The Infrastucture

























































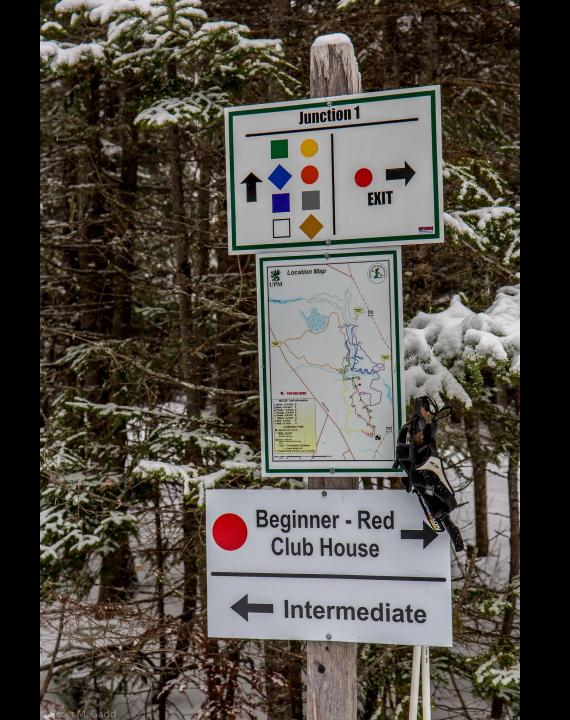




















































































The Carding Mill Story

The network of cross country ski trails on Repap's 600 acre Carding Mill Brook Woodlot is interwoven with the history of the wool trade in Northumberland County.

For over 100 years, up until 1965 the wool trade was an integral part of life in the village known as South Nelson. Yarn produced at the woolen mills of South Nelson was 'known far beyond the borders of Northumberland County.

The wool trade started in South Nelson in 1851. Two brothers, John and William Flett built a carding mill, on a small stream which was to become Carding Mill Brook. The mill was located on the property now occupied by Miramichi Cross Country Ski Trails, across the main highway from Repap's Groundwood Pulpmill.

The carding mill was built beside the Flett Sawmill and in 1851 was the only carding mill in Northumberland, Kent, Gloucester and Restigouche counties. The brook was dammed to provide power for the undershot water wheel which ran the machinery. The mill was equipped to pick the wool clean and then card the wool. This mill had no spinning wheels. The women at home did the job of spinning the carded wool into yarn.

From the early days, Acadian women washed, carded and spun their own wool at home. English settlers, from the time of William Davidson in 1780, all had a small flock of sheep to provide enough wool for their own needs. The cloth from which their everyday clothing and blankets were made was woven on hand looms in their homes. From the yarn, socks, mitts, underwear and shawls, etc. were knit.

Farmers celebrated when the Flett Mill at Carding Mill Brook was built. They got rid of the time consuming job of carding their wool. They would have more time to do their many other farm chores. The raw wool was carded into rolls about 18 inches long and about the size of a man's finger. It was then taken home to be spun by the women into yarn on the spinning wheels.

When the carding mill was built in 1851 raw wool from all the farms in Northumberland and Kent counties and along the north shore up into Gaspe was collected by Fletts and brought to the South Nelson carding mill.

The two Flett brothers that built the carding mill in 1851 were sons of George Flett who came to the Miramichi from the Orkney Islands off the coast of Scotland. He married Susan Godfrey and they had twelve children, nine boys, three girls.

In 1852, the year after the mill was built, Thomas Ambrose was brought in from Nova Scotia to run the mill. He was originally from Northern Ireland. He learned the wool trade in Truro, Nova Scotia, probably in factories that predated Stanfield's operations.

In 1904, a young boy 12 years old went to work at the Flett carding mill. He was Harry Brown, the grandson of Thomas Ambrose. Little did he know that four years later his grandfather would be killed in an accident at the mill. At age 16, Harry Brown took over the running of the carding mill. That was 1908, six years prior to the First World War of 1914 - 1918.

Flett's carding mill operated at the Carding Mill Brook site for 81 years until the Great Depression of the 1930's. In 1932 Harry Brown, bought the mill and relocated it a little farther up river on South Nelson Road behind Brown's home. At the new mill a gas engine replaced the water wheel. The wool long, weighing four tons. Cecil Flett would travel the North Shore, picking up the sheep's wool from farmers. The bags were pinned shut with thorns

At Brown's woolen mill the processing of the raw sheep's wool into yarn involved several stages. First wool was put through a picker to remove the dirt, then through a three set carder equipped with feeders, then placed in a spinner. When spun, the wool went to the spooler and the twister to be twisted the capacity of the Brown woolen mill was 250 pounds per day and during World War II was stepped up to 350 pounds per day.

All during World War II 1939 - 45 thousands upon thousands of socks, mitts, sweaters, scarves, etc. were knit by the skilled fingers of Miramichi women from Brown yarn for the Canadian Armed Forces and for refugee children.

The intent of this record is to share our history with the young boys and girls, men and women as they ski and enjoy the nat ral beauty in a small part of Canada that has touched the lives of many in so many different ways.

Imagine our young soldiers, many just teenagers, in the cold and snow overseas as they fought for our freedom. What was it like to receive a fresh pair of those brown socks knit by Miramichi mothers?

This historical perspective has been summarized by Joe O'Neill of Repap from records written by the late Louise Manning, from the History of Nelson, 300 Years On The Miramichi written by Earl English and from discussions in March, 1999 with local residents Albert Leball, Margurite Doyle, Alex Flett, Mei McLaughlan, Vince McKenzie, Stan Whelan, Bill Henderson and Rev. S. M. Brodorieck.

The Repap Carding Mill Woodlor will be sustainably managed for recreation, wood supply and wildlife habitat. Repap's intent is that the benefits of this 600 acre woodlor will be shared by the community, Repap employees and members of the Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club for the long term.

Miramichi Cross Country Ski

trophy. Ski Chalet opened despite rain

Jo Anne Nimchuk 1983

Rain, the usual deterrant in any skiing activity, didn't affect the activity or attendance on the weekend at the local ski club.

The occasion was the official opening of the ski chalet of the Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club

in Douglastown.

Officials taking part in the ceremony includws Maurice Dionne, MP for Northumberland-Miramichi; Charles Savoy, representing the Town of Chatham; and Warren Harris, Mayor of Douglastown.

Ray Thibodeau, president of the Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club, welcomed the guests. He described the club as offering something for every facet of

community life.

Thibodeau expressed the club's gratitude to Mayor Harris for the generous assistance Douglastown. The village has leased the land upon which the club rests and the trails for a 10year period.

Ski club chalet

He also thanked Maurice Dionne

for the federal grant used to relocate and establish the club house.

The club was formerly set up on the land of Tom Preston, Old King George Highway, on the boundary of Newcastle and Nordin.

Dionne commended the MCCSC for its effort as a club of volunteers and for their encouragement of the

area's youth. Dionne, Harris and Savoy were presented with the crest of the Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club, as a souvenir of the af-

ternoon. To the amusement of all, Dionne promised that in the not too far future, he would put on a pair of skis, and let them all have a good laugh!

For the recreational skier, the club maintains good trails and a spot to rest after a ski.

For the youth, the club organizes, each year the Jack Rabbit Program as well as fun competitions which are open to all Miramichi youngsters.

For the competitive skier, there

are the time trials, the North 100 and the Moosehead Open of the Fraser Cup Series.

For the last two events, skiers travel from throughout the Maritimes and Maine to par-

ticipate. The ski chalet, originally placed in the French Fort Cove area, was moved this fall to a park area, leased from the Village of Douglastown for 10 years.

Renovations have been done to the inside of the building ,creating an atmosphere of an elegant leisure area.

The renovations were done under the Canada Works Program, with the title of Miramichi Cross Country Sk Club Project. The duration of the project was 44 weeks, with 4 men employed.

The amount of the grant was \$16,148. Activities included transferring the building and relocating it in Douglastown;a sewerage system was installed; construction of washroom, a new entrance, and the painting of the interior: complete refinishing with split logs; trails were cut and marked; construction of bridges; installation of fixtures and electrical wiring.

Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club Lodge Officially Opened

There's a song that says "You've got to have heart", I don't know how much heart the Miramichi Ski Club has, but they certainly possessed iniative from what I witnessed on Saturday at the opening of their facility in Douglastown.

The club began in 1975 and had no definite meeting place or good trails, but through tremendous planning, hard work and some federal financial assistance the club is now well established at their site, the Park, east of Williston Road, for the 10 years - the term of their lease with the village of Dougastown.

The lodge was donated by Boise Cascade and originally was located in the French Fort Cove area 1980-82. In the fall of '82 a lease was arranged with Douglastown and the 60' x 20' building was moved. The building is a sectional construction type and comes in 5, 12 ft. sections. In order to move the lodge the club rented a tractor-trailer flat-bed and the job went smoothly.

"The Club has come a long way" said President Ray Thibodeau. "One time we used to ski from any destination, now we have a fine facility in a great location. We are members of the New Brunswick Ski Association. We are a well known, hard working, active club. We have had some good cross country meets here and next year our big competition will be known as the Miramichi Moosehead Open, which involves the elite skiers of the Marimes and will be an annual event."

Over 40 members were on hand Saturday for the official opening, including Mayor Harris of Douglasown, representing the town of Chat-land, Charles Savoy and special M.P. Maurice Dionne.

A.P. Maurice Dionne.

Club President Ray Thibodeau
spoke briefly on the history of the
Miramichi Ski Club and the fact that many of the founders are reaching that "sort of burnt out stage," hoever, the club is promoting a youth movement, which was evident recenly when 38 youngsters took part in a cross country meet. Presentin a cross country meet. Presentations of club crests were made to Mr. Harris, Mr. Savoy and Mr. Dibonne, Mr. Thibodeau then introduced the country of the c duced Mr. Dionne who spoke of the work done by the club and other managements. The specific product of organizations in the area, that had the courage and the incentive to start a worthwhile project, Mr. Dionstart a worthwhile project. Mr. Dionne said that maybe someday he would
ne said that his skis so that everyone
could have a good laugh. With his
the ribon to officially open the
function of the solution of the solution of the luncheon followed the ribon cutting luncheon followed the ribbon cutting

Other members of the executive besides previously mentioned Presid-

ent Ray Thibodeau are: vice president Ollie Hansen; secretary, Rena Snell; treasurer, Roland Paradis; social chairman, Merisa Soycher; publicity, Brenda Ramsay; youth chairman, Bunny Dempsey; instructor Norman Brown; trails chairman and North 100, Mel Soycher; trails chairman, John Langford and C.F.B. coordinator, John

Because of the heavy rains on Saturday a planned tour of the established trails had to be cancelled, but the dampness certainly won't deter the enthusiasm of a very progressive Miramichi Cross Country



Northumberland-Miramichi M.P. Maurice Dionne cuts the ribbon to officially open the Miramichi Cross Country ski club facility on Saturday in Douglastown at the Park east of the Williston Road. To the right is club President Ray Thibodeau.











The mccsc after being moved from Douglastown to Nelson
1991



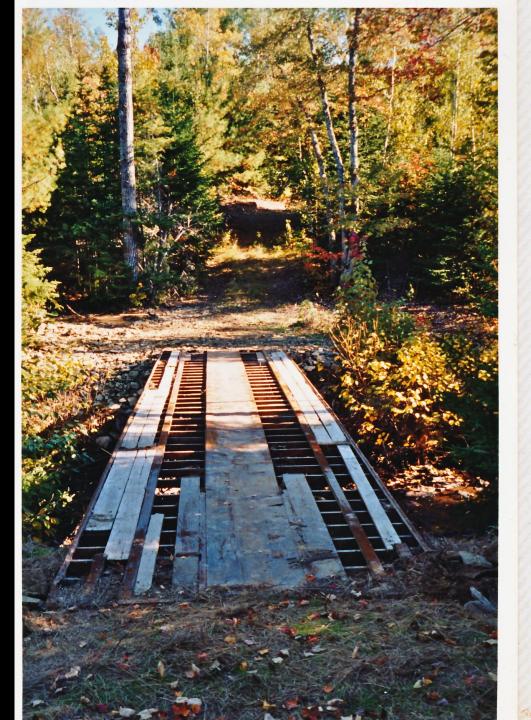


FELTS FROM PAPERMACHINE TO BG USED

AS FABRIC FOR BUNDING UP RED THAIL

WITH SHALE





BEAUERDAM BRIDGE
REPLACED WITH
TRUCK TRAILOR BED
AUG, 2001

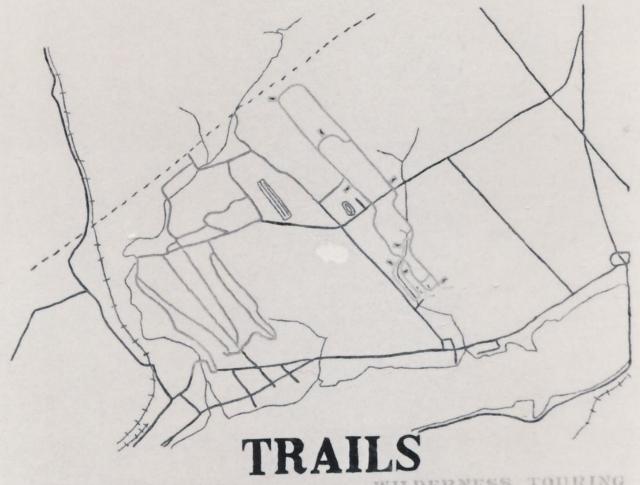


BEAUGROAM BRINGE COLLAPSED IN APRIL, 2001



Miramiche Cross Country Ski Club on Opening day at the end of Old King Greo Hwy January 1980 SKI

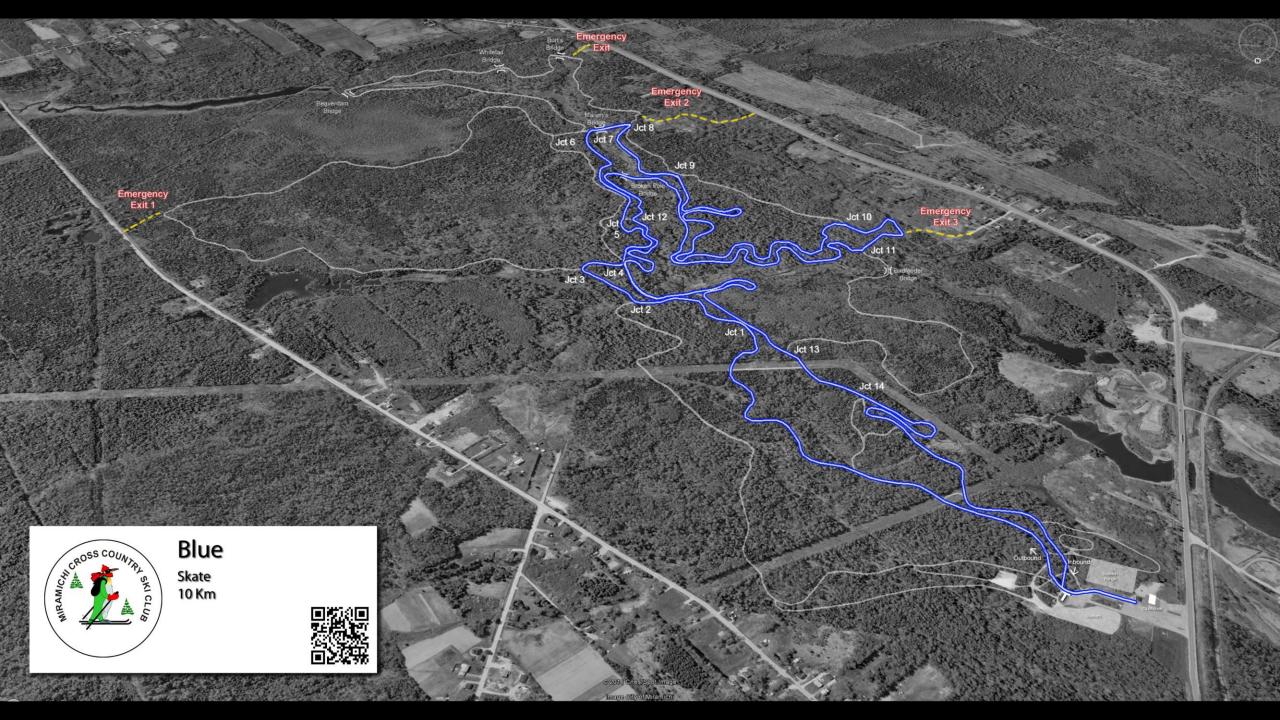
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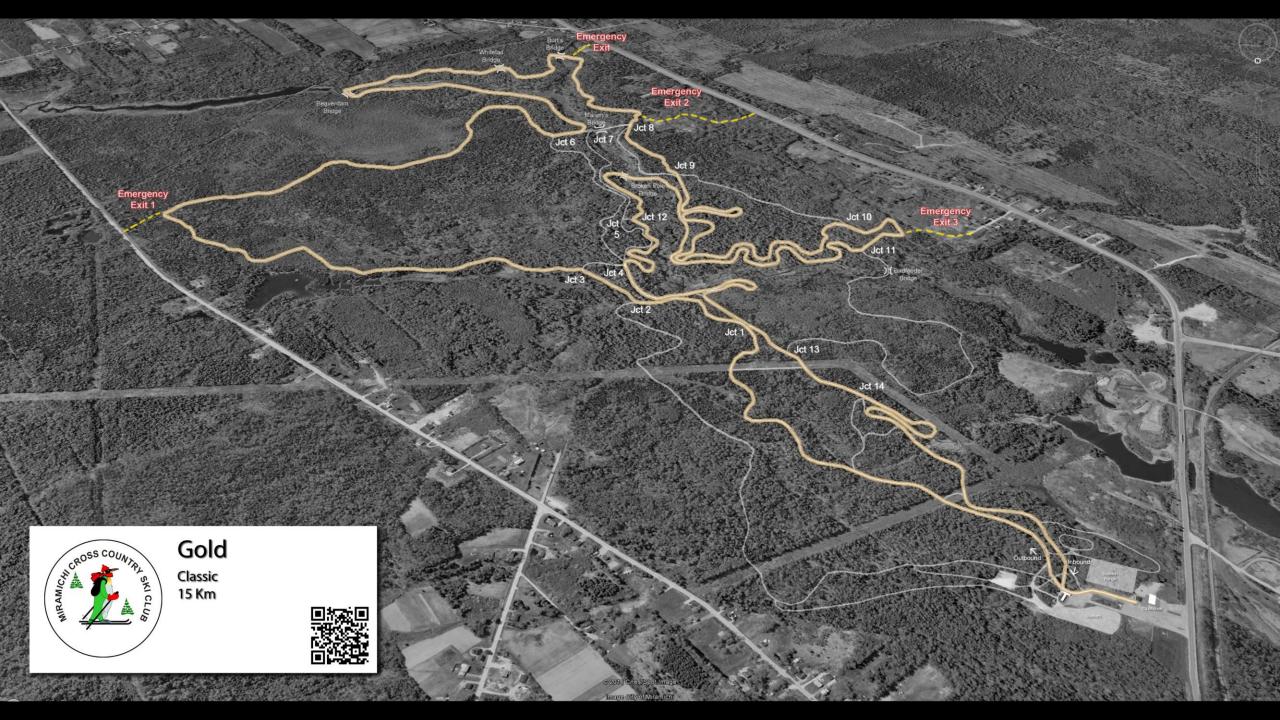


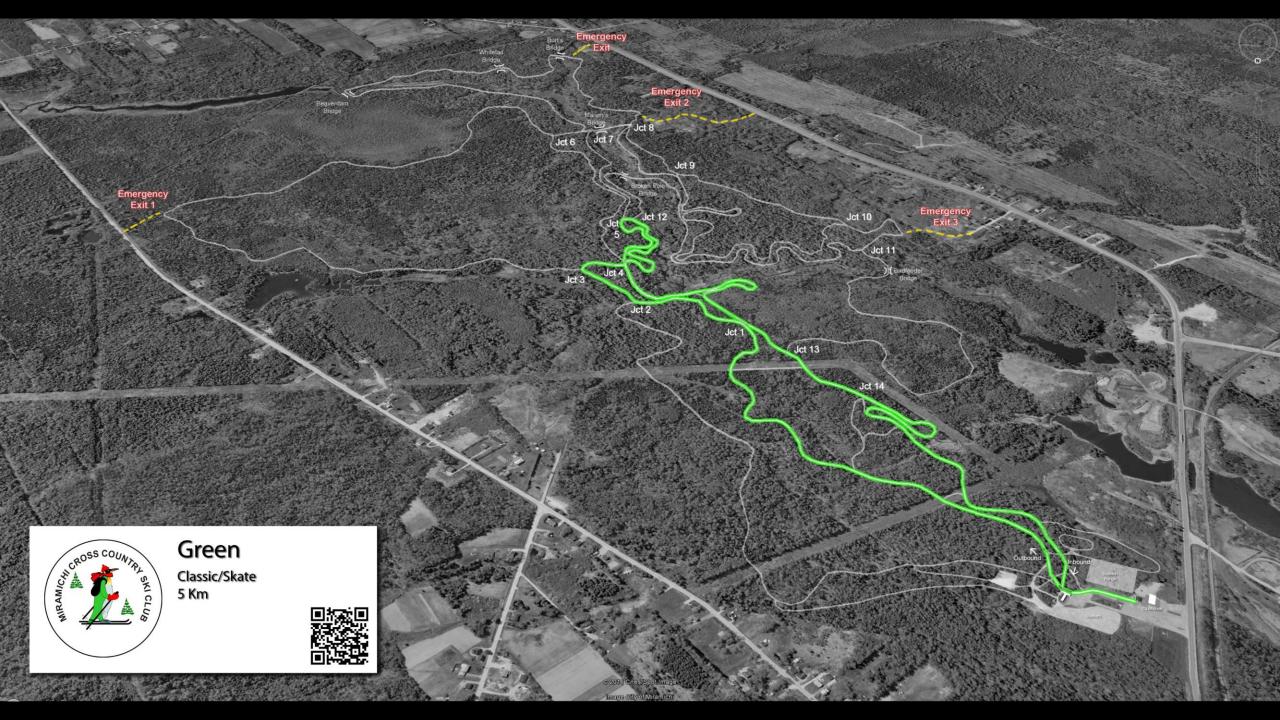
BLUE INTERMEDIATE 5KM
ORANGE ADVANCED 25KM

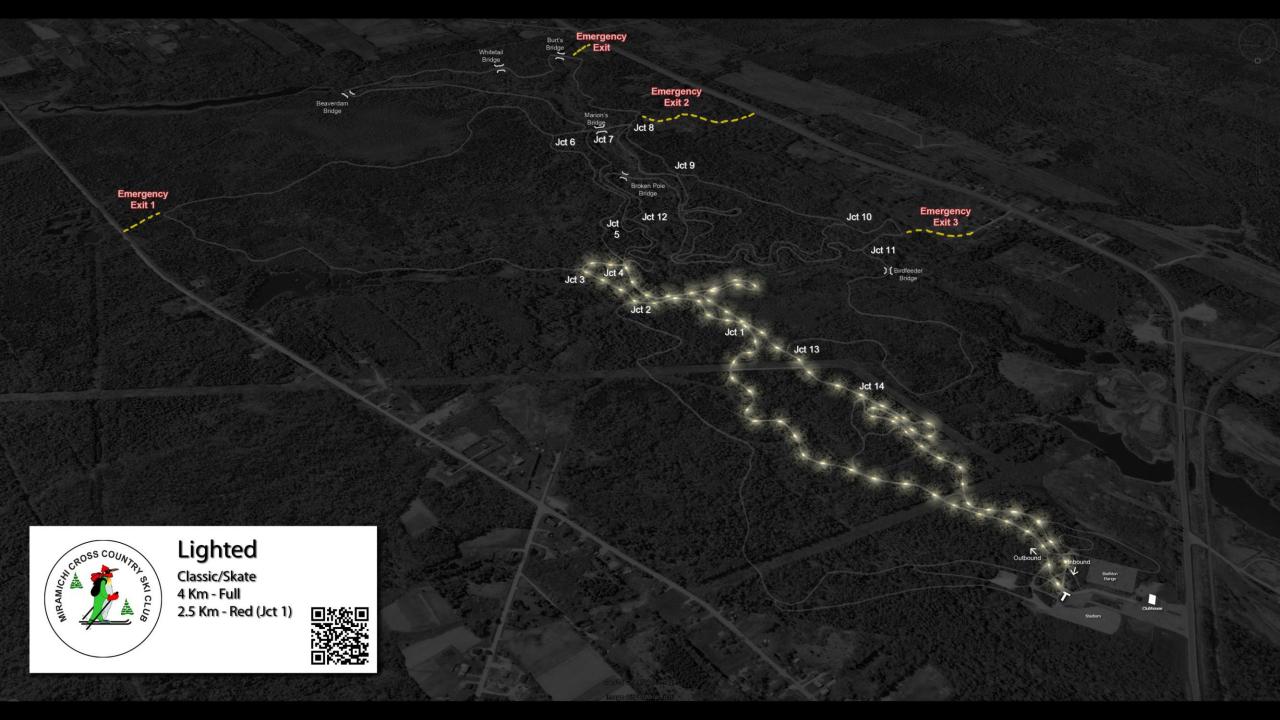
WILDERNESS TOURING RED AND GREEN 15KM PLUS

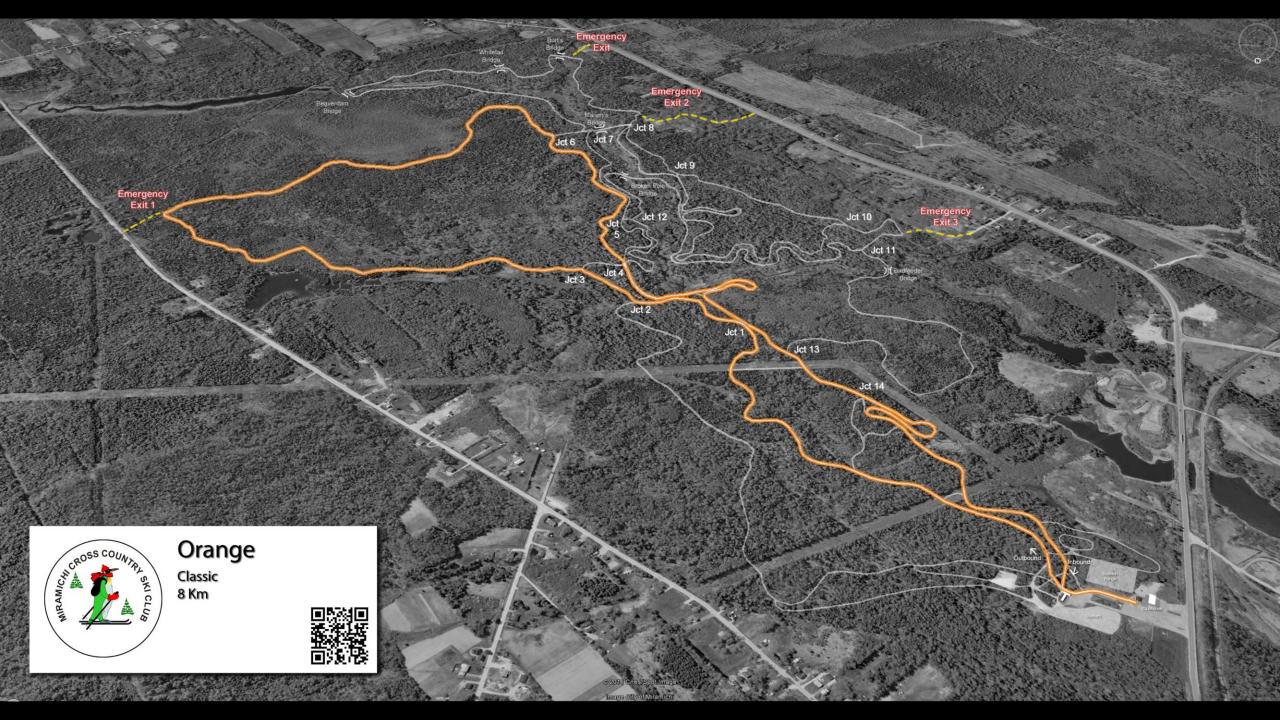




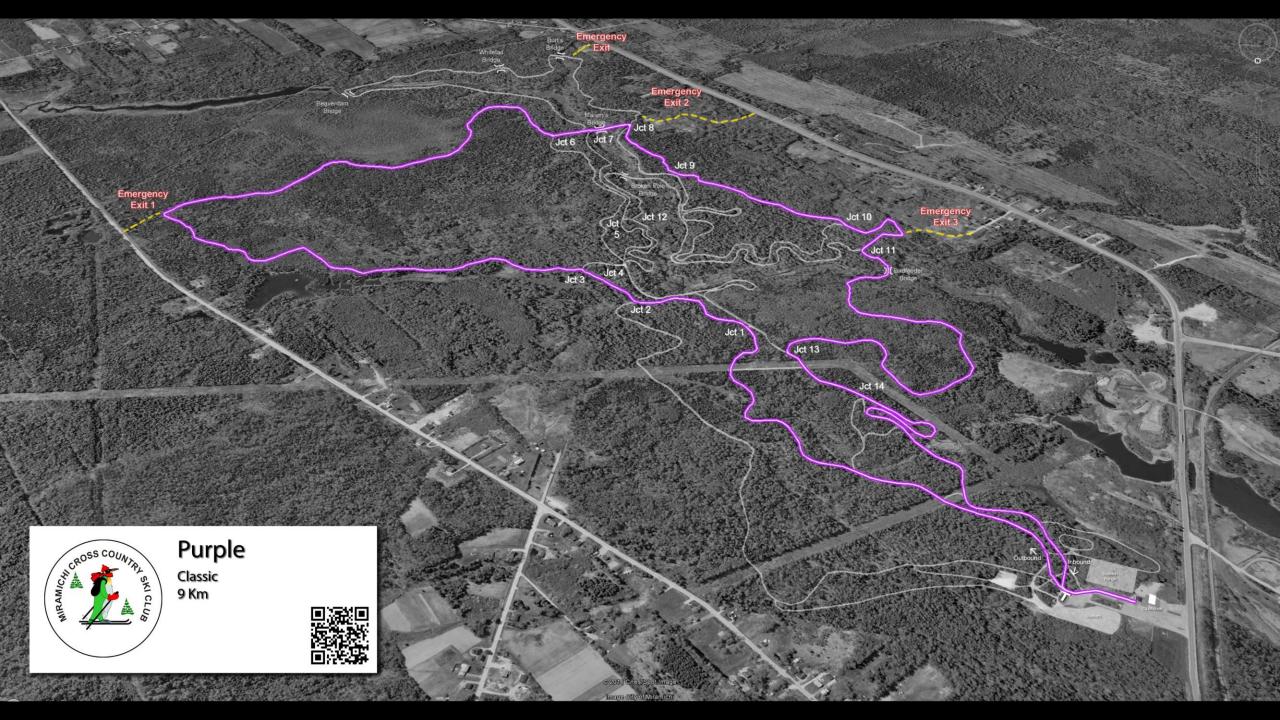


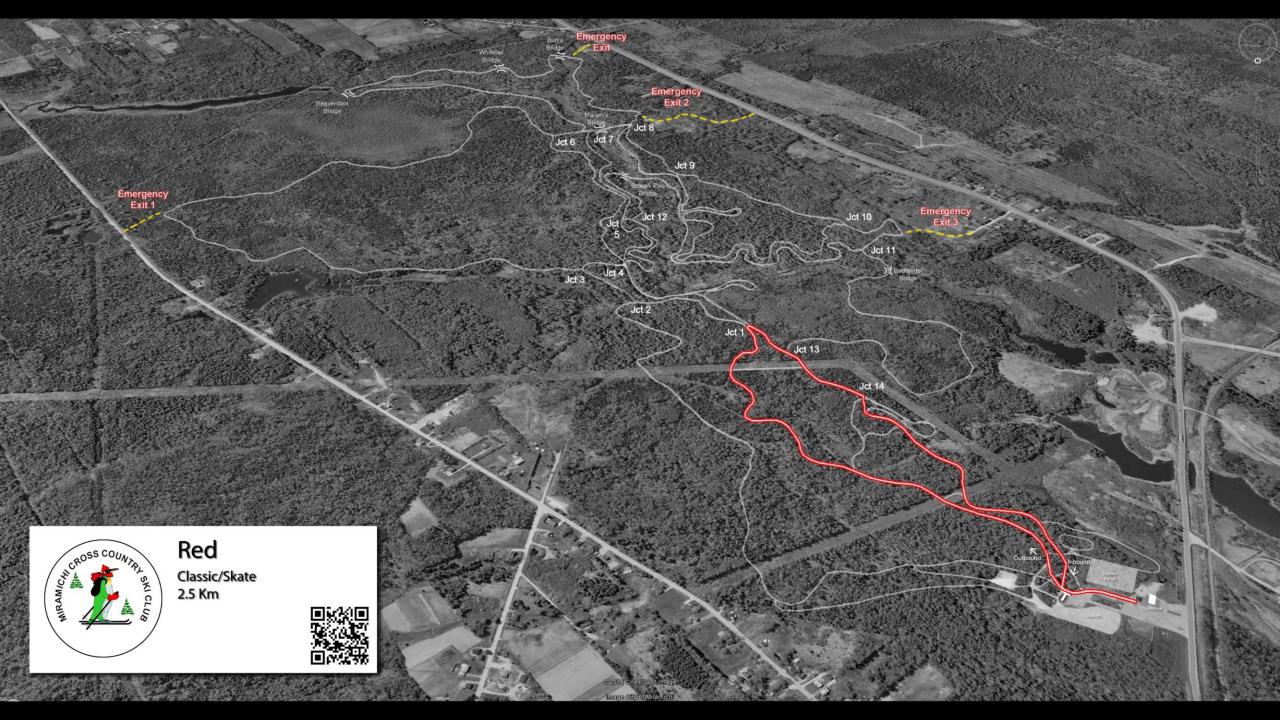




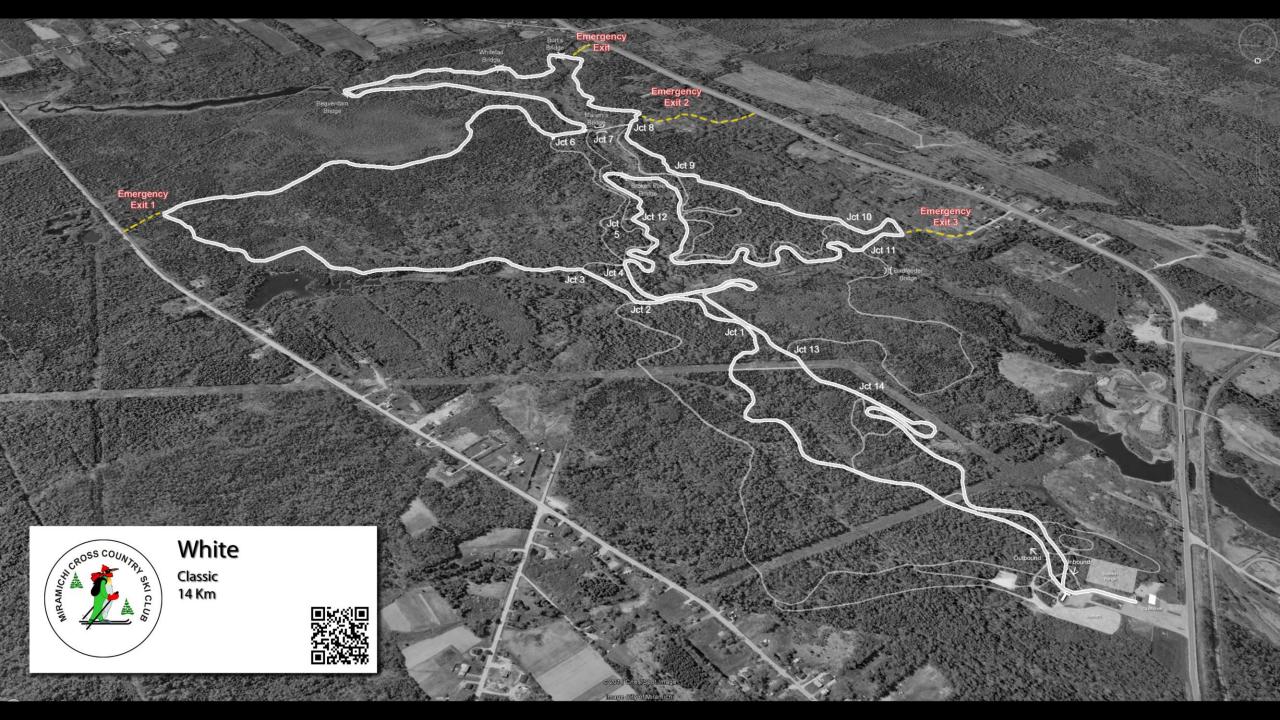


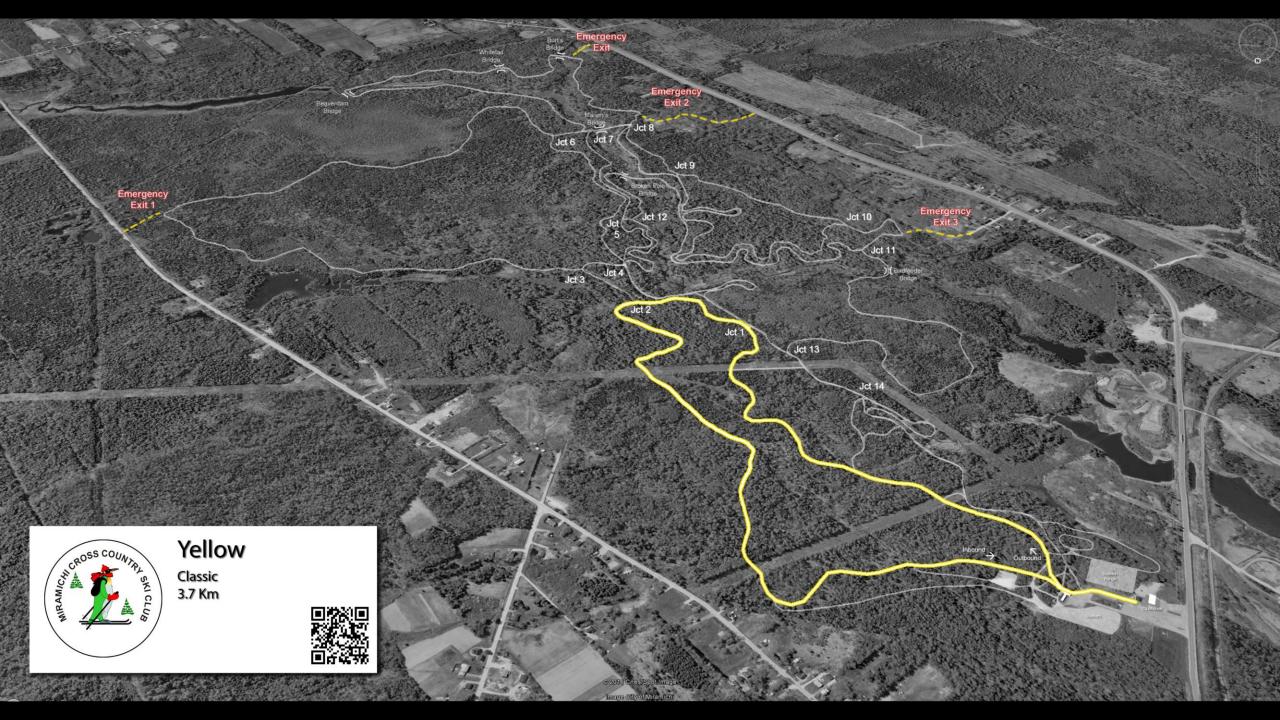




















Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club Red Trail - 2.3 km

