

Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club
Annual General Meeting
April 11, 2015
President's Message

Welcome everyone to the 2015 Annual General Meeting.

First I would like to acknowledge our special guests tonight. We have:

Ronnie Doyle/ Keith and Linda Dickson/ Councilor Billy Fleiger/and our MP Tilly O'Neil Gordon. Welcome to all!

This year marks the 40th year for the club and what a year it has been. More snow than we have seen in years, maybe ever! And, unusually cold weather persisted through March. However, in spite of so much snow and cold it has been a great year.

Our membership was well in excess of 200 regular members and again we had good numbers of day pass skiers and visitors to the club. Again this year the club was used by all schools in the district. The users of the snowshoe trails continue to increase each year as does the Biathlon club. Both of these programs add to the health and success of the club. I would like to congratulate the biathlon skiers and coaches for another successful year. I think special mention is in order for Emma Septon and Lauren Martin. Emma, for representing our club and the province at the Canada Winter Games and Lauren for representing our club and province at Biathlon nationals. I also would like to mention Yves, who has been involved with the provincial biathlon team as wax technician and a member of the board of Biathlon NB, congratulations to all.

This year we were unable to hold our Loppet, but not for a lack of trying. Our Loppet was scheduled for three different dates and snowed out every time. Thanks to David Roy for organizing the event, not once but three times! Surely next year the weather will cooperate.

The youth programs under Linda and her team had another very successful year. A big thank you goes out to all the leaders and volunteers who help make the youth programs a success. Hopefully the youth programs will continue to grow as they are the life blood of the club.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the executive committee for their hard work and dedication throughout the season. Everyone certainly pitched in and helped out wherever needed. The club is fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers who give freely of their time to ensure the club and its programs continue to run, year after year.

I would like to thank lodge keeper Ronnie Doyle and also Keith Dickson for providing additional coverage at the lodge again this year. I would also like to thank Moe Morrison for helping the executive man the ski lodge this year. Providing volunteer coverage for night skiing has proved to be a worthwhile exercise and one that the club will need to continue.

A big thank you goes out to the groomers who again did a great job providing quality trails. This year was especially challenging for the groomers with so many big snowstorms back to back. A big thank you also goes out to Peter Gadd for continuing to maintain our website and issuing trail reports, and of course being the official photographer. Lastly, I would like to thank the many club members and other volunteers who helped out in many ways throughout the season. It is with this support that the club continues to improve.

I would also like to thank the following people and organizations for their assistance that have contributed to the success of the club. In no particular order they are – MP Tilly O’Neill-Gordon, City of Miramichi, the Kinsmen club, Bell Aliant, Department of Healthy and Inclusive Communities, Robert Breau, Kinsmen club and City Argo. And we would be remiss if we didn’t thank the Chatham Rotary club for their generous donation to the club.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for coming out tonight to support your club and I wish you all the best as we look forward to our 41th season.

Thank You.