [MCCSC Newsletter](#)
9. [Tour Program 1980](#)
10. [Ski Week](#)
11. [MCCSC News 1980](#)
12. [Ski Marathon News](#)
13. [AGM Invitation 1981](#)

## 1982-1991

In 1982, in an effort to be able to obtain government grants to expand and improve, the ski club was moved to the McCosh family land located just off the Williston Road in Douglaston. During the ensuing years the interior of the clubhouse was renovated, a new woodshed and Jackrabbit hut was constructed and a new network of ski trails were constructed.

1. [MCCSC Decision on Douglastown Location](#)
2. [Lease Agreement with the Village of Douglastown](#)
3. Club House Photos: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#)
4. Opening News: [1](#) [2](#)
5. News: [1](#) [2](#)
6. [School Programs 1983-84](#)
7. [Douglastown Trail Map](#)
8. [Trails Report 1983](#)
9. [Newspaper Article November 1983](#)
9. McKinnon Road – Snow Ploughing and Tunnel Proposal [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#)
10. [Dr. Marisa Blanchard Racing in Charlo 1983](#)
11. Dr. Guptill and Family [1](#) [2](#) [3](#).

1983 - The ski club hosts its first provincial x-c ski race, a Fraser Cup event. [News Article](#)

1984 - The club hosts the Provincial Fraser Cup championship. [INVITATION](#) For this event 3 executives, including the CEO of Fraser companies flew into the Chatham airport to attend the banquet.

1. [Poster](#)
2. [Fraser Cup Results – maybe 1984](#)
3. [F-C News Article 1989](#) [Fraser Cup Results 1989](#)
4. [F-C MCCSC Invitation 1992](#)
5. AGM Dinner and Dance Invitation [1983](#) [1984](#)

1. [1985 North 100 Post Mortem](#)
2. [1985 Jackrabbit AGM Report – Bunny Dempsey](#)
3. [Jackrabbit Poster](#)
4. Young Skiers Photos [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#)
5. [MCCSC Correspondence 1985-86](#)

1986 – The club hosts its first provincial X-C ski Loppet, now in its 39<sup>th</sup> year. In October of 1986 a major forest fire swept through the ski club's trail system burning trees on 80% of the trails.

- 1986
1. [School Program](#)
  2. [Jog-a-thon](#)
  3. [Provincial Loppet Series Begins](#)

1987 – The club appoints a special task force to do long range planning, including a new location as the forest fire and village development was rendering the existing site unstable.

1. [MCCSC Improvement Needs 1987](#)
2. [Ski Lodge Feasibility Study March 28 1989](#)
3. [MCCSC Trail Report 1987 V. Goodfellow](#)
4. [Ski Club Worker Job Description](#)

Note of [Appreciation from Chatham Recreation Dept.](#)

1988 – Formation of the Nelson X-C ski club. MCCSC enters into discussions with the Nelson club regarding a possible merger of the two clubs.

1. [Repap Grants Use of Land for Ski Trails](#)
2. [MCCSC Brochure c 1988](#)

1989/90 – Ski club membership exceeds 400 with over 90 kids in the Jackrabbit program.

[An early version of the MCCSC Penguin Logo](#)

1991 – Agreement between MCCSC and Nelson Ski club to amalgamate. [Some of the MCCSC Exec. Members 1991-1992](#)

**In October 1991 MCCSC relocates to the Nelson site.**

The Steps over Four Seasons to Move to Nelson:

1. [Village of Nelson Support MCCSC Move March 1988](#)
2. [The Move to Nelson 1988-1991](#)
3. [Article – Douglastown’s Possible Loss March 29, 1989](#)
4. [Article – Skiers to choose Site at AGM – March 29, 1989](#)
5. [Article – AGM April 5 1989](#)
6. [Village of Nelson Letter of Support April 1 1989](#)
7. [Article – MCCSC Stays in Douglastown April 12 1989](#)
8. [Village of Nelson 1991 Invitation to MCCSC](#)
9. [Photo of Re-located Club House in Nelson](#)
10. [MCCSC First Season in Nelson](#)
11. [Flett’s Carding Mill Site for Club](#)
12. [Carding Mill Brook - Story](#)

## **1992-2000**

[February 1992 – A Slow Start](#)

1992/96 – Club develops additional recreational ski trails at the Nelson site.

1. [Faces c 1993](#)
2. [1993 Club Brochure](#)

1. [Welcome to the 1994 – 95 Season](#)
2. [The 1994 – 1995 Jackrabbit Program](#)

1. Some 1995 MCCSC Correspondence [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#)
2. [Lodge Keeper Duties](#)
3. [A Little-Known Project that Never Got Off the Ground](#)

1996 –

1. [Letter Encouraging Dr’s to Ski](#)
2. [A Day in The Life of a Groomer](#)

1. [1997/98 MCCSC Brochure](#)
2. [Club History](#)
3. [New Exec Announced](#)

1999 – Ski club signs a long term land use agreement with Repap NB.

1. [25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Meeting February 1999](#)
- 2.

**2000 – [Ski club celebrates 25 years of continuous operation.](#)**

## 2001-2002

2001-2003 – Club installs 4 kilometers of lighted ski trails with the assistance of UPM Inc., community and member donations. 1. [Funding Outline](#) Installation [1.](#) [2.](#) [3.](#) [4.](#)  
3. Photos [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#)

2002 – [AGM Awards and 2022-23 Executive Announced](#) – Paper Clipping  
[2. Ray Thibideau receives national award](#)

2005 – A trail map using GPS technology is developed with the assistance of UPM  
1. [MAP](#) 2. [Club Overview 2005](#) 3. [Club Road Sign](#)

2007 – School Visit Program Going Strong

1. [Endorsements](#) 2. Ski Rental Program Started – [Then](#) and [Now](#) 3. [Why Do You Ski? Miramichi Leader Opinion Survey](#)

2008 – Club appoints an expansion/improvement committee. 1. [Club Brochure](#)  
Club purchases a \$40,000 1978 Piston Bully grooming machine. 2. [Pisten Bully in Action](#)  
3. [2008 AGM Newspaper Article](#) 4. [State of the Club 2008](#)

2010 – Snowshoe Trail Opens 1. [Description](#) 2. [Map](#)  
3. [Abound – Herman Koops, Bradon Koops and A Bound Staff](#) 4. Photo [2](#) [3](#) [4](#)  
5. Used Pisten Bully Arrives 6. Photo [1](#) [2](#) 7. [Special AGM Awards](#)

2011 – [Canada Winter Games, Miriam and Bernard Biathlon NB Team Members](#)

2012 - [Miramichi Outdoor Activity Centre Project Submission](#)

2015 - 1. Canada Winter Games MCCSC Biathletes [1](#) [2](#) 2. Other MCCSC Biathletes [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#)

2016 – The Biathlon Bears program continues [1](#) [2](#) [3](#)

## 2018-2025

**August 2018** – A million dollar expansion/improvement project is approved. The major components of the project are a new ski lodge, a 24 lane biathlon range and 4 kilometers of upgraded trail for year-round use. The Federal and Provincial (RDC) governments, the City of Miramichi, Chatham

Rotary club, the AL O'Neill Scouts Hall Alumni Inc. and the ski club are major contributors.

1. [Photo 1](#) [Photo 2](#) [Photo 3](#) [Photo 4](#) [Photo 5](#)
2. [Biathlon Range Under Construction](#)
3. [Lighted Trail Upgrade](#)

January 2020 – Ski club celebrates the completion of the expansion/improvement project. Ribbon Cutting for new club house. 1. [Invitation](#)

2. [Photo 1](#) [Photo 2](#)
3. [New Club House](#)
4. [Biathlon Shooting Range Opens](#)

March 2020 – Ski club shuts down early due to a global pandemic.

2022 – Club begins fund raising activities for a new groomer. 1. [Photo 1](#) [Photo 2](#)

2. [Seven Miramichi Biathletes compete in Canada Winter Games](#)

2023 – 1. [Owl's Rest Disc Golf Inc.](#) officially opens an 18 hole disc golf course on club property. 2. [Family Day at MCCSC March 8 2023](#) [Off-season Trail Use](#) 3. [Canada Games N.B. Biathlon Team](#)

2021-2024 – Ski club hosts major provincial cross country ski races and biathlon competitions. Clubhouse facilities and trails are now used on a year-round basis by the residents of the greater Miramichi area.

Photos: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) [11](#) [12](#) [13](#)

**2025 – Ski club celebrates 50 years of continuous operation and service to the greater Miramichi area!**

Much of the material here is located in files at the old club house. A huge thanks to Janis and Norman Brown. Janis has maintained MCCSC photo albums and scrap books over the years. Some of the material too is from my files.

Peter Gadd