



# The PENGUIN

The Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club Newsletter

Volume 11 Issue 1

PO Box 791 Miramichi NB  
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January 12th , 2008

## Announcing:

**An equipment loan program for children aged 3 to 5 years old, made possible by Communities Raising Children — Every Child Counts in Northumberland County, has been implemented at the MCCSC.**

The MCCSC is pleased to be able to loan quality ski equipment to small children to use on our trails at no charge.

Parents/guardians **accompanying the children** qualify for a reduced rates on ski rentals and trail fees. This equipment is available during the hours Mr. Keith Dickson, the lodge keeper, is on duty or by special arrangements.

## Lodge Keeper's Schedule

### **Wednesdays**

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

### **Thursdays and Fridays**

11:00 am to 7:00 pm

### **Saturdays and Sundays**

9:00 am to 5:00 pm



Ray Thibodeau in MCCSC  
2001 Loppet.

## **Ski Night Tuesday January 15th 2008**

The MCCSC is pleased to welcome everyone who would like to ski our lighted trail on **SKI NIGHT**. The skiing will be **free** for non-members between 7:00 and 10:00 pm.

The rental equipment will be available at **1/2 price**. Equipment for children 3 to 5 years old will be available as usual on a loan basis (**no charge**).

There will be complimentary **chili, rolls and hot chocolate** available in the clubhouse and as well as a warm fire.

**Members are encouraged to invite a friend** and introduce them (or re-introduce them) to cross country skiing. .

## **Greetings from the club president:**

Well, it was lovely to have early snow and it was great that we were able to take advantage of it, although we were caught off guard for a day or two as our trail grooming snowmobile's engines were all in pieces being re-built! However it wasn't long before club members and visitors were enjoying a good pre-Christmas ski, a treat not enjoyed for a few years.

The club executive and volunteer members have been very busy in recent weeks, preparing trails, setting up programs and promoting the ski club. Lets hope the weather will provide good winter conditions so that all may enjoy the fruits of these efforts.

The MCCSC is fortunate to have the very helpful services of our lodge keeper Mr. Keith Dickson, for another season. The contribution Keith makes to our operation requires a unique "skill set" and is very much appreciated.

The rejuvenated snowmobiles have been put to the test already and found to be in great working order (a little rest was demanded by them just after new years celebrations, but then they had earned a break as had their operators). The club is very appreciative of the deft

mechanical work of Robert Breau who volunteered his time.

The MCCSC is in its first year of a new children's ski loan program (see above), second year of a limited ski rental program, in its fifth year with a lighted trail, in its 18th year of full operation in Nelson-Miramichi and 33rd year of offering a variety of cross country opportunities in the Miramichi area. There are some challenges ahead and some chances for growth. The club needs a strong enthusiastic membership and a strong enthusiastic executive. Please feel free to make whatever contribution you can. All of the club's programs can use support. Members please find a list of the club's executive in this newsletter and offer your support to their efforts. The club's value to its members and to the community is too great to be taken for granted and left to others to maintain. This is your club.

I am looking forward to a good ski season myself, as I am sure you are and expect I'll see you on the trails.

Peter Gadd, President, Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club

## **The Ray Thibodeau Miramichi Loppet — Sunday February 17th, 2008 11:00 am.**

Our annual loppet has been re-named in honour of accomplished skier and long time club member Rheel (Ray) Thibodeau who sadly passed away last summer. The organizing committee is working to make this year's event something special. Ray would be pleased if we could have the greatest participation in this event in the history of the club. Why not take part? We intend to have something for everyone. We also need volunteers. Please contact Deana (622-1313) if you would like to help. (Some of the volunteer work is not at the same time as the event so you could do both!)

### MCCSC to Host Ski Race and Biathlon Demonstration Feb 9th '08

On Saturday Morning February 9th the Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club will be hosting **ski races** for skiers of all ages from across the province. This event is one of a short series of races being organized by Cross Country New Brunswick. Unlike the races hosted by the MCCSC last season this is not a provincial championship. (The provincial event is being hosted this year by Les Aventuriers of Charlo in March.) Club members are encouraged to participate on Feb. 9th. If you would like to help organize the event please contact Yves St. Germain, race organizer, at 773-8990 More information will be available as race day approaches. On the same day Biathlon New Brunswick will be



Prov. Ch'ships MCCSC '07

hosting a **biathlon demonstration** at our club. Members of the public will be invited to give the sport of biathlon a try. The shooting range will be short and only air rifles will be used. Visit [www.biathlonnb.ca](http://www.biathlonnb.ca)

#### 2007 - 2008 MCCSC Executive

President —	Peter Gadd 622-1313
Vice President —	Yves St. Germain 773-8990
Past President —	Norm Brown 622-7661
Secretary —	Deana Gadd 622-1313
Treasurer —	Julia Connell 622-1505
Instructor —	Gerald Smith 622-7861
Coaching —	Kris Wierzchoslawski 778-5747
Public Relations —	Bunny Dempsey 622-0834
Soc. Com. —	Joyce and Rob Jones 622-3001
Loppet Chair —	Deana Gadd 622-1313
Jackrabbit Co-ord. —	Y. St. Germain 773-8990
Trails Chair —	Gilles Chiasson 622-6572
Director at Large —	Don Lynch 622-7119

If you have any concerns or suggestions regarding the MCCSC's operation please feel free to contact us .

### POT LUCK

Tentative plans are being made for a Sunday afternoon Pot Luck Supper some time in coming weeks — keep your ears and eyes open for more information.

### Provincial Events

**LOPPETS:** Feb. 3 at Fredericton, Feb. 10 at Bathurst, Feb. 17 at Miramichi, Feb 24 at Kouchibouguac (Atlantic Marathon), March 9 at Campbellton, March 16 at Charlo. **RACES:** Feb. 9 at Miramichi, Feb. 23 at St. Louis de Kent, March 15 at Charlo. **Women's Clinic at Charlo January 26th and 27th.** Visit [www.xcski-nb.ca](http://www.xcski-nb.ca) for more information about **CCNB**.

### The Wilderness of Our Trail System

Although our club is located inside the city limits there is a chance to see all manner of wildlife while skiing on our trails! Don't worry, there has never been an unpleasant encounter.

Spotted in recent years; weasel, deer, red squirrel, snowshoe hare, pileated woodpecker, bob cat, coyote, moose, black duck, snow fleas, chickadee, grouse, red fox, horned owl (check out the club house!), garter snakes! Beaver



and black bear have been seen in the summer-time.

Help us keep track of the natural environment by recording things you see that may be of interest to others, in our sightings book located near the water cooler in the club house.

### [www.skimiramichi.com](http://www.skimiramichi.com)

Visit our web site to find out more about our club. The site was rebuilt last fall and is still being developed.

If you have an interesting anecdote please submit it for the Folk History section.

If you have suggestions about how the site can be of further use please get in touch. [gadd1313@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:gadd1313@nb.sympatico.ca).

**The Grooming Team:** Gilles, Yves, Herman, Norm, Daniel, Joey, Adrian ..... have had a busy time of it so far this season. Without their dedicated volunteer help, often at inconvenient times, in nasty conditions, with reluctant equipment, we would have no trails on which to ski. **THANKS Gentlemen VERY MUCH.**

Thanks also to Camille Lynch who after a recent heavy snow fall was crucial in helping in our efforts to pack the snow prior to grooming.



### ANNOUNCING THE ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST:

This year's categories: People, Nature. Please submit your entries in a manner that is most convenient to you. This contest is open to all members and guests of the club. The pictures must be taken in the vicinity of the club's trails during this season. Te entries will be displayed at the Annual General Meeting at the end of the season, at which time they will be voted on. **THERE ARE PRIZES!** Submit to [dhgadd@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:dhgadd@nb.sympatico.ca) or you may leave them with Keith in the club house. Entries can also be mailed to the club at the address shown at the top of this newsletter.

For more information on the club, please visit [www.skimiramichi.com](http://www.skimiramichi.com) . To receive regular reports on trail conditions please send an email to [gadd1313@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:gadd1313@nb.sympatico.ca) You can also call 622-6991 for information on trail conditions.