

MCCSC – AGM Minutes April 12, 2025

President Norm Brown called the meeting to order at 8:13pm. The adoption of the agenda was moved by Kari Underhill and seconded by Arlene Martin. Motion carried.

President's Report:

Norm welcomed everyone to the 50th AGM. He recognized special guests Veronique Arseneault (City Councilor), Keith and Linda Dickson, Robert and Nancy, and Bunny Dempsey. Once again, we had an unusually short ski season that would have been even shorter without the lighted trail. Highlights this season were the hosting of a provincial NB biathlon championship and the annual New Brunswick Day event. The club is thankful for the sponsorship of the Scott Knowles Memorial Golf Foundation for this event and many new skiers had a fun day of skiing and an outdoor cookout. The Ray Thibodeau Loppet had to be cancelled due to weather conditions. The Jackrabbit and Bunny program ran again this year and was very successful. For a third year, a Miramichi couple offered to pay for all ski and snowshoe rentals for the entire season. The club is very grateful for this generous donation. The Owl's Rest Disc Golf course had another very successful season. They hosted a tournament in September that saw 80+ players from PEI, NS and across NB. Another highlight was the 50th Anniversary celebration put on by social chairperson Arlene Martin and her committee. This event was well attended. Norm thanked many people who contribute to the ski club: Gilles (Grooming trails chairman) was busy repairing grooming machines and replacing one of the older machines with a newer one; he thanked the entire executive committee for their hard work and dedication; those who worked to ensure the club operated this season – lodgekeepers Keith, Norman, Darlene and the grooming team of Gilles, Trent, Rodney and the new groomers Tyson and Csaba, as well as Peter Gadd for his hard work as photographer, webmaster, Zone4 registration and trail condition updates person. Norm also thanked the club members who volunteer in any way as well as the City of Miramichi and council, North Shore Construction, K Daigle Contracting, Adaptive Office Solutions and Doctors Roxanne McKnight and Mike Dickinson. Norm pointed out the need to prioritize ways to increase membership, improve trails, and purchase a new groomer. There has been less revenue in the past few seasons and the club will have to look at ways to cut costs. Thank you to those who contributed to the groomer fund, whether through the Nordiq Canada club fundraiser or during membership registration.

Minutes from the 2024 AGM:

Cheryl Carroll read the minutes from the 2024 AGM. Arlene Martin moved their adoption, seconded by Charles Fives. Motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes:

Peter Gadd gave an update related to publicity (website). The old website is no longer active but if someone goes to this site, they will be redirected to the new site <https://skimiramichi.blog>

Financial Report:

Treasurer Deanna Gadd presented the report. The full report will be sent out separately.

Our expenditure greatly exceeded our revenue by approx. \$20 000. We will have to look at ways to reduce expenses and increase revenue.

The adoption of the financial report was moved by Deanna Gadd and seconded by Kari Underhill.

New Business:

Club Priorities are:

1. Increasing Membership. We had 100 members this year, which is down from last year.
2. Improve Trails. Work on our trails needs to continue.
3. Obtain a newer grooming machine. We will work hard to increase fundraising to reach the goal of purchasing a new groomer.

It was brought up that a stronger relationship or partnership with the city may be necessary to meet these priorities. City councilor, Veronique Arseneault suggested finding out more information about the partnerships that exist in other cities. The ski club could then make a proposal and come to the city (with comparable data from other areas) as well as the Regional Service Commission as there is tourism money and wellness and recreation money available through them. Roberta McIntyre is the contact person at the Regional Service Commission.

Committee Reports:

Trails – We have two new volunteer groomers: Tyson and Csaba. The Piston Bully was repaired (40-year-old machine) but the teeth on the tiller are very worn. In the driest part of summer, maintenance should be done on trails with a tractor.

Youth Program – There were 20 youth members (bunny and jackrabbit). We started early on a small patch of snow and continued after everyone else finished skiing.

Miramichi Ray Thibodeau Loppet – Cheryl Carroll reported that the Loppet had to be cancelled due to trail conditions. Those who registered were refunded. We look forward to better snow conditions next year.

Biathlon – Paula Cavanaugh was unable to attend but it was noted that Jarrod Wilson attended a National Biathlon competition in Quebec and placed 11th out of 45. There was no Biathlon Bears program this year. We hope to get a program going next year.

Social – Lack of snow affected some social events (Valentine's event and moonlight skiing). The 50th Anniversary Celebration was very successful. The painting of the clubhouse turned out well and was a social event for the volunteers.

Instruction – Nothing to report.

Nominations of Executive Members:

Several executive members let their names stand. One nomination was received from the floor – Gilles Chiasson nominated Kris Wierzchoslowski for the position of Vice President. Norm Brown moved that we add Disc Golf Liaison position to our executive, and it was seconded by Arlene Martin. Motion carried. The other positions were filled by acclamation. The positions of Instruction and coaching remain unfilled.

President – Norm Brown

Vice President – Dr. Kris Wierzchoslowski

Member at Large – Charles Fives and Kari Underhill

Secretary – Christine Comeau

Treasurer – Deana Gadd

Social Coordinator – Arlene Martin

Public Relations – Deana Gadd

Trails – Gilles Chiasson

Youth Development – Emily Comeau

Biathlon – Paula Cavanaugh

Disc Golf Liaison – Chris McEvoy

A motion to adjourn was made by Gilles Chiasson and it was seconded by Charles Fives at 9:35 pm. Motion Carried.

MCCSC AWARDS 2024-2025 AGM

- Paula Keating Award – presented to youth who ski 500 or more kilometers in a season
Jarrod Wilson 573 km
- Joey Doucet Distance Award
Female - Paula Keating 544 km
Male- Kris Wierzoslawski 881 km
- Dr. Guptil Award – presented to an individual (or two) deemed by the club executive by secret ballot to have made a significant contribution to Cross Country Skiing – Deana Gadd
- Spill Award – Peter Gadd
- Special Awards
 - Keith Dickson for recognition of his contribution to the club as a lodge keeper. This is Keith's last year as lodge keeper. Norm presented Keith with a gift.
 - Bunny Dempsey in recognition of his almost 5 decades of involvement with MCCSC – Leadership, Instruction, Building Maintenance, Friendliness and Inspiration. Norm presented Bunny with a gift.
- Honorary Lifetime Membership Awards were presented to Keith Dickson and Gilles Chiasson.