

## **BioSki Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Club**

### **Annual Report 2022/23**

As I prepare this annual report it is with some sadness and a great deal of pride. I have finished my term as Chair of the BioSki Board and while I will remain supportive for a year in the Past President position, and an avid skier at the BioSki, my leadership role is coming to a close.

It has been a real pleasure to work with such an enthusiastic and competent group of individuals who have committed themselves to the work required to ensure that the ski club remains vibrant and successful.

If you skied even once last year you know that BioSki offers one of the most enjoyable winter experiences in our community!

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in March really said it all. If you have not watched the video, please do so at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8o3v2pXEio&t=24s>

Our history is well documented, and the joy of the participants should make us all proud!

We continued our work guided by the Strategic Plan.

On maintaining and improving the current system Damien Duff reports that by October of 2023 we were celebrating and thanking 14 different volunteers who spent some 306 hours spreading 6 loads or 37 tons of wood chips in the ongoing plan to rehab our ski trails. Some 2.35kms of trail work was completed.

In July, 10 volunteers spent 163 combined hours completing the last half of the Redwing Wetland Loop. In addition, the Perch Lake Loop was revamped and the downhill section, long a challenge for some skiers, should be much improved this winter for skiing.

In September, a further 143 volunteer hours, also utilizing 10 volunteers, was undertaken on the Orange and Red trails between Gulley Junction and 4 Corners (Blueberry Hill section) and, as well, on the 6.5km loop between Turnaround Junction and Three-Corner Junction (Black and Blue Trails).

Lastly, almost all trails have already been brushed out leaving a minor amount of work remaining before the snow flies. Last year the trails were groomed 43 times in comparison to 20 events in most years. Bring it on! We are ready!

The excellent efforts of the trail maintenance and groomer team including the very hard-working volunteers really is key to our enjoyment of the trails.

On maintaining and growing the membership last year Ursula Sauve reports that the Social Committee, in addition to creating pleasant events for current members, focused on attracting new skiers and in particular ski families. We still had to restrict indoor activities due to Covid and therefore focused on Outdoor events.

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In December about 50 people enjoyed a “Christmas on the Trails” hike. A dozen volunteers used Christmas ornaments to decorate trees along the Chickadee Trail. All ornaments were collected in mid-January. We used this and subsequent events to apply successfully for the “Grow the Sport” \$250.00 grant.

In January, as an alternate to our potluck supper we experienced a spectacular full moon ski/snowshoe/walk event. A great crowd enjoyed the evening under ideal conditions. As well in January we celebrated the official opening of our new snowshoe trail up to Mount Ramsey, followed again by a reception of hot chocolate and cookies.

On February 20th we celebrated Family Day with free skiing.

On March 4th, 2023 BioSki celebrated its 50th anniversary. The event was emceed by Paul Sauvé and attended by many longtime and new members as well as local politicians. Founding members Gerard Courtin and Peter Beckett were two of several speakers and Evan Hoar piped the skiers to the trail head. A drone video was prepared by Richard Munn. A special gold Ski Pin will certainly become popular collector’s item.

We continue to use print and social media to encourage new membership. 260 new pamphlets were distributed to all sports stores, the libraries and at Rainbow Routes events. Facebook continues to be a great communication tool with over 1000 followers and many regular posts throughout the year. We also have a following on Instagram.

Last year’s successful social events were possible as a result of the effort, commitment, and dedication of a wonderful group of volunteers to whom we offer our deepest thanks.

As per our strategic plan, the natural surroundings and impacts of climate change remain central to any long-term planning for change we consider.

Volunteers and participants are the life blood of our club. Many thanks to my fellow Board Members for their support and hard work. Chalet volunteers, the trail maintenance team and the groomers, and event organizers deserve more kudos than you can put on paper, but I know that you do this work because you love this place.

Thanks to Conservation Sudbury for their partnership and to our financial donors for your support.

Special thanks to you the members – please keep skiing and snowshoeing. Your enjoyment makes our efforts worth it. It has been my pleasure to serve!

Janet Gasparini  
President

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