

Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club
Annual General Meeting
April 9, 2022
President's Message

Welcome everyone to the 47th edition of the Miramichi Cross Country ski club's Annual General Meeting.

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

- Jim Wiltshire
- Chris McEvoy
- Councilor Tara Ross-Robinson
- Councilor Veronique Arseneault
- Mayor Adam Lordon

As you know this is the first in-person AGM meeting in 3 years thanks to Covid. One of the main functions of the AGM is the election of the executive. We are very fortunate that all members of the executive have stayed on for these past 3 seasons and worked hard to keep the club running throughout the pandemic. I want to thank the executive for stepping up to keep the club going.

Much has happened since the 2019/20 season which was cut short by the pandemic in early March 2020. I would like to mention some of the highlights:

In Late 2020 we saw the completion of the project – the new ski Lodge, completion of the 24 lane biathlon range and the upgrading of 4 km's of trail for year-round use. The club purchased a new groomer last year and a new Skidoo this year. Also, major repair work to the newly upgraded trail from damage caused by a severe rainstorm was completed last year. These three items were very expensive as we will see in the financial report.

Interestingly there were both some pluses and minuses due to Covid for the club. On the downside the club was not able to hold events or competitions so revenue was lost there. The Jackrabbit program for youth aged 5-12 was not able to run for the first time since 1980.

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On the plus side, because people wanted to get outside and get some exercise, the club saw a huge increase in the number of people coming out and renting skis and snowshoes and paying trail fees. This certainly helped to offset lost revenue from hosting events. Also the track Attack program for older youth was able to run thanks to Chastity DeGroot and her helpers.

One very nice thing that happened this past season is that a Miramichi couple who wanted to give as many people as possible the opportunity to get out in the fresh air and get some exercise offered to pay for all ski and snowshoe rentals for the entire season.

Once Covid restrictions were lifted in late February the club was able to hold A couple of events – a successful biathlon time trial was held with biathletes from Nova Scotia, PEI and NB attending. Also the club hosted the NB Cup #3 x-c race on March 6 with 89 participants from NS, PEI and NB. This was the first provincial race at the club in 10 years. I would like to congratulate Alexandre Comeau on being selected to the NB team for the 2022/23 season.

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 Nola and Keith, and of course, the grooming team of Gilles, Trent and Rodney. They had many challenges throughout the season but managed to have trails open as many days as possible.

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.

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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, North Shore Construction Ltd, and Doctors Roxanne MacKnight and Mike Dickinson.

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 48! Thank You.

Norm Brown
President, MCCSC