

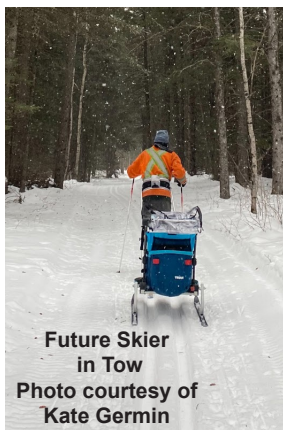


Kivitski

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SASKATOON NORDIC SKI CLUB

www.saskatoonnordicski.ca

April 2021



Future Skier
in Tow
Photo courtesy of
Kate Germin



Blind Skiers with new guides!
Photo courtesy of Joanne Ferguson



by Kate



Never too young to strap on
the boards
Photo courtesy of Kate
Germin



Snow Shoers resting at the hut
Photo Courtesy of Kate Germin

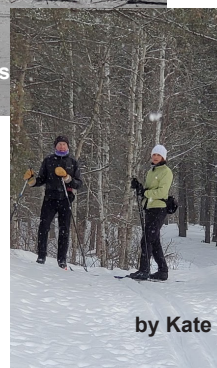


Adult Lessons at night
Photo courtesy of Bruce Simms



by Kate

Winter of
2020/21
We all had
FUN



by Kate



by Jana



by Kate



Jackrabbits or all DUCKS in a row? Photo courtesy
of Jana Hambleton

SASKATOON NORDIC SKI CLUB PERSONNEL

President
Gail Motsi

Past President
Lane Zabolotney

Vice-President
Ivan English

Secretary
Susan Wall

Treasurer
Brian Suderman

Bookkeeper
Nancy Howse

Membership
Jeff Thorpe

Youth Programs
Geoff Meinert

Eb's Trails
Kate Germin

Communications
Vacant

Touring & Hiking
Sheryl Riis

Instruction/Competition
Bruce Simms

Junior HiPer
Alison and Geoff Meinert

Ski-at-School
Jan Sedgewick

Equipment Manager
Brian Anderson

Blind and Visually Impaired
Joanne Ferguson

Member-at-Large
Vacant

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gail Motsi



What a great ski season we had this year in terms of weather, snow conditions and participation! We have a record number of members, about 1,250, and lots of new skiers to welcome to our community. Skiing started early and didn't last as long this year as last year, but I got out skiing more than I have in the past and I heard the same from members and the public at large. For the first time this year, I went night skiing – at Gordie Howe Sports Complex ski playground thanks to the City's Take It Outside Grant that kept the lights on until 10 p.m. most evenings; on neighbouring Holiday Park Golf Course on cloudy evenings; and for a full moon ski at Wildwood.

Our youth and adult courses were fully subscribed. Thanks to the program managers and instructors who made the changes necessary to continue operating despite COVID-19 restrictions, and to Sask Sport, funded by the federal government, for the COVID-19 emergency support funding that enabled us to purchase an app for contact tracing.

Our high-performance teams also

continued training and competing virtually, so thanks to their coaches as well. You may have noticed the markers set out at Holiday Park and Wildwood for the virtual races. Because of savings in the high performance program without regional, provincial and national travel and competitions, Cross Country Saskatchewan has allocated additional funding to clubs for the purchase of new equipment. The Saskatoon Nordic Ski Club has applied for funding for two new snowmobiles and grooming, trail maintenance and training equipment.

While the Ski At School (SAS) program could not be delivered this year, the City allowed us to use the Winter City grant awarded to SAS to fund increased and enhanced grooming and access to equipment. Some of the skis, boots and poles that the Club owns were loaned to youth wanting to take lessons but unable to purchase equipment, in exchange for a donation to the SAS program.

Now it's time to put the skis away and take out the bicycles, golf clubs, canoes or camping equipment – whatever you do outdoors in the summer. See you again on the trails next season. Our Annual General Meeting will be held in October, so look for a notice in your inbox.



SASK LOTTERIES

KIVILSKI

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Jeff Thorpe

In 2020-2021, cross-country skiing surged in popularity, providing a safe recreational activity at a time when other activities were cancelled. For the Nordic Ski Club, this resulted in an extraordinary increase in membership, to 1,251 members. This was much higher than any previous year, and almost double the numbers from the two preceding years:

YEAR	# OF PEOPLE
2015-2016	745
2016-2017	674
2017-2018	722
2018-2019	650
2019-2020	654
2020-2021	1,251

Many registrants also expressed their appreciation for the club by providing a donation in addition to their membership fees. Donations this year amounted to \$7,992, also much higher than in previous years. Most of these donations were directed to grooming ski trails in the city, and to maintenance and grooming at Eb's Trails.

As in other years, most people joined as part of a family membership. Here is how registrants were distributed among different types of membership:

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP	# OF PEOPLE
Single adult membership	357
Single youth membership	73
Family membership	821
TOTAL	1,251

The current membership database will close on May 31, 2021. The database for next year will open in September of 2021. We will put a notice on the club website when the new system is open for registration. A reminder to parents hoping to register their children in youth instruction next year: classes fill up quickly, so get your registration in as soon as possible in September.

SNSC GROOMING AND YOUR MEMBERSHIP



Figure 1 Eb's Trails

The foundation for all of SNSC's programs (adult and youth instruction, high-performance training and competitions, blind skiers, Ski At School and similar introductory outreach, touring) is the grooming of trails in and outside of the city. The Club grooms about 64 kms of ski trails at four locations – Kinsmen Park, Wildwood Golf Course, Holiday Park Golf Course (hilly loop) and neighbouring

Gordie Howe Sports Complex (GHSC), and Eb's Trails near Duck Lake. These trails are also accessible to the general public – estimated at more than 25,000 in Saskatoon this past season.



Figure 2 Groomed City Trails

The equipment, fuel, and maintenance of our grooming equipment is paid for by the Club, primarily from its membership fees. The labour is provided entirely by Club volunteers. This year, expenses and effort

increased dramatically because of the need to groom more frequently and more intensively – for example, with the addition of double classic tracks for most trails in the city to promote social distancing. To make grooming more efficient, we purchased two Tidd Teck renovators this year with support from the City of Saskatoon's Winter City grant.

The Club currently has six snowmobiles but a couple of them are getting old, require more maintenance, and need replacement. With our increase in membership revenue, we are proposing to purchase two new snowmobiles for the next season. We have applied for support from Cross Country Saskatchewan, our provincial sports body, to offset

up to 50% of the cost of this new equipment. We garner this support based on our membership numbers – we are the largest ski club in the province.



Figure 3 2017 Can Am Defender UTV

With regular grooming even on holidays and weekends, in icy or low-

snow conditions, cross country skiers in Saskatoon recognize the dedication our volunteer groomers have in maintaining trails, often grooming daily when conditions require it. Our groomers this past season have logged approximately 1,300 hours, up from approximately 750 hrs last year. More members volunteered to groom this season. We thank all of the groomers for their dedication: Ken



Figure 4 Ken English Grooming

English, Rob Klenz, Scott McGibney, John McLean and Dan Beveridge at Holiday Park/GHSC; Trevor Robinson, Vince Martignetti, Lori Mack, Kristi Fedoroff, Richard Koch, Daryl Sexsmith and Roger Lee at Wildwood; Adriene Blais and Jamieson Fitzgerald at Kinsmen Park, and Randy Chapman, Lorne Duczek and Kate Germin at Eb's Trails. Brian Anderson is our Equipment Manager who keeps all of the machines in running order.

Please consider renewing your membership next year so that the Club and its volunteers can continue to provide a stellar cross-country ski experience for our members and the general public.

Cross-Country Ski Park at the Gordie Howe Sport Complex

Thanks to dedicated and incredibly generous volunteers and donors in our community, the vision of a Cross-Country Ski Park at the Gordie Howe Sports Complex is becoming a reality!

Featuring groomed, lighted ski trails, a training grid and ski hills through Glenn Reeve Fields, the spectacular winter park connects to Holiday Park Golf Course, and will be providing over 15 km of well groomed trails.

The new, long-awaited Multisport Centre will be ready to welcome skiers next season! Providing an ideal home for cross-country skiing in Saskatoon, the 20,000sq.ft. modern, energy efficient building will be shared with speed skating in the winter, along with baseball and track and field in the summer months.

Skiers of every age, level and ability, their families and spectators will appreciate the indoor warm-up and gathering space, public washrooms, change rooms, multipurpose meeting space, secure ski storage, access to first aid, concession and much more!

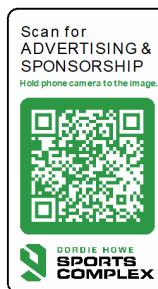
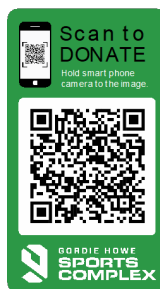
JOIN THE FAMILY!

YOU can be a part of this incredible legacy and help complete this vision for our community.

Make a donation, name a seat or ski rack, sponsor a trail or a hill!

To learn more, scan one of the available QR codes, visit gordiehowesportscomplex.ca, email foundation@gordiehowesportscomplex.ca or phone Angela at (306) 321-7557 for more information.

#WeAreFamily #PrideOfHome



Kate says:

"For a donation per seat you could do a remembrance of a loved one like I have done for my dad!"

I always have a sense of sadness as the snow melts and the ski season comes to an end. We were fortunate to have a big dump of snow in early November, because there was very little snowfall after that. That November snow gave us a good base that lasted all season. Trail Maintenance is ongoing through the summers as some members walk the trails trimming low branches and cutting back the brush that invades from the sides each year. Clearing begins in earnest mid-August and takes 8 to 10 trips into Sept, October. Mowing takes several trips towards the end of October. Areas between sloughs are 'mowed' with hand scythes because our machinery can't drive in. Once we started setting track this season, we groomed the full trail system 9 times. There were many smiling faces on the trails this year.

COVID-19 kept us from hosting Eb's Day in Feb and kept the larger bus groups from making a day of it on our trails. The pandemic had people wanting to be out and enjoying nature so our parking lots were full to overflowing many weekends. All in all it was a great ski season. It just ended a bit too soon this year, since there have been years we could ski into early April.

Although the Club would sure benefit from your kind donations to our wonderful new clubhouse and lighted trail system that will be at the Gordie Howe/Holiday Park area, there is a major project that we are looking at for this summer at Eb's Trails. The

outhouses are getting full and may need to be moved. We will try to have them flushed out and evacuated, like a septic tank, by a local contractor. The contractor says he has never tried this with an outhouse before. If this does not work we need to relocate them. Either way, it is going to cost more than we have in the Eb's budget for this year, so if you wish to donate some to the job it would be greatly appreciated. Any amount will help. For a tax donation receipt please go to the National Sport Trust Fund website. You must remember to find 'Saskatoon Nordic Ski Club Eb's Trails (SK:13:009)' in the drop down so you know you donate to this specific project. The link can be found on our website or <https://secure11.securewebexchange.com/sasksport.sk.ca/NSTF.html>

If you have experience/knowledge of relocating an outhouse and would like to help or advise please let us know at - eb@saskatoonnordicski.ca

This season our Club initiated the development of designated snowshoe trails. A big thank-you to Glen and Sandra Grismer for setting the trails from the north parking lot area and to Ralph Bock for setting the ones from the south parking lot area. See Glen's report.

Snowshoeing at Eb's

Sad to see the snow gone but what a great winter. Sandra and I have snowshoed at Eb's Trails for years and usually found only our own



tracks in the forest. This year we were excited to flag trails and even more excited to get positive response from many users. We provided over 13 km. of trail through diverse terrain with some interesting challenges (especially when icy this spring), and only crossed ski trails in two locations. I believe there were very few incidents of ski trail damage and I am pleased to report that the skiers did little or no damage to the snowshoe trails!

We are pondering doing a better job marking the trails, perhaps using standard marking and exploring year-around use. There are a few places where we missed great scenic opportunities and can make some adjustments for next winter. Anyway, thanks to all who helped and provided feedback. We had fun and hope you did too. Looking forward to post-COVID fall hikes!

Oh yah, we might think of better names for the trails!

ADULT INSTRUCTION UPDATE By Bruce Simms – brucesimms@sasktel.net

Instructors Rob Howse, Cliff Speers and Bruce Simms taught four LEARN TO CLASSIC SKI COURSES, one BEGINNER SKATE SKI COURSE and an INTERMEDIATE CLASSIC. This was an incredible and a fun season for the

club and adult instruction. We added an additional LEARN TO CLASSIC SKI COURSE, but there was no way we could keep up with demand. The early season snowfall, favourable temperatures, and the need of many

for outdoor recreation combined to make lessons more popular than ever. Instructors also taught private and semi-private lessons in both techniques, clinics, Special Olympians, and learn to ski courses for several

community associations who had groomed neighbourhood ski trails. Students came from a wide variety of ski and athletic backgrounds and were of all ages. Private lessons can be an excellent choice for some as they are tailored to the individual's or small group's abilities and interests. Xcountry is for all.

While COVID restrictions threatened to shut group lessons down, we appealed to the province and thankfully obtained permission to proceed. Unsurprisingly, we did not utilize any indoor space. With so many activities unavailable, we took it as our mission to get as many people on skis as possible. Better technique makes for more fun, productive outings, safety, and an increased likelihood of being a lifelong skiing enthusiast. With the unprecedented

demand, there sadly were not anywhere near enough skis available for either purchase or rental. This impacted lessons. With all the older and mismatched ski gear showing up, gear checks and discussion of gear and waxing took on increasing importance for instructors. Alpine poles do not work for xcountry! While it's wonderful for all when students show up with professionally fitted skin skis, instructors should always have wax and a cork to give a helping hand when needed.

Instructors utilized both Kinsmen and Gordie Howe. I found the wide trails, layout, bunny hills and bright lights at Gordie Howe to be great for instruction. We have taught effectively at Kinsmen for many years. We utilize training grids extensively to teach classic. I am considering adding

an intermediate skate course next season. The warmer temperatures were favourable for skating.

We encourage skiers to challenge themselves and learn skate after gaining some proficiency in classic. Adds to the fun and fitness factors. No worries, skate lessons include lots of balance and weight shift drills to get you moving. There were many candles on my cake when I learned.

Those looking for more challenging or dog friendly skiing should try the new multi-sport trail system at the former Langham 9-hole golf course overlooking the North Saskatchewan. Riverridgenordic.com

As always, a big thank you to the trail groomers and other volunteers who make our sport possible. Enjoy your summer fitness activities.

YOUTH PROGRAM by Jana Hambleton

The 2020/2021 jackrabbit program came to an end on March 18/2021 and what a bittersweet moment it was! It is always refreshing and renewing to welcome a new season, but we had such a fun winter it certainly was sad to see it come to an end!

We have lots to be thankful for looking back at this winter, especially in such a different and challenging year! We started with a lot of unknowns due to the pandemic, but thanks to an early and plentiful snowfall and the green light to go ahead with outdoor lessons we were able to get the level 3/4 lessons up and running in November! We had to make a few adjustments along the way with lessons as the provincial COVID recommendations came out, but we were still able to carry on and the younger levels and Youth Learn to Ski were able to

start up in January.

The typical Saskatchewan 'cold snap' came along in February and we had to miss a few sessions, but everyone was eager to get back onto skis and we were able to stay on the trails until mid March!

The participants enjoyed a couple fun days of COVID friendly activities, the annual 50 m time trials, and of course the final 'dress in costume' day! I witnessed endless smiling eyes during lessons this season and it was very refreshing to be able to carry on with a normal winter activity! I could see that it brought great joy to many.

Hopefully many 'New to Nordic skiing' caught the ski bug and will be hooked. We hope the program will continue to thrive and grow in the upcoming seasons. We had a successful first season at our

new home at the Gordie Howe Sports Complex and Holiday Park Golf Course. Next year we are looking forward to having access to the new indoor facility, indoor washrooms, and storage for the club equipment.

We are also looking at offering a few new classes next season. A class for skiers who have completed jackrabbits level 4, but may not be interested or ready to join the HiPer training group. We are also looking at increasing our Youth Learn to Ski if the interest remains high next season.

Remember that due to the pandemic, ski equipment is not easy to come by! It is good advice to have an idea of what you will need for next season and if you need to look for new gear, consider starting the hunt in August!

In order to offer more programming

and to continue with our regular levels we are always looking at recruiting more coaches! If you love to ski, you will likely love passing those skills along to the new skiers! Coach training is available, and the first introduction to Community Coaching is now an

online course. If you would like more information please do not hesitate to contact me at youth@saskatoonnordicski.ca.

A very special thank you must go out to both the coaches and the trail groomers for all the time they dedicated to making this season as

successful as it was!

I hope everyone gets out and enjoys everything our province has to offer in the 'off-season' and I look forward to seeing you on the snow!

SUNDAY SKI TOURS SPRING 2021 – Update By Sheryl Riis, Touring Co-ordinator 306-382-9462

I had the best skiing year of my entire life in 2020! Last year, I skied until April 11th, and then started skiing again, November 15th. It was a super year of great snow, and well-groomed trails, that continued, until March, 2021.

Thank-you to all the volunteers for their hard work maintaining the trails and the facilities. Also, thank-you to all the people I had lovely chats with, – at a safe distance. Sunday skiing has helped keep me feeling connected to others, as well as nature throughout this pandemic. Now, it's time to hike!

There are no organized hikes planned for the spring, but we can still get together, in our own safe "bubbles," to enjoy the hiking season. Please only carpool with people in your "bubble," whom you can safely hug. Otherwise, drive separately, and follow the recommended health guidelines, regarding wearing masks, and maintaining a two metre distance.

* Please do not hike on private property without permission. Also, refrain from picking wildflowers and plants. Pack out what you pack in, and take

as many photos as you would like of your adventures. There are so many great places to enjoy nature in Saskatchewan!

*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/SNSCTouring>

Have fun safely connecting, and hiking!!!

BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED SKIERS REPORT by Stanley Windels



The blind skiers have enjoyed almost 4 months of skiing this season, minus the 3 weeks when it was too cold to ski. Our last day of skiing was March 6, 2021. Since then we have been hiking on Saturdays at the Miwasin Trail, and will continue to do so until May 15, just before the long weekend. We meet between 9:45 and 10 AM, walk for about an hour, and then, if you bring a chair and a drink, you can join us for an outdoor socially distanced social after the walk. If anyone is interested in joining us as either a low vision walker or a volunteer guide, please contact Joanne at: joanne.ferguson@sasktel.net

We would like especially to thank the four new volunteer guides who came out this year. Some of us, including myself, would have had little or no skiing without them.

We certainly hope they can join us again next fall and winter.

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

We hope you all have a good summer and that we can all get out and ski again next winter.



First Loppet: A lesson I'll never forget! By



Nancy and I moved to Humboldt in autumn of 1978. Being new to cross country skiing, we were invited to join the

Carleton Trails¹ Ski Club. "No thanks", I cheerfully replied with a smile, thinking to myself, "I don't need to pay membership fees to an elite little club to enjoy my skis! They're 'cross-country' and I can go when I want, where I want!" Some time later, someone challenged me to enter the "Sask60" ski event at Duck Lake later that winter. "Sure, I'll do it!" I said. "It might not be pretty, but I'll do it!" I declared confidently. After all, I was 24 years old, 6 ft 1 inch tall, and I could run a five minute mile!² So my wife, Nancy and I both signed up and sent in our entry fees for a 60 km cross country ski marathon. Technically, the course was just 56 km, but what's a little four km anyway? So we were "on" for the Sask 60 event scheduled for February 24th, 1979.

On February 17th, we decided to get out for a little training run. Nancy and I put on our skis on the back edge of town and headed off across a flat field aiming for Waldsea Lake. For lunch, we sat on the leeward side of an old square granary watching the snow drift across the field. Then we resumed our journey. As the day wore on, we realized we weren't going to make Waldsea Lake and better turn around back for home. It got dark on us and we ended up cutting to a road and walking home in the dark. And that was the extent of our training!!!

The morning of Feb 24th, we were up about 4 am. It was a two hour drive to Duck Lake for an eight o'clock start time and we had to have breakfast and get organized. However, when we looked at the thermometer, we discovered it was about -35 C degrees!³ Well, it will be cancelled, we thought. Since we were up anyway, we ate breakfast and listened to CBC radio for event cancellation announcements. Not hearing anything, we decided we'd better go and see if anyone showed up. We drove up to the Duck Lake hall just minutes after eight o'clock. The hall was fairly empty except for the volunteers who registered us quickly and told us there were about 800 skiers already out on the trail!!! We grabbed our skis, ran across the road to the start area. A mother and her little kid were just a hundred yards down the trail. Ahead was a long line of skiers that disappeared into the bush in the distance, against the dawn sunrise. We set off, anxious to "catch" as many as possible. As I started catching skiers, I found I had to ski in the untracked deep snow to pass them since the track was full of an unbroken line of skiers! When I got too tired to continue in the deep snow, I'd look for an opportunity to get back into the track and ski along slowly behind the skiers ahead of me till I got too impatient. Then I'd abandon my spot in track to see how many more I could pass by going by in the deep snow. This of course, got progressively harder as I started to catch up to the better skiers.

Eventually, despite the cold, I was dripping in sweat from all the hard work I was doing! I had to step off to the side and remove my jacket and tie it around my waist and unbutton my next layer. The frustrating part of this was a whole bunch of skiers I had worked so hard to pass now

skied past me again while I was doing this. This just made me all the more determined, and I worked harder than ever! At one point, I stopped again for a little high energy "gorp" (good old raisins and peanuts) which I had the good sense to carry in my fanny pack. Unfortunately, I hadn't thought to carry any water to help wash it down, but no matter, the water probably would have just frozen anyway. I didn't stop long because skiers were continually skiing by me the whole time.

Eventually, I made it to Checkpoint #1. There was a fire going and a ring of bales to sit on and skiers were eating snacks and drinking warm drinks the checkpoint volunteers provided. This felt great and I rested on the bales by the fire for about 45 minutes. When I finally started out again, I found my body metabolism had slowed right down and I had to work super hard to get it going again before I froze up! And since I had spent so long at the checkpoint, I found I had again to pass many of the slower skiers all over again, some of them probably for the 3rd or 4th time! But eventually, I did make it to Checkpoint #2. I was a bit tired and I started to worry about Nancy. When she didn't show up after me waiting at the checkpoint for nearly an hour, I decided to ski "backwards" to check on her. Of course, this meant skiing in the deep snow again since the track was still pretty full of skiers coming toward me. Eventually, I saw Nancy and was very relieved she was doing fine; probably better than me! Feeling much better now that she was OK, I turned around again and set out to make up for all the lost time. You guessed it – this meant a bunch more skiing in the deep snow to pass. But at least this time, I got to ski some of it in a track– my track, from the skiing backwards! I skied back through

Checkpoint #2 and didn't even stop this time. I knew I still had a long way to go and by now, I had a lot of time to make up for!

I don't have as many vivid memories of the trail between Checkpoints 2 & 3, but I don't think I passed nearly as many people. I just remember being very thankful to finally see checkpoint #3. I got really close to the fire and tried to get warmed up. I think Checkpoint #3 was at 35 km, so I only had another 21 km farther to go. 21 km! I got up and started to go. "You OK?", the checkpoint volunteers asked. "Yup", I said, but barely out of the checkpoint, I was shivering and cramping and feeling generally weak, and I knew at that point, my odds of making the next checkpoint were not good. I had to face the truth. WAS DONE! I swallowed my pride and beat it back to the fire at Checkpoint #, and waited for the bus that would give me a ride back to Duck Lake.

Back at the hall at Duck Lake, I was relieved to find my Nancy. She had packed it in at Checkpoint #2. Thank

goodness I hadn't skied backwards from Checkpoint #3 to check on her again! On the hall blackboard were two names: R. Chapman and B. Laplante. After their names was a time: 3 hrs, 20 minutes. "What is that all about?" I asked someone. "Those were the first two finishers", I was told. "Well, how far did they go?", I asked. "The whole thing, 56 km"! At this point, I would have put down a \$100 bet they were pulling my leg! But that wasn't all. What really floored me was when I heard the Zwack family from PA had done the whole thing with their two boys, Ted and Lloyd, AGES eight and nine!

¹The Carleton Trails Ski Club is a wonderful vibrant club with a challenging set of ski trails north of Dixon. An old schoolhouse with south facing windows is a welcoming hub of activity for skiers coming and going. But we would have to wait a whole year later to discover all the club had to offer.

² Not to brag, but I ran in Provincials track & field, plus I was still fresh off

our honeymoon; a 10,600 km cross Canada bicycle trip. I was also the lead runner for the Prairie Ag Machinery Institute in the "Potash Pete" Relay event 3 years running and was never beaten. I remember before the start one year asking a particularly fast looking runner in track shoes how fast she ran the half mile. "2:05 in Provincials", she said. I beat her!

³We looked up the Farmer's Almanac historical weather for Feb 24th, '79. Saskatoon low: -32C, Prince Albert: -37C, with a mean temp of -25C! From Saskatoon, it is 148 km to Prince Albert, 90 km to Duck Lake, and 110 km to Eb's Trails South Parking Lot. The old Sask 60 left Duck Lake went around Adamson's Lake and through Eb's Trails from the north boundary out through the south and finished back at Hwy 11, 19 km back from Duck Lake. This would put the low temp Feb 24th at Duck Lake and Eb's trails at -35! This is what I remember, but I didn't want to exaggerate, so now I have the evidence!

REMEMBERING BILL BISHOPP BY Dan Brisbin

Saskatoon Nordic Ski Club has lost a long time participant, advocate, volunteer, advisor and friend. William Bishopp, known to us as "Bill", passed away on March 20th, 2021. Our thoughts are foremost with his wife, Renate, and his children and grandchildren; but also for ourselves – those who were privileged to have known him and who will miss him.

Bill was an advocate for our club. Not long after we moved to Saskatoon I remember Bill explaining to me that the trails we were enjoying in Kinsmen Park were groomed by club volunteers and that by joining the club we could support the ski trail grooming and other club programs. Some time later it was Bill that suggested that I volunteer for the



club executive, and once I became club president, Bill was a trusted advisor – particularly in passing on knowledge he gained during his time as club president on club governance and relationships with Cross Country Saskatchewan. Others have the same shared memory – of Bill as a friend, advisor and dedicated club member. Bill was an outdoor enthusiast and

participant. He skied and canoed; and he went the distance, participating in loppets, epic canoe trips and tropical fish collecting trips in Africa. He and Renate hosted club executive meetings in their home and during one of these I got to see his aquarium room and hear Bill talk about fish and collecting trips with the same passion that he talked about skiing. We get these windows into one another's lives and wish we'd taken the time to see and hear more. He was also a volunteer. In addition to his time on our club's executive, he volunteered at races and loppets and did the same for the Saskatoon Racing Canoe Club when his son, Chris, was competing. The online tributes to Bill reveal the rich variety of his life and interests outside of cross country skiing. He

was husband, father, grandfather, traveler, economics professor, a tropical fish breeder and member of the Saskatoon Aquarium Society, scout leader, canoeist and canoe club member and official, and he sang – as a member of both the Faith Lutheran Church choir and the Saskatoon Men's Chorus. He approached these with the same dedication and passion as he gave to cross country skiing and our club.

My best memory of Bill, a memory shared by others who posted tributes to him, was his eagerness to chat about skiing and our club when we met on the trails. He loved to ski and he loved to talk about skiing with his

friends. We will miss those trailside chats with Bill. Those who knew him are richer for the friendship and advice that he gave.

PS: Dan painted a beautiful picture of who Bill was and what made him happy: his many interests and hobbies. I would like to add one item as it comes to mind reading Rob Howse's article.

Bill and I had experienced X-country skiing in mountainous Colorado, in a more temperate climate. It seemed like the -52 F that first winter of 1971 dashed all hopes of taking up the sport. However, much to the amusement of the locals, we started skiing on 14th street and then proceeded to find "hills"

outside of the city. When Bill discovered the Nordic Ski Club and found out about the Sask 60, he and our nine year old son Chris decided to give it a try. And much like Rob they underestimated the rigor of the grueling distance, spent too much time at the warm up huts, had limited experience with waxing at Saskatchewan temperatures, and their sandwiches sat like lumps in their stomachs. I don't know who was more determined to finish, son or father, but after *nine* hours they finally limped into finish.

I would like to take this space to express my appreciation to all who reached out. Thanks for the memories!

Renate

Photo Gallery - thanks for the photos - Kate and Jana



Wildlife at Eb's?

Social distancing to keep the "Boys" from the "Girls!"

**Fun in Winter sun!
Bye for now!**

