

MCCSC President's Report to the AGM, April 5th, 2008
Goodie Shop, Miramichi West

The 2007 – 2008 season just finishing has been another very successful one for the MCCSC, our 33rd year of operation, moose and snowfall notwithstanding. The club exists of course to meet the needs and interests of its members and also for the wider community. The success we achieved in meeting those needs and interests is credited to the involvement of the members, their willingness to give and share with others what they enjoy so much themselves. We have in this sense a true club. This is often commented on by visitors, by the way. In the AGM this spring you will find that many see a need for growth and development. We are hoping to develop a formal business plan and to use it as a foundation. I feel this is very necessary at this time ... but let's be careful to keep the "club" qualities we have at present and not throw them out "with the bathwater".

Here are some of my memories that I would like to mention:

- The incredible work of the groomers ... being called on frequently to get the trails back to being skiable.
- Waxing and Ski technique Clinic with Gabriel Aube of Bathurst ... 45 members attending at least one of the 3 sessions.
- Our CCNB sponsored Race on February 7th went very well and the club was well represented. Well done Yves and committee.
- The introduction of biathlon and the seeds that were planted for a local program.
- The Miramichi Ray Thibodeau Loppet attracted 89 classic skiers on a very cold morning. It lived up to the reputation the MCCSC Loppets has developed over the years. Well done Deana and committee ...over 40 volunteers involved! The involvement of Ray's family for this first loppet to carry his name, added much significance to the event and was appreciated by all involved.
- An enthusiastic and diversified program for youth ... see the separate Jackrabbit report.
- Collaboration with schools in District 16 with GO-NB programs that saw more than 400 school children visit our club as well as students participating in skiing lessons on their school grounds.
- The continuation of a ski rental program for adults to make the activity more accessible to members of the community. Thanks to Keith for his care and handling of the equipment.
- The establishment of a ski equipment loan program for small children with the support of Every Child Counts in Northumberland County, NB Dept. of Wellness Culture and Sport. Thanks Herman for initiating this program.
- Visits from a number of skiers on a regular basis from Fredericton, Moncton and Halifax not to mention northern N.B.
- We had a successful "Open House" in late December and a successful "Ski Night" in January.
- The club appreciates the work of Robert Breau in rebuilding the motors of our snow mobiles last fall ... the machines were a lot more trouble free this season and held up well to the demands of this extraordinary winter.
- Certainly "Harvey" the moose will long be remembered

I can't overstate the needs of the club if we are going to be able to continue to do what we do, for ourselves and for the community. We are living on borrowed time. The list of needs:

- aging inadequate club house, as attractive as it is in a number of ways,
- the aging and inadequate trail grooming equipment
- staffing
- trail maintenance and development
- program leaders

Our club has made a very big difference in the quality of winter life for many who live in the Miramichi area. We are attracting more and more ski tourists each winter also. Our club continues to grow and continues to contribute to the quality of life for many who take advantage of its existence. Through a number of programs we are able to promote skiing as a healthy, accessible winter physical activity. We need the continued support of the club membership and of the community to continue to do this. I think we can count on it.

I strongly recommend to the in-coming executive that they refer to the outline for their duties found in the club's constitution and by-laws and involve committees to spread the workload and by doing so also involve more members with the club's day to day operation. Further details are provided separately.

I sincerely thank all those who have done so much to help the club this year. Our executive meetings were well attended and the support has been marvelous. There are so many club members who give of themselves selflessly and can be counted on for the good of the club. A special thanks to Keith who is effectively retiring this year, they say none of us are indispensable, but I'm not sure. I don't know how the club will get by without him.

In closing, I am very proud to be associated with the Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club.

Respectfully submitted

Peter Gadd
President
MCCSC