

The Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club

The “State of the Club – January 2008

This document is being written with the purpose of making known the status of the Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club (MCCSC) and as of January 2008. The club is presently strong in membership and leadership but is facing several uncertainties and limitation in the near future. The MCCSC has provided opportunities for the residents of the Miramichi region to participate in an excellent form of winter physical recreation for 33 years and is anxious to continue this role in the community.

The club was incorporated in 1975 as a not-for-profit organization with the expressed purpose of promoting cross country skiing in the Miramichi area. The club is presently located in Nelson-Miramichi (its 3rd location) where it has been developing the trail system for 18 years. (The MCCSC amalgamated with the Nelson Ski Club in 1990). For more information on the services provided by the club, its history and much more, please refer to the attached brochure and visit www.skimiramichi.com.

The club currently maintains 25 kilometers of dedicated cross country ski trails on land owned by UPM-Kymmene, St. Patrick’s Roman Catholic Church, the City of Miramichi and several individual private owners. By far, the largest portion of land is owned by UPM. Ten kilometers of the system is groomed for skate skiing and all 25 kilometers are groomed for classic skiing. The club owns three buildings.: the club house – a former logging company Quonset hut, an equipment shed, and a storage barn. Two snowmobiles and three pieces of grooming/track setting equipment that are dragged by the snowmobiles constitute the clubs ski trail maintenance equipment.

The club operates on an annual budget of about \$15,000. The largest portion of these funds is raised through annual membership fees and daily trail passes. The club receives occasional donations and has received grants (from both private and public sources) to support programs, trail development, skiing equipment, special programs and staffing. The club has no debts.

Over the 18 years of being located at Nelson Miramichi, the club has invested approximately \$400,000 in facility development and maintenance. Six bridges have been built over Carding Mill Brook using flat bed truck trailers. Trail clearing for most of the 25 kilometers has been accomplished by bulldozer work. Four kilometers of lighting (81 street lights) have been installed for night-time skiing. Three buildings have been acquired and maintained. Thousands of hours of volunteer work has been donated by the club membership and members of the community. Costs for machinery, materials, and contract work have been covered by the club’s budget, grants and gifts-in-kind.

The MCCSC works very hard to have its trails open all winter, every day from dusk until 10:00 pm. The number of open days each season averages 100+ . Temporary closures are sometimes necessary after heavy snowfalls or during very mild spells. The clubhouse is always open with the fire on during hours of operation. The clubhouse

provides an area for socializing, ski preparation, a washroom and simple cafeteria services.

The annual membership averages about 250 members. We have many participants who ski by purchasing a day pass. The club welcomes new skiers and provides free adult introductory lessons. There is a children's instructional program that operates on Saturdays. There are regular visits from school groups, foreign exchange students, scouts, guides and so on. There is a limited equipment rental program. There are a number of out of town visitors from across the Maritimes that come fairly regularly to enjoy our trails. The club hosts provincial ski events in cooperation with Cross Country New Brunswick. (Please see the attached brochure and visit www.skimiramichi.com for more information.)

Although the club is operating effectively presently (thriving might even be a better word) there are a number of concerns on the horizon.

Land – With the recent closure of the UPM – Miramichi mill much of the land on which the club has invested so much (with welcomed support and encouragement from UPM) has an uncertain future. **(One consideration is to have an arrangement modeled on that of Noranda Mines and the French Fort Cove area.)**

Grooming – The club has been making do with a very simple grooming system involving 2 snowmobiles dragging grooming equipment. There are major limits with this system. Recent events exemplify these limits. From Boxing Day until January 3 '08 (8 days) there were 4 successive significant snowfalls. Each time the club was able to prepare trails and be available for skiing with a minimum of closures during a high use time of year. This effort involved a tremendous amount of packing (snowmobile only), grooming (towing drags) and track setting. Our two machines travelled approximately 1000 kilometers (40 passes of 25 km). This was done by volunteers early in the morning until late in the evening in some cases. The conditions were very cold at times and equipment either got stuck or broke down on several occasions (in particular after the fourth snowfall of 50 cm). The physical toll on the volunteer groomers was significant (fatigue). **The MCCSC is looking at a major fund raising effort to purchase proper grooming equipment as has been done by several NB Cross Country Ski Clubs. Such equipment as well as being more efficient/effective and less demanding of manpower and gasoline will allow for tilling which is necessary after a freeze/thaw cycle, a common occurrence in recent winters.**

Staff – The club has been very fortunate in the past to acquire through various grants, fourteen weeks of employment for a lodge keeper. The services of such an individual is incredibly valuable to the club (maintaining the club house and keeping the woodstove on, taking membership and day pass fees, providing a welcome to visitors, supporting the groomers with equipment maintenance, operating the ski rental program, providing information and supporting communication for the club's operation). **Each year has required requests to be made for the grant with no guarantee it will be received. In fact the club has been informed that such a grant is more unlikely for 2008-9.**

Clubhouse – The Quonset hut provides a cozy environment. It has a lot of character and is in keeping with the setting. However the building has been used by the club for 30 years in its three successive locations and was a logging camp shelter for many years prior to that. It has serious limitations and is showing its age. We have only one washroom and no adequate changing facility. The roof leaks in a number of places in spite of a number of repair attempts. There is very limited storage space. There is the constant danger of frozen water pipes. The floor is rotting. **The club would like to consider a plan to replace this building.**

The MCCSC has made and continues to make a significant contribution to the Miramichi area. Much of this has been done by the efforts of dedicated volunteers and this is very likely to continue. Cross Country Skiing is an excellent fitness activity and a form of recreation suitable for almost all members of the community regardless of age or skiing experience. This during a time in the year when it is otherwise difficult to spend much time out doors in fresh air and sunlight. (The high proportion of members of the medical community that regularly ski attests to this.)

The MCCSC is looking for support to continue what it has done in the past and what it is doing presently. Any help in the areas outlined above will give the club a future and help it to grow.

Peter Gadd
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Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club
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January 6th, 2007

The MCCSC is affiliated with
Cross Country New Brunswick
And
Cross Country Canada



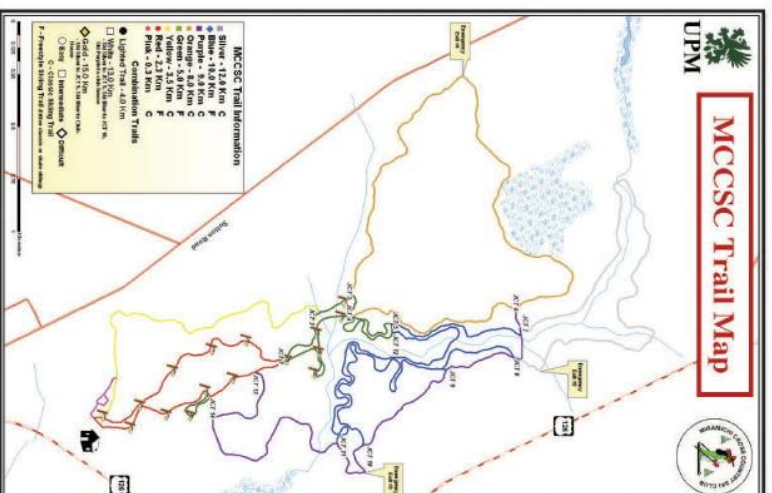
JACKRABBIT SKIING LESSON



SKATE SKIING CLINIC



LOPPET START



OUR TRAILS ARE OPEN FROM
DAWN UNTIL 10 PM EACH DAY.

(CLOSURES HAPPEN FROM TIME TO TIME BECAUSE OF
HEAVY SNOWFALL. OR WHEN IT RAINS BUT THIS MAY
ONLY BE FOR A FEW HOURS AT A TIME. A FEW TIMES IN
THE SEASON)

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING IS AN EXCELLENT FORM OF
OUTDOOR ACTIVITY IN THE WINTER TIME FOR PEOPLE OF
ALL AGES, AT ALL LEVELS OF FITNESS.

OUR TRAILS PROVIDE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

THE PURPOSE OF THE MCCSC IS TO PROMOTE CROSS
COUNTRY SKIING IN THE MIRAMICHI AREA BY PROVID-
ING FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS. THE MCCSC IS A NON-
PROFIT CORPORATION ESTABLISHED IN 1975.



MIRAMICHI CROSS COUNTRY
SKI CLUB
NELSON – MIRAMICHI



THE "VERY BEST" TRAILS
IN NEW BRUNSWICK

LOCATION – 131 NELSON STREET (RT. 126),
NELSON – MIRAMICHI
(BEHIND THE BYRON GOODIN CIVIC CENTRE)
(INSIDE THE CITY LIMITS)
PH. 506 622-6991
POSTAL ADDRESS – P.O. Box 791, MIRAMICHI, NB
E1V 3V4

visit — <http://www.skimiramichi.com>

Cross Country Skiing provides the best exercise of any activity, in terms of cardiovascular health and overall fitness. Yet it can have a low impact on muscles and joints and participants can be active at an intensity level they are comfortable with. With fresh air in bright sunshine or by moonlight in a winter wonderland, it can make winter worth waiting for.



Young family with child being towed in a PULK

Some of Our Recent Community Supporters

(Without whose generosity the MCCSC could not provide the services and opportunities outlined here)

A Bound Corporation
Beaubear Co-op
Castle Machine Works
City Argo
City of Miramichi
Club Member Volunteers
Country Charm Bakery
Dr. Kris Wierzboslawski
Dr. Paula Keating
Hitchman Construction
I Line Electric
Inline Sport
Mr. Bill Fraser MLA
NB Dept. of Wellness Culture and Sport
Northumberland Co-op
Mr. Robert Breau
Siddalis Engraving
Sign Warehouse
Smith and Smith Law Firm
Sunny Corner Enterprises
The Goodie Shop
The Honourable John Foran MLA
UPM Miramichi
Weyerhaeuser Canada

My Shadow

I kick, I stride, double pole and glide.
It seems in endless repetition
East and South, it's good to be out,
My shadow is my companion
In morning I find he lags behind;
He lets me set the pace.
Homeward bound, it turns around:
It's me that's giving him chase.
On either side, matches kick and glide:
We head in the same direction.
Silent and strong, we belong
He's not mine by election.
In the chalet he fades away.
The why I've never inquired.
On a cloudy day, he will stay.
I assume that he gets tired.

Bunny Dempsey

(an honorary life-time member of the MCCSC)

Events

- Open House
- Socials
- Annual Miramichi Ray
Thibodeau Loppet
- Clinics
- Lessons for All
- Awards Dinner and AGM

Season Memberships fees for individuals and families are available at very reasonable costs. Inexpensive day and evening passes are also available.



The MCCSC in partnership with
COMMUNITIES RAISING CHILDREN- EVERY CHILD COUNTS IN NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY
is pleased to offer the free use of ski equipment for children aged 3 to 5 yrs old.
Please call the club for details, 622-6991

TRAILS

25 Kilometers of well groomed dedicated trails (something for everyone ... beginner trails to expert competitive skate skiing trails). See the map on the reverse side.

4 kilometers of lighted trails open until 10:00 pm each evening

There is a cozy clubhouse with a fire that is always on, a kitchen and washroom facilities.



Programs/Services Offered by the Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club

- Free Adult Introductory Lessons
- The Jackrabbit Instructional Program for young skiers
- Clinics for: Classic Technique, Skating Technique and Waxing
- A Limited Ski Rental Program for adults
- Skis, boots and poles for 3 to 5 yr olds are available for use free of charge.
- A PULK for towing toddlers and infants.