

Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club
Annual General Meeting
April 13, 2019
President's Message

Welcome everyone to the 45th edition of the Miramichi Cross Country ski club's Annual General Meeting.

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

- Ronnie Doyle
- Keith and Linda Dickson
- Dave and Gerry Tweedie
- Lucy and Ralph McCrae
- Robert Breau
- Mr. and Mrs. Jean-Guy Comeau
- Councilor Tara Ross-Robinson
- Councilor Billy Fleiger
- MP Pat Finnigan

This past season has been a very successful one for the club. Usually, at this point I am reporting that we are still hopeful that the club's expansion/improvement project will eventually get approval. Well, I am happy to report that after a long 10 years and a tremendous amount of work by the club's improvement committee the project did receive approval last year and started in October. This is by far the most significant project the club has undertaken in its 44-year history. We will provide an update on the status of the project later under new business.

Another highlight was this year's Loppet. It was probably one of the clubs most successful Loppets. We had an amazing 136 participants with good weather and great trails. This was the second highest turnout in this season's provincial Loppet circuit. Nearly every skier had positive comments on the event. Congratulations to David Roy and his team of volunteers.

Another plus was the Jackrabbit youth program that ran again this year, thanks to Hannah and Emily and their team of volunteer leaders. I believe this was the 38th consecutive year for the program. Again, thanks to Hannah & Emily, and their team it will continue.

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Again, this year we were host to a number of skiers from outside the Miramichi, including a good number of skiers from the Halifax area. Some of whom would stay several nights in local hotels and B&B's. This not only helps the club but also the local economy. We can look for more of this once the project is complete, especially with the addition on a biathlon facility.

The biathlon club had another successful season with members competing at competitions in NB, Quebec and Alberta. Six biathletes competed at the Eastern Canadian Championships in Val Cartier, QC with 1 Gold and 2 Silver performances. Two of the club's biathletes competed at the Canada Winter Games in Red Deer, Alberta and two biathletes competed at the Canadian Cadet Biathlon Championship in Charlo winning 3 silver medals. These results are very good considering they did not have a proper biathlon facility in which to train. I would also like to recognize the biathlon support team, and they are Trent Martin, Yves St. Germain and Paula Septon. So let us have a big hand for our biathlon team.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire executive committee for their hard work and dedication throughout the season. The club is very 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.

In closing, I would like to thank all those who worked hard to ensure the club operated this season, including all the executive, lodge keepers Ronnie and Keith, and of course, the groomers who work hard to keep the trails open for all to enjoy.

I would also like to thank the many club members and other volunteers who helped in many ways throughout the season. It is with this support that the club continues to improve.

Last but certainly not least thanks to the City of Miramichi and council, the province of NB through the Regional Development Corporation and the Department of Healthy and Inclusive Communities, the federal government through the Integrated Bilateral Agreement – Community, Culture and Recreation, the Rotary Club of Chatham, the Scouts Hall Alumni committee, Bell Aliant, Miecon Services and ATR Construction Ltd.

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I would like to thank everyone for coming out tonight to support the club and I wish you all a great summer and I look forward to seeing you all on the trails as we begin season number 45! Thank You.

Norm Brown
President, MCCSC