

Kanata Nordic Ski Club Annual General Meeting

by Zoom Video Conference

Monday June 13, 2022

1. Welcome / Record attendees

Directors in attendance: Nigel Wallis (Pres.), Andrew Weekes (V.P.) , Jeff Pappin (Secretary), Marsha Kelly (Treasurer), Sunida Hurst (Membership), Gene Vigneron (Trails), John Clarke (Facilities), Heather Boswell (Teenskate), Heather McCulligh (Racing)

Absent with Regards: David Bentley (Past Pres.), Roger Colbeck (OWWT), Kathryn Anthonisen (Communications), Maureen Smith (Learn to Ski)

Members in attendance; Seppo Sahrakorpi, Ralph Quapp, Amy Thomas, Keomany Ker, Marlene Alt, Chris Teron, Robert Galdins, Harris Kirby, Scott Stephens, Heather Bentley, Theresa Kavanagh.

City of Ottawa Councillor Theresa Kavanagh said a few words about Kanata Nordic and the benefits the club has to offer. She thanked all the volunteers for their efforts this year.

2. Adoption of agenda / New business

Nigel tabled the AGM meeting agenda, the agenda was accepted on a motion by John Clarke and carried by consensus.

3. Review of AGM minutes of May 31, 2021

Minutes were accepted on a motion by Heather Bentley, Carried by consensus.

4. President's Report from Nigel Wallis

- 2021--22 was a big year for Kanata Nordic.
- Big increase in members (25%)
- Big increase in trail distance
- Big increase in equipment capabilities
- Return to Learn to Ski programs
- COVID restrictions fluctuated

2021--22 Year in Review: Summer

- Dryland training for the U14U14, , U16U16, and , and U18U18
- Our new Kubota--Mueller groomer arrived
- New executive was planning & partnering

2021--22 Year in Review: Autumn

- Racing continued, Teen Skate dryland started, & new Fit for Skiing program (Kathy Fischer) launched
- Ski swap in store through partnership with Kunststadt Sports
- Member discounts through Fresh Air Experience
- Fall trail prep for the biggest trail network we've ever had
- Registration launched with new ceiling of 2,000 members
- New KN ski wear (Jakroo) launched
- New KN spirit wear (Tuckgear) launched

2021--22 Year in Review: Winter

- Relaunch the Learn to Ski programs: Bunnyrabbit, Jack Rabbit, DynaRabbit & Master's
- Adult Touring program returned
- Biggest and Best year for Racing ever
- Relatively cold dry year with a few big snow events and one challenging ice storm
- Launched our first internal Fun Race event
- Brought back our community programs

2021--22 Year in Review: Spring & Summer.

- U12 Social Program launched
- U14//U16U16//U18U18/University Racers
- Facilities, partnership and planning underway

Thank You to Our Partners

- Wesley Clover Parks
- National Capital Commission
- XCSO
- City of Ottawa
- Urban Winter Trails Alliance
- Nordiq Canada

Thank You to Our Sponsors

- Kanata Nordic Sponsors
- Trailblazer Sponsor: Fresh Air Experience
- Kanata Nordic Racing Team Sponsor: Kunststadt Sports
- Ottawa West Winter Trail Sponsors
- OWWT Silver: Mackenzie, CIBC, Crystal Beach Lakeview Community Association
- OWWT Bronze: NCM Investments, Manulife

Thank you to our volunteers that are retiring from their duties as follows:

Heather McCulligh (Racing), Kathryn Anthonisen (Communications), John Clarke (Facilities), Cory Garlock (Sponsorship), Jim (previous racing), Harris Kirby (Pretzel, timing systems).

Kanata Nordic 2022 Member Survey (68 members participated).

Members rated Kanata Nordic 8.9 /10. See slide presentation for various statistics.

5. Membership Report from Sunida Hurst

- 2021-22 had 2,015 individuals over 798 membership accounts.
- Focusing on Ottawa-area. Possibilities to grow in Fernbank, Barrhaven areas.
- Rural Opportunities to grow include Richmond, Carleton Place, Almonte, Dunrobin.
- Word of mouth remains our biggest marketing asset.
- We need to work hard to retain our membership for 2022-23.

6. Treasurer's Report from Marsha Kelly

- Revenue for the fiscal year was \$231,960.00 while expenses were \$126,656.00
- See slide presentation for detailed breakdown of Revenue and Expenses.
- For every member: \$70.17 average membership fee. Allocation is 30% to Racing, 24% to XCSO & Nordiq Canada, 19% to Grooming.

7. Learn--to--Ski Report from Nigel Wallis for Maureen Smith

Biggest Year Ever for Learn to Ski

- 78 Bunny Rabbits (up from 35 in 2019-20)
- 112 Jackrabbits (up from 71)
- 39 Dynarabbits (up from 15)
- 81 Adult programs (up from 43)

Good news

- Return to LTS went well, even without hot chocolate and shorter class times.

Challenges:

- Recruiting enough volunteer leaders and assistants to run the classes is a real challenge.
- KN could have run more jr. LTS classes and far more adult LTS with more leaders.
- Magic of Lights is a problem in the first week; shifted classes to 401 for the first time
- Space is a constraint (parking, trails) & we may need to consider operating extra classes at new times.

Thoughts for the future:

- Need on site familiarization session in the fall before classes for leaders and/or families
- Need to offer coaching classes (e.g., CC, L2T) on site at Kanata Nordic in the fall/early winter before classes

- Adult classes went well but high demand for private, semi private and family lessons
- Potentially consider early season “Intro to Skiing” and “Skate 101” one time clinics

8. Teen Skate Report from Heather Boswell

Teen Skate is the non competitive skate only program for youth aged 11-16.

- Our training season began in October with Saturday morning hikes (6-8km) in and around the region; this year including Gatineau Park again
- This year we were able to implement the restructured format of our on snow Teen Skate program 3 levels of up to 8 students each (Sat and Sun lessons). This enabled us to more successfully focus on the progression of techniques within each group, and to ski on our trail skis as more unified groups.

Wednesday evening group ski lessons at WCP included all 3 levels for a lesson and trail ski

- Teen Skate 1: beginners and progression from JR4. 8 students, Saturday morning at WCP beginning Jan 22. We were able to ski for 8 weeks (one lesson cancelled due to extreme cold).
- Teen Skate 2: intermediate level. 8 students - 4 returning, 4 new to the club program - Saturday mornings at WCP or Gatineau Park beginning Jan 8 (there was just enough snow in Gatineau Park) for 10 weeks (1 weather cancellation).
- Teen Skate 3: Advanced level. 4 students - all returning - Sunday mornings at WCP or Gatineau Park beginning Jan 8 for 10 weeks (1 weather condition).

Despite the relentless extreme cold this winter most of our students showed up to every lesson, with their cold weather gear on, and eager to ski

Six participated in the Club Fun Race and six have been recommended for the racing program.

Looking forward

- Teen Skate continues to attract a mix of new skiers and returning members. We hope to extend our participation in next year’s Fun Race
- Additional coaches would enable us to expand the program, especially at the TS1 and TS2 levels.

9. Racing Report from Heather McCulligh

- Very successful past several seasons:
- Year over year growth 17 in 2018, 60 in 2022
- Excellent athlete retention which had been an issue in the past esp. older teens/high performance
- Increasing numbers of athletes participating in races, finishing on the podium, competing in high level competitions eg. OCups Easterns /Nationals
- 4 members named to 2022/23 Ontario Ski Team/Junior Ontario Ski Team - a first for KN

Infrastructure planning to ensure sustained, manageable growth:

- Currently 2 paid part time coaches, need 3 rd to support our numbers
- Program relies on parent volunteer coaches at all levels continued effort to have volunteer coaches certified

This year we:

- became independent with our waxing
- formalized rentals for cost recovery on items such as roller ski library
- added new program streams such as U12 summer social fitness & post secondary affiliate program
- Increasing program fees across levels to reflect value/near parity

10. Trails Report from Gene Vigneron

Kanata Nordic Length of Season

- Grooming from December 23-March 16 for 83 days of groomed trails
- Continuous skiing with only partial shutdown at end of season due to a significant rain event.

Trails Update

- Expansion of post MOL trail territory into campground roads and training field
- Existing trail network improvements / maintenance for safer grooming and trail quality
- 15 K of KN trails and up to 21 K OWWT shared use trail
- Further expansion and improvements of the snowshoe network

Kanata Nordic Grooming Statistics

- Grooming occurred at least 4 x per week and more during/after snowfall events.
- 2021/22 grooming distance total of 4,654 KM (up from 3917 last year)
- 2,862 KM for powersports equipment
- 1,792 KM for Kubota Mueller

Powersport equipment:

- Two BRP Outlander XT1000
- Two Skidoo Skandic snowmobiles

Groomers:

- Two Ginzugroomers
- Tidd Tech G2
- 2 rollers
- Mogul Master
- Kubota Tractor / Mueller excellent addition to the fleet

Partners in Trails

- Wesley Clover Parks
- National Capital Commission
- City of Ottawa
- Urban Winter Trials Alliance

Plans for 2022

- Optimize and fine tune the grooming schedule and fleet to provide excellent trail conditions
- Further maintenance and improvement of existing ski and snowshoe trail system.
- Support and expand the OWWT initiative based on volunteer support and funding
- Recruitment of skilled trails team members

11. OWWT Report from Gene Vigneron for Roger Colbeck

Ottawa West Winter Trail Update

- Quality of flat asphalt/stone dust base trails quite good early in the season. This gives members a place to ski before the other trails are ready
- The OWWT is proving to be quite popular with club members. Longer ski trips are possible by combining the OWWT with the Club Trails.
- Unfortunately, a large trail segment west of the “broken Watt’s Creek bridge” to Corkstown /March Rd had poor conditions due to very limited grooming. NCC informed us it should be repaired by late autumn.
- The DND Loop had to be relegated to “roller only” due to tight trees
- Distance of trail network requires a larger grooming team and some additional equipment for next year
- Great new website created by volunteer, Stephen Morton.
- Social Media and new shark fin/feather flag signs were a success
- Use of Nordic Pulse grooming conditions/status App/Website successfully trialed on OWWT
- Cost of OWWT was covered with UWTA (Urban Winter Trails Alliance NCC, City of Ottawa) funds, GoFundMe fund raising and corporate sponsorship

Focus next year will be to:

- Investigate parking options
- Further improve branding & signage
- Make the Pilot trails Official
- Improve the DND Loop
- Possibly to incorporate Trail 10 North of Carling.

More volunteers are needed to support the various OWWT activities planning/coordination, trail prep, social media, translation, events, and fund raising

12. Facilities from John Clarke

401 Operations Base

- Moved operations base at 401 to new site at the request of WCP. Easier access to trails, Further from horses, Larger, Fits new groomer.

411 Operations Base

- Moved operations base at 411 to new site at the request of WCP. Closer to trails, room for expansion, New granular Base.
- Purchased garage for new Kubota Mueller tractor. Waiting for installation at 401 Operations Base.
- Continued COVID signage.

13. Community Programs and Rentals Report from Marlene Alt.

- Free snowshoe/sc ski sessions to promote mental & physical well-being, love of winter and equity.
- Groups included Ausome Ottawa, Accora Village, Women in the Wild (Carlington CC), Ottawa Free Fitness and Adventure Report.
- Thank you to volunteers Christine, Julie, Megan, Parham, Raj & Renata.

For 2023 new interested groups include OCISO, ANYO, Women of Colour Remake Wellness.

- Nordiq Canada Equity Initiative is a continuing contributor to community programs.

Our rental shop was open weekends inside the 411 chalet between mid January and mid March.

- Rental shop was revenue neutral at \$3,500.00

Thank you to volunteers Eliana, Julian, Kathryn, Katie and Susan.

Looking forward

- Purchase more equipment and gear.
- A facility dedicated to rentals (411 cabin was only available due to COVID constraints this season).

14. Motion to accept all reports as presented or amended

Questions.

- Chris Teron : What makes you predict that grants, sponsors and donations will grow from \$42k this year to \$100k next year?
 - Marsha Kelly response: KN recently received a large grant from XC Ontario that is forecasted on next years books.

Nigel Weeks motioned to accept the reports, carried by consensus vote.

15. Motions (KN club bylaws currently require a membership vote for expense items greater than membership vote for expense items greater than \$5,000)

- 15.1 Budget to hire additional P/T Racing Coach

"A motion to hire a second part time coach for the Kanata Nordic Racing Team by spending up to \$10,000 annually, subject to the Executive Committee and Head Racing Coach approval."

Motion moved by Andy Weekes

Motion was carried by consensus vote.

- 15.2 Budget to hire P/T administrator

"A motion to allocate an annual sum up to \$10,000 for the hiring of a part time administrator. The decision regarding the role and hiring will be researched and a recommendation made by a committee appointed by the Kanata Nordic Executive, reporting to the President. Final approval of the expenditure will be made by the sitting Kanata Nordic Executive Committee."

Motion moved by Sunida Hurst

Motion was carried by consensus vote.

- 15.3 Alter bylaw 4.4

"...Any proposed expenditure that would exceed \$10,000 shall be approved in advance by the membership at a General Meeting. ..." [Formerly \$5,000.00]

Motion moved by Nigel Wells

Motion was carried by consensus vote.

- 15.4 Budget to acquire additional storage container

"Purchase a storage container ("sea can") for 411 Corkstown trailhead, subject to final approval by sitting Executive Committee."

Expected cost is \$10,000 plus transportation and taxes.

Motion moved by Nigel Wells

Motion was carried by consensus vote.

16 Election of 2022--23 Executive23 Executive

Executive Nominees for 2022

- President: Nigel Wallis

- Vice President: Chris Lindsey
- Treasurer: Marsha Kelly
- Secretary: Amy Thomas
- Membership Coordinator: Sunida Hurst
- Volunteer Coordinator: Keomany Ker
- Trails Coordinator: Gene Vigneron
- Rabbit Coordinator: Maureen Smith
- Teen Skate Coordinator: Heather Boswell
- Racing Coordinator: Andy Weekes
- Facilities Coordinator: Jeff Pappin
- OWWT Coordinator: Roger Colbeck
- Events Coordinator: Merrill Pappin

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Thank you to all who attended.