

Minutes - MCCSC AGM April 9, 2022

President Norm Brown opened the meeting at 7:15 pm by welcoming people to the 47th AGM of the Miramichi Cross Country Club (MCCSC). He acknowledged special guests Jim Wiltshire, Chris McEvoy, city councilors Veronique Arsenault and Jason Harris and mayor Adam Lordon. He remarked that it was our first AGM since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He thanked the executive, who kept on in their positions throughout two seasons without an AGM.

President's Report:

Since our last AGM there have been major changes. 2020 saw the completion of the biathlon range and the new clubhouse. New grooming equipment and a snowmobile were purchased. The new finish to the 4km lighted trail suffered trail damage in seven spots during a heavy rain in August 2021, culverts needed to be larger and trail repairs done.

Over the past two years the pandemic has had some positive effects at the ski club, more people discovered our trails and took advantage of skiing or snowshoeing. On the negative side we could not hold "in-person" events for much of the time. The Jackrabbit program for under 12-year-olds did not take place in 2022, for the first time since 1980. Chastity DeGroot was able to run the Track Attack program for older skiers, at first under "bubble-families". As restrictions lifted, the club held two successful events, a biathlon time-trial which saw participants from around the Maritimes and a NB Cup race, with 89 people taking part in our first race in 10 years, again with skiers from around the Maritimes. Norm congratulated Alexandre Comeau for having earned a spot on the NB Cross Country provincial ski team.

Norm extended his thanks to lodge keepers Nola Chiasson and Keith Dickson, to the grooming team of Gilles Chiasson, Trent Martin and Rodney McEachern.

This season was a poor one weather wise, with closures 47 days between January and March. March 15 was the last day of skiing for most people. Norm thanked all club members and volunteers for their support. He also thanked the City of Miramichi for their continued support, the province of NB, the government of Canada. Thanks also to

the Rotary Club of Chatham, Bell Aliant and Miecon. The donors who made ski and snowshoe equipment free of charge by giving a large donation, making healthy outdoor winter physical activity more accessible for people, also were recognized. Norm wrapped up by wishing everyone a good summer and the hope for everyone to be back for season 48 next winter.

Committee Reports:

Emily Comeau : youth leader, commented about not having a Jackrabbit program, which usually sees 24 children learning to ski and talked about the successful Track Attack program.

Trent Martin talked about the biathlon program. They train nearly year-round and were able to do so with modifications this past season. They took part in successful completions in PEI and Charlo. The focus now is on the Canada Winter Games to be held in PEI next winter.

Deana Gadd read the 2019 AGM minutes. Don Lynch moved they be adopted as read and it was seconded by Peter Gadd. Motion Carried.

Financial Report- treasurer Paul McKinnon presented the report. It is available on our website. Although we finished the spring of 2021 in good shape we had several setbacks as Norm explained. We were given a generous donation part way through the winter to eliminate rental fees and when the weather was good we had many new people coming out. Overall our revenue from day passes was down, due to the timing of winter storms (weekends!) and rain following the snow. The club general account sits at \$36,683.83. We have a loppet account with \$1500 which will be used to encourage youth to take part in an event next year. We also opened a groomer account with \$3196.74 in donations. A new Pisten Bully type grooming machine is in the long term plan. Although our accounts are healthy, Paul estimated that annual club costs which includes taxes, phone, electricity, payroll, insurance and many other costs are \$33,000.

Paul moved that the financial report be approved. It was seconded by Trent Martin and approved.

New Business : the priorities for 2022-23 include getting a shelter made for our grooming equipment, doing trail repair including 2 culverts, the use of the 4 km trail in the off season with a small user fee. Another off-season activity could be disc golf. Jim Wiltshire and Chris McEvoy are looking at the feasibility of setting up disc golf on the club trails.

The club would like to widen the Purple Trail so that it could be used for classic and skate skiing.

The cadet program holds a National Biathlon Championship which involves one week of competition and brings in several hundred cadets from across Canada. Our club is in the running to host this event and we will be having event officials check out our facilities and the Miramichi area very soon.

Nomination Committee Report:

Don Lynch called for nominations. Most of the current executive had agreed to stay on. James Tremblay had let his name stand for the loppet coordinator. No nominations were received from the floor. Positions were filled by acclamation. Don remarked that we need younger members to become involved with the club. Currently we have two unfilled positions, secretary and social co-ordinator. Although social activity has been at a standstill for two years due to the pandemic we hope to be able to offer more next year.

Executive for 2022-2023:

President	Norman Brown
Vice President	John Oliver
Past President	Donald Lynch
Treasurer	Paul McKinnon
Trails co-ordinator	Gilles Chiasson
Youth Program	Emily Comeau

Instruction	Yves St Germain
Biathlon	Paula Cavanaugh
Publicity	Deana Gadd
Loppet co-ordinator	James Tremblay
Director at Large	Charles Fives
Secretary	VACANT
Social co-ordinator	VACANT

Don Lynch moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8.12pm.

Awards:

The Boston Family trophy - to family from the club who ski the most km in our annual loppet - the Comeau family.

The Joey Doucet total season distance award for men - Kris Wierzchoslawski 1060km

The Joey Doucet total season distance award for women - Paula Keating 1030 km

The Paula Keating 500km award for youth - Alexandre Comeau (1043 km)

The Spill Award - (given for a humorous description of a non-serious fall) - to Alex Sulis.

The Dr. Guptill award: for contribution to cross country skiing by club member(s) co-winners Gilles Chiasson and Trent Martin

Draw for snowshoe membership: Peter Gadd and Jim Wiltshire

Draw for set of 5 day passes: Veronique Arsenault and Janis Brown

Deana Gadd

AGM Recording Secretary