



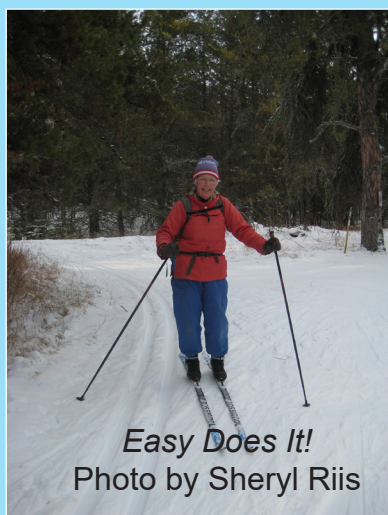
# Kivitski

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SASKATOON NORDIC SKI CLUB

[www.saskatoonnordicski.ca](http://www.saskatoonnordicski.ca)

January 2021

## Best Memories of an Early Skiing Season



*Easy Does It!*  
Photo by Sheryl Riis



*Young and fearless HiPer Skiers*  
Photo by Dan Brisbin



*Victim to the wind*  
Photo by Jana Hambleton



*Taking the Family*  
Photo by Sheryl Riis



*Devoted Instructor with a smile*  
Photo by Kate Germin



*Photo op*  
by Kate Germin

## SASKATOON NORDIC SKI CLUB PERSONNEL

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**Vice-President**  
Ivan English

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Kate Germin

**Communications**  
Vacant

**Touring & Hiking**  
Sheryl Riis

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**Junior HiPer**  
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Jan Sedgewick

**Equipment Manager**  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gail Motsi



Nice to see all of the people out on the trails this season! And our groomers are doing a great job keeping them in shape despite the increased usage. Membership numbers have reached a record high of about 1,100 this year so I welcome all of the new members to the Club. Your support helps us maintain and fuel our grooming equipment and volunteers provide the labour.

Volunteers have also set snowshoe trails at Eb's Trails which can be accessed from the South or North huts or parking lots – try them out!

Youth lessons and high performance training are now in full swing with adaptations to the new COVID restrictions. The blind skiers continue to meet and I thank the volunteers who stepped forward to act as guides.

Sadly we are not able to offer our Ski At School program this year, but are pleased to announce the advent of night skiing at Gordie Howe Sports Complex with support from a Take It Outside Grant from the City of Saskatoon. Provincial loppets are also on hold, but I would encourage you to try out the ski trails in other communities such as Humboldt and Prince Albert.

Stay safe and stay active!

### Hey Saskatoon!

The SNSC is thrilled to announce that through the Take it Outside Grant offered by the City of Saskatoon, we are able to offer a public winter night skiing program at the new cross country ski trails established at the Gordie Howe Sports Complex. There are 1 km of trails and ski playgrounds that will be illuminated for public use each week on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings from twilight to 10 pm January 8 - March 6, 2021, and during the holiday period from December 24, 2020 - January 4, 2021. The trails are accessed from the Holiday Park Golf Course parking lot and are directly north of the parking lot – both classic and skate trails are available. Please respect physical distancing requirements while enjoying the ski trails. Enjoy this amazing winter!

Hi Everyone,

Attached is a Facebook link on the trails for MWC 2022 in Canmore.

<https://www.facebook.com/244356968920464/posts/3701122879910505/>

Kathy and Robin Butler



# SASK LOTTERIES

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**Kate Germin** – It has been a very busy ski season for Eb's Trails. Thank you to all for abiding by COVID-19 Provincial guidelines to keep us all safe. Due to the pandemic, folks seem to want to be outside where they can be well distanced and having fun. The parking lots have been full to overflowing. Since we had a good amount of snow early in November, our trails have been superb.

This year the SNSC has welcomed snowshoe enthusiasts to join our Club and snowshoe trails have been set, mapped and signed. This is a work in progress. We are working towards educating all trail users to please refrain from snowshoeing or walking along or beside the set classics tracks. It is a big beautiful forest with lots of room for man-powered sports to coexist, without stepping on each other's toes, oops I mean trails. There are four snowshoe loops set from the North lot and two from the South lot. We are working to set a snowshoe trail connecting the two huts. We are also working at incorporating the snowshoe trail heads on the maps at each parking lot.

Skiers, please help to welcome snowshoers!



**DOGS** Please do not bring your dogs on either the ski trails or the snowshoe trails. There are many reasons for this. Most importantly, this is a delicate wildlife ecosystem. The chances of negatively disturbing the wildlife is exponential if dogs are present. Dogs are dangerous on the ski trails and there are several intersections of ski and snowshoe trails. Fast skiers do

not expect a free running dog to be on their path and a collision could be very harmful to man and beast. We respectfully request full cooperation along these lines!

## **TWO INCIDENTS**

1. A couple young fellows were found shooting rifles from the South hut door step on Christmas Eve Day. The parking lot was full and there were many skiers on the trails. The RCMP gave them direction as to safe places to target practice in our province. If you see people with firearms on the trails please notify the SNSC Executive or the PA RCMP immediately. Contact SNSC via the web.



Folks drove in towards the North hut with an SUV on January 2nd. They were stuck in deep snow at the bottom of the hill. No one knows what their intentions were but they sure made a mess of our trails. Volunteers have shoveled the deep ruts in to make it safe to ski. Hopefully the next grooming will cover the mess.

## **SOUTH FIREPIT**

Volunteers set up firewood in October that we thought would last the winter. Since we cannot use the indoor huts due to the pandemic, we put the firepit ring in place. All the winter's wood was burned up by early January. The pile has

been replenished by volunteers. We ask that folks be frugal with the use of wood and size of fires. Hopefully this new supply of wood will last for the rest of the season. Thank you to Barton's Sawmill at MacDowall for donating this new wood supply.

We are very thankful to the groomers, the groomer rescuers (there have been a few breakdowns), the hut and biffy care givers, the wood gatherers, the snowshoe trail blazers, the snow shovelers and all of the folks with happy smiling faces on our trails.

## **SNOWSHOEING** – Glen Grismer

I'm pleased to report we have flagged several trails at the north lot and shelter. These trails vary in length and challenges but all are interesting with diverse terrain and potential winter wildlife sightings. The snowshoe trails only cross ski trails at two locations that are well marked. We have met several snowshoers and one young man hiking the trails, all very positive. Thanks, Kate, for signs, and thanks Matt Spiers and Sandra Grismer for help flagging and clearing. We'll check the trails regularly and hope to hear if there are concerns or suggestions. Thank you to Ralph Bock for setting the snowshoe trails from the south lot. Trails are mapped on Gaia.



# Advertisement

Consign and buy high quality gently used outdoor gear and clothing at Life Outside Gear Exchange. We are Saskatoon's newest consignment shop, for adults and kids. Come consign with us. Find out more details at [www.lifeoutsidegx.com](http://www.lifeoutsidegx.com). Happy ski trails to you in 2021! Matt Johnson and Nancy Broten from Life Outside!

106-120 Sonnenschein Way,  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S,  
7M0W2, Treaty 6 Territory



Kinder Shuttles work great for towing in snow - on paths, snowshoeing, or cross country ski tracks. Pull your kids or your gear. They are available in blue, red, yellow and green - for rent at Life Outside Gear Exchange here in Saskatoon. Call or text 306-371-3690 to book

## SUNDAY SKI TOURS WINTER 2021 – Update

By Sheryl Riis, Touring Co-ordinator

### Happy New Year!

We were fortunate to get lots of beautiful snow on November 8th, and thankfully, it has stayed. I have never seen the city trails or Eb's Trails so full. Cross-country skiing has been such a great way to keep physically, psychologically, and socially healthy during this pandemic. I am so very grateful to everyone who helps keep our trails maintained!

Carpooling is not recommended, unless you are in the same "bubble," of people that you can also safely hug. Otherwise, drive separately, and follow the recommended health guidelines, regarding wearing masks, and maintaining a two metre distance.

Arriving at about 11 a.m., on a Sunday, at the Eb's Trails parking lots may give you options to buddy-up with other skiers... at a distance, for safety and companionship.

Please do not use the huts, and help keep the bathrooms clean. Volunteers are graciously maintaining them and keeping us supplied with toilet paper.

There is a fire pit and wood at the south hut.

Downhill skiers have the right-of-way. Please step off the trail, say hi, from a distance, preferably with a big smile,

and then turn to face the forest to let them pass. Carry a mask, in case you need to help someone along the trail.

Please sign up for the **New Google Group** in order to connect with others. It is replacing the Yahoo Groups, which are no longer supported. So far it seems to be easy to sign up, login, send a New Topic, and receive messages, in your email.

<https://groups.io/g/SNSC-Touring>

Have fun connecting for skiing, in the city, at Eb's Trails, or other ski trips!

Wishing you a safe and healthy 2021!!!



Sheryl 306-382-9462

**KIVILSKI**



## HIPER HAPPENINGS ..... EARLY WINTER 2020 BY Dan Brisbin

High Performance skiing in Saskatoon smiled at the onset of winter in early November with the HiPer Training team going from running the sand hills at Cranberry Flats, to rollerski agility races at the University then directly onto snow. Wonderful transition for a not so wonderful year. Excellent dryland training year, but as the saying goes, “all dressed up with no place to go”, with all races and events being cancelled. The HiPer Training team did however keep plugging along with regular workouts during the week and maintained training towards a season of “virtual” racing.

The Grapefruit Cup started in December with the first two races of the series but brought in “virtually” and put out as a challenge to the rest of the province. VGC1 (virtual Grapefruit Cup1) saw over 120 participants from across the province. Check out the results at <http://saskatoonhiper.weebly.com>

Below is the original email sent out to the province.

*Hello Provincial skiers*

*A challenge to all you racers out there. With the Covid19 environment we now “temporarily” live in, it is difficult to get out and do what we love to do .... Ski race! (as a group that is) We can, however, keep the adventure going but do it on our own, and “just for fun” compare with what everyone else is doing.*

*The Challenge:*

*Saskatoon Hiper is keeping the Grapefruit Cup series alive (see VGC write-up below) and we invite everyone else to find some lonely stretch of trail, measure it out, ski hard, and join in the fun.*

*Check the GC schedule for the type of time trial (skate or classic) and on the days of the event go out and ski a “distance equivalent” course and send your results to me. Don’t worry if your course has less hills or more hills, or whatever, as the point is to do your own thing and look at the list to see how you stackup (in general) against others around the province. There are no race winners or losers, just a bunch of racers hitting their trails, going hard, and seeing how you stack up.*

*Nothing special to do other than read the rules below (pretty simple) and send your results to me at:*

*HiperGC@gmail.com*

*All submissions will be tabulated and posted to our website: (the website also contains details on our race series and program)*

*<http://saskatoonhiper.weebly.com/grapefruit-cup.html>*



*I will be posting info for each race to our FaceBook page .... Just in case I change something ☺.*

*Like us on Facebook at Hiper Grapefruit Cup*



For 2021 the VGC will continue every Tuesday or Wednesday throughout the winter.

The HiPer training team will continue meeting throughout the year with activities Tuesdays, Thursdays, and most weekends, as posted on the Hiper Training Facebook page.

Dan



## YOUTH PROGRAM by Jana Hambleton

What a fantastic start to the season for the Saskatoon Nordic Ski Club's youth programs. Our lessons are all up and running and we have over 200 youth participants enrolled this year! An early snowfall, wonderful winter temperatures, and plenty of sunshine have added to the joy of getting out on the trails.

This season the youth programs have made the switch over to our new home at the Gordie Howe Sports Complex in Holiday Park. Lessons are being held Sunday afternoons and Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Everyone is really enjoying the lit trails, the grids in the ball diamonds, the terrain hills, the exciting 3km hill loop and the Golf Course loop. Having the skating oval right beside us also adds to the winter wonderland ambience.

We are so grateful to have such an exceptional coaching team that are working hard to keep our program safely running while helping our youth develop their skills, improve their fitness, have fun and create a love for the outdoors. Thank you coaches!!!

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we have implemented the following measures to keep our program safe:

- Smaller lesson size
- Mandatory masks
- No shared equipment
- No indoor snack time following lessons
- Reminders to physically distance
- A Covid-19 health screen before each lesson



With the ongoing construction at our new home, you may notice some changes to the trail routings to accommodate the workers. The new building is progressing and we are looking forward to having a heated indoor space, washrooms and access to storage facilities next season!

Our youth program registration is closed for the current season. But it is never too early to plan for the next season. Registration for our youth programs typically opens in late October, mark your calendars! The Saskatoon Nordic Ski Club delivers the Nordiq Canada's Skill development program. Please visit our website for more information on these programs. <http://www.saskatoonnordicski.ca/youth/youth-ski-lessons>

A note to all skiers that during lesson hours (Sunday 3:00-4:30 pm, Wed and Thur 6:15-7:30 pm), the ball field area will be very busy. For everyone's safety and enjoyment, it would be great if you can try to avoid skiing in this area during these times.

Our wonderful coaches are the people who make this program possible. If you are interested in helping as a coach or assistant coach please contact [youth@saskatoonnordicski.ca](mailto:youth@saskatoonnordicski.ca) for more information.

Lastly, but certainly not least, a big thank you to the grooming team that make our trails so exceptional! They have put in countless volunteer hours to develop the trail system for the lessons. We are really enjoying them and grateful for all this hard work!

## BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED SKIERS REPORT by Stan Windels

Hello from the Blind Skiers,

We have been skiing since the Saturday after the first snowstorm last November. Thanks to our social media public relations person, Jola Kedra, putting out a plea on Facebook, we now have a few new guides and spare guides from the Nordic Ski Club.

I had my first ski of the season with one of these new guides. He actually came up through your jackrabbits program. I had good beginner success at Wildwood golf course, and hope it continues.

Why not come out and join us at Wildwood on Saturdays at 10 AM just for a pleasant ski? Hope to see you there.



The Blind Skiers wish to thank Saskatoon CO-OP for their continued financial support.



## FACILITIES COMMITTEE By Ivan English & and Geoff Meinert

Hello Ski Club members,

It's hard to believe that it's January! We have had some of the best skiing in memory, thanks to the early snow in November, nice weather and fantastic groomed trails. Undoubtedly you have seen the large increase in interest in Cross Country Skiing when out on the trails.

The trails at Eb's Trails, Kinsman Park, Wildwood Golf Course and at Holiday Park (hill loop and baseball loop) are set and maintained by our dedicated volunteers. Your membership helps the Club with purchasing and maintaining equipment to provide the best trails possible. Our groomers have stepped up to increase their typical grooming schedule because of the increase in trail use. This ensures that trails are not icy and a nice classic track can always be found. New this year is that we've added two classic tracks on most trails in the city, allowing skiers to be socially distanced even with the large increase in people skiing.

While the Club has a dedicated group of volunteers who groom the trails, typically in the morning or evening, they are always looking for more help. If you are interested in helping groom please contact the Club at [info@saskatoonnordic.ca](mailto:info@saskatoonnordic.ca). There will be an upcoming grooming day to showcase the grooming equipment and allow interested members to try their skills at grooming. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for more details!

Many of you are also aware that the shared facility at Gordie Howe is still under construction, but that the trails at this site and Holiday Park Golf Course are groomed and being used for our youth programs. The lights at the GHSC are on every evening until early March thanks to the Take It Outside grant received from the City of Saskatoon for members and public alike. The gate to the Clarence Downey Speed Skating Oval parking lot will be open during Jackrabbit lesson times to access the bathrooms and warm up shelter if needed and can be accessed by the short trail starting near the timing hut on the north end of the ball fields loop. Numbers are limited to 15 people at a time and typical pandemic guidelines including masking and health screening apply.

A special thanks goes out to Brian Anderson, Adrien Blais, and the rest of their crew for repairing the Kinsmen park trails after a large water main break this winter.

Geoff and Ivan



*A special Thank You*

goes to Cody Watts (and family)  
for jumping in when equipment failure  
occures at Eb's!