

**Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club
Yearend Report
April 2020**

President's report: Norm Brown

To say the 2019/2020 ski season was one of the club's most memorable seasons would be an understatement. The season started off with a bang on January 4th with the official opening of the new clubhouse with a tremendous turnout for the ribbon cutting ceremony. The biathlon range, all though not completely finished, was used for training purposes and had its first official event with the time trials held on February 15. This was a very successful event drawing participants from NS, PEI and all over New Brunswick and bringing in over \$500 revenue for the club. Long time lodge keeper, Keith Dickson was back again this season and was joined by newcomer Marie Doyle. Welcome Marie! On a sad note, we lost long time lodge keeper Ron Doyle who passed away on March 1st, 2020. Ronnie will be missed by all who knew him! Lastly, the ski season came to an abrupt halt in March as the global pandemic COVID-19 forced the club to shut down completely. This was the first time in the club's 45 year history that the season was cut short for reasons other than 'lack of snow'.

The expansion project had to be halted once again in late fall 2019 due to weather. Approval was obtained to carry over the funding to the 2020 fiscal year. The club is looking forward to restarting the project once the ground has dried up. However, this also may be delayed due to the corona virus pandemic. The main focus for this year will be the continuation of the expansion project which includes completion of the biathlon range, finish upgrading the lighted trail, augmenting our grooming equipment and recruiting additional groomers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire executive committee and all the program volunteers for their hard work and dedication throughout the season. Also, a special thanks to the volunteer groomers who work hard to provide the best trails possible.

On behalf of the club, thanks to the City of Miramichi and council, the province of NB through the Regional Development Corporation, the federal government through the Integrated Bilateral Agreement – Community, Culture and Recreation, the Rotary Club of Chatham, the Rotary Club of Newcastle, Scott Knowles Golf Tournament Memorial Fund, Bell Aliant, Miecon Services, ATR Construction Ltd and Peter Gadd.

Trails report: Gilles Chiasson

The trail system got a much needed upgrade last summer and there is lots more work to come this spring hopefully. This season we saw the addition of the Biathlon range to the groomer's workload. Luckily snow conditions this winter were good which made for pretty easy grooming. The grooming equipment got through the winter without too many major breakdowns or repairs. The only exception was we did have to replace the two

tracks on the Alpina, and the piston Bully was taken to the community college last fall for repairs and replacing of the old tracks. Hopefully it will be back for next season. Going forward if we are going to be hosting more events we will need to recruit new groomers, but we need to get people that have experience in operating snowmobiles in rough conditions and they have to be coachable. Last season the 25km of trails were groomed by 3 people; Norm, Chris and I. Dave Vesey looked after the Biathlon range. Hopefully once we are done with the Corona virus work can resume and we can get new equipment and more trained groomers.

Jackrabbit program report: Emily Comeau

The 2020 Jackrabbit program had 25 registered participants this season. Our scheduled 8 week session was shortened to 5 weeks due to Mother Nature sending us 3 major storms. The Loppet was considered a scheduled lesson. Thank you to the club for covering the Loppet 2020 fees for our Jackrabbits. Although our season was short we did send out invites to our young skiers to join available coaches for a few night skis. We have one more coach for the program next year as they have completed the online course. The club has offered to pay for this and once again I want to say thank you! We had 3 coaches ready to take the second level course in Fredericton but this was cancelled due to Covid-19. A great time was had by all at our year end gathering. Once again a big thank you goes out to Peter Gadd for capturing these moments and uploading to the website.

Instruction program report: Yves St. Germain

This was a good season on the instruction side. One successful waxing clinic was held at the old clubhouse. The old clubhouse is ideal for not only waxing clinics but for waxing in general for skiers and also during skiing events such as Loppets. Two introduction-to-skiing sessions were held as well as two skate clinics.

Biathlon program report: Paula Septon

Our first season with our new range!

Huge thanks to the Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club for taking on such a great project! Miramichi Biathletes began shooting on our own range in the fall of 2019! We are not 100% complete but we are definitely operational!

We began our public events with the Give it a Shot Day during the Ski Club's Open House in January. We were so proud to showcase our facility to the general public. We put hundreds of bullets down range in the morning! The afternoon gave way to a biathlon demonstration race – showcasing athletes from Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and all over New Brunswick.

Our facility hosted our first Maritime Time trial in February! Approximately 40 athletes from NB, PE and NS participated and had a great time. Thank you so much to our club volunteers who came out and made it a successful event. We were going to host another Time Trial in March; unfortunately, it was cancelled due to the pandemic.

On the competitive side, our Miramichi athletes participated in, and medaled at races in Charlo (NB), Brookvale (PE) and Fort Kent (Maine). We had 4 of our athletes

participate in Cadet Biathlon and 2 of those attended Cadet Nationals in Val Cartier (PQ). Unfortunately, the Covid-19 virus brought our season to an untimely halt – Nationals were cancelled.

Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club has been so supportive of our new range. Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped and promoted our sport.

Lastly, thank you so much to the groomers. Biathlon does require a lot of extra grooming and we really appreciate everything that you did for us – from grooming those extra cut-offs to grooming passes in the range. Thanks so much!

We are looking forward to the end of the pandemic – to finishing the range... to hosting official races. Thank you to all!

Loppet report by David Roy:

This year's Loppet was a great success. It was probably one of the clubs most successful Loppets. We had an amazing 131 participants with good weather and great trails. For the second year in a row we had the second highest turnout in the provincial Loppet circuit. Thanks to the generous donation from the Scott Knowles Golf Tournament Memorial Fund we had a great turnout of young skiers. Nearly every skier had positive comments on the event. Congratulations to all the volunteers on another successful Loppet.

Awards:

Joey Doucet Distance Award (Male):

Dr. Kris 1224.49Km

Joey Doucet Distance Award (Female):

Dr. Paula Keating 1040Km

Bunny Dempsey 1000Km club Award:

Steve Chipman 1046

Alexandre Comeau 1003

Dr. Paula Keating 500Km Award (Youth):

Alexandre Comeau 1003