

MIRAMICHI CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB INC.  
CLUB IMPROVEMENT PLANS  
APRIL 1988

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The Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club (MCCSC), while enjoying it's best year ever during 1988 in terms of membership has some major problems which must be dealt with immediately.

The problems can be divided into two areas, Trails and accessibility to clubhouse and trails. Currently we do not have trails that are adequate for either our beginners and elderly skiers or for our competitive junior skiers.

Beginners and elderly skiers: The main problem here is that for these skiers to start from the clubhouse to ski the trails they must ski up a fairly long hill at the start, remove ski's to cross Mckinnon Rd (both ways) and negotiate a tricky downhill upon returning. Also the walk into the clubhouse which is not skiable is a detriment to many prospective skiers.

Competitive skiers: This group of skiers which includes our junior race team that represents the Miramichi at provincial races have the opposite problem. That is, in order for our racers to compete Provincially they must have demanding trails to train on which resemble those that they will be competing on when they travel away for competitions. Presently there are only the two hills at the start and finish of our trail system with the rest being relatively flat.

These two problems combined with the fact that there are now two ski clubs located at Nelson and Kouchibouguac Park have already started to affect our membership at the MCCSC club. Skiers who want to be able to drive to the start of the trails and ski on groomed tracks without hills will drive to Kouchibouguac. Other skiers who wish to ski on competitive demanding trails will go to the Nelson Ski Club. While this situation is not of major proportions at this time it will continue to grow unless we take steps to correct the problems.

The MCCSC executive has put together plans that when completed will improve the situation and ensure continued growth for the club. These plans however, can only be carried out with the joint cooperation of the Ski Club, Village of Douglastown and the land owners.



## TRAILS:

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Beginning immediately, the club should undertake the task of constructing a 5 kilometer competition trail located completely between the clubhouse and Mckinnon Road taking as much advantage of the hills as possible. The goal would be to have this trail in place for the beginning of the 1988/89 ski season.

Also, the club would like to improve the beginners trail which was started last fall located in the immediate area of the clubhouse.

These two improvements will provide proper training trails for the competitive skiers and a safe easy trail for the novice.

Also by having a competition trail which is free from traffic the club can once again hold Provincial races which will bring skiers and spectators from across the province to our club. This is something that the MCCSC club has not been able to do since 1984.

## CLUBHOUSE:

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A solution that would allow skiers to drive to the clubhouse and provide easy access to all the trails which are located north of Mckinnon Road would be to move the clubhouse from it's existing location to an area on Mckinnon Road located in close proximity to where the ski trails cross the road.

This would allow skiers to start and finish at the clubhouse no matter which trail they choose to ski. Presently many skiers will drive to Mckinnon Road and start skiing from there. This presents a number of problems such as non member skiers skiing on the club trails and not paying the daily trail fee and making it difficult and more dangerous for skiers starting from the clubhouse to cross the road.

All of these improvements are considered to be vital to the longevity of the club in the Douglastown area. Without these improvements the MCCSC club will have to consider relocating to a more suitable area.



SUMMARY:

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The Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club has grown substantially over the last few years particularly in membership enrollment. This has placed extra demands on the executive. Because of the level of ability and number of skiers it is becoming a much bigger job to provide the quality of trails expected by the skiers than can be provided by volunteers. Although the Village of Douglastown has been very helpful in assisting the club in many ways, it has come to the point where the responsibility of providing trails including construction, maintenance and daily grooming will have to be taken over by the Village of Douglastown.

The MCCSC club has a strong executive in terms of organization and programs for the club but cannot as volunteer workers carry the load of maintaining the trails on a daily basis. Like other clubs in the province that have grown substantially in size, the MCCSC club must have support and assistance from their local Municipality. With the MCCSC club executive providing the expertise in running the many programs offered to the members and the Village providing the workers to maintain trails and clubhouse facilities, the MCCSC club can continue to provide the Miramichi with one of the best run cross country ski clubs in the province.

It is with the cooperation of the Village of Douglastown and the local land owners that the Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club wishes to carry out the proposed plans.