

RASki & Outdoor Club

January 2024
More than just a ski club

Editor: Glen Campbell, publicity-2020@raski.ca

www.raski.ca

MESSAGE FROM THE CLUB COUNCIL

Happy New Year! Welcome our 2024 Ski season!

By the time this newsletter is published, we should finally see the winter snows at last, and the Club has full program schedules to tempt your Winter experiences this month and more.

A big “thank you” for the work of our Club Council, and the other volunteers who have already helped out in various activities or represented the Club leading fall hikes or bike outings, and staffing our booth and tables at October’s Ottawa Ski and Snowboard Show, as well as our Open House in November.

Deadlines will have come and gone by the printing of this newsletter, for our three major multi-day trips of the year – the weeklong to Banff, a 2-day carpool to Far Hills, and a 3-day carpool to Mont Ste. Anne (unfortunately cancelled due to lack of registration) – but there is still time to register for our four joint bus day trips (with the Bytown Club) to Tremblant.

Full calendars of our day activities are available in our annual Winter Program Guide (www.raski.ca/newsletters/pdf/Newsletter-2023-Nov.pdf) or see www.raski.ca for details. The Downhill Day program offers weekly meet’n’ski outings to local ski areas in Ontario and Quebec. The Cross-country schedule varies their calendar with weekday and weekend outings, primarily to Gatineau Park, with the addition of ever-growing array of maintained Greenbelt trails in the city.

Reward the hard work of the Club Council and volunteers by participating, helping out where you can, and letting other people know about us (bring a friend along to check us out - a friendly club with year-round activities). Become an ambassador by encouraging new members to join our four-seasons Club. Don’t forget some of the benefits of being a member: in addition to a wide selection of organized programs, your membership offers you discounts at sports shops too. Always carry your card and ask if a discount will apply. Check our website for updates that may be added after the deadline for this newsletter.

Program Chairs encourage and welcome Club members to volunteer to lead an outing. It’s not an onerous job, and the help is much appreciated. If you can help out, please contact the XC or Downhill Chairs through the link on our website.

To round out the RA Ski season in April, we’ll be holding our popular potluck dinner evening and Annual Club meeting. Stay tuned for details of these and other Social activities to be added to the calendar.

When spring and summer roll around, new schedules of hiking, cycling, golfing and theatre in the park will be created and published, so stay in the loop by checking www.raski.ca, following us on Facebook (find RA Ski and Snowboard Club of Ottawa and ask to join in), and subscribing to our Ski-Mails.

Happy 2024! We hope to see you on the slopes and trails.



On behalf of the RA Ski & Outdoor Club Council,
Jaime Impey, Vice-Chair, weeklong-2020@raski.ca

WEEKLONG 2024 BANFF AB – SkiBig3

FEBRUARY 1-8, 2024



RA Skiers are heading to Banff National Park to ski the Big 3 in February. The trip sold out in mid-November, with a full complement of 40 trip participants.

BANFF

Banff National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is known for its exceptional natural beauty, rare wildlife and abundant landforms. Tucked within the boundaries of Banff National Park in the Canadian Rockies, the ski towns of Banff and Lake Louise provide home-base to three distinctive ski resorts: Banff Sunshine, The Lake Louise Ski Resort and Mt Norquay. The three boast 7,748 acres of skiable terrain, 2 gondolas, 27 chairlifts and 30 feet of feather-light, dry Canadian Rockies powder annually.

Accommodations

Located in Banff National Park, the Banff Caribou Lodge & Spa offers a mountain lodge hotel, a great steakhouse restaurant and a full-service spa, all in one outstanding location on Banff Avenue, the main street in the town of Banff and a short walk to downtown. It's the first stop for the resort shuttles!



TRIP RENDEZVOUS NIGHT

When: Monday, January 22, 7:00 PM
Where: Courtyard A, RA Centre

We'll be reviewing our e-tickets, itinerary, and going over everything you need to know about the trip. Meet your travel mates. Pub night to follow in the Fieldhouse Bar & Grill.

Jaime Impey, Weeklong Chair, weeklong-2020@raski.ca

DOWNHILL DAY TRIPS

The Grinch took all our snow away for the Christmas holidays but snow is now on the way and all local hills are now 50%-100% open.



Dec. 16 – Fortune Friday, our first Downhill ski of the year

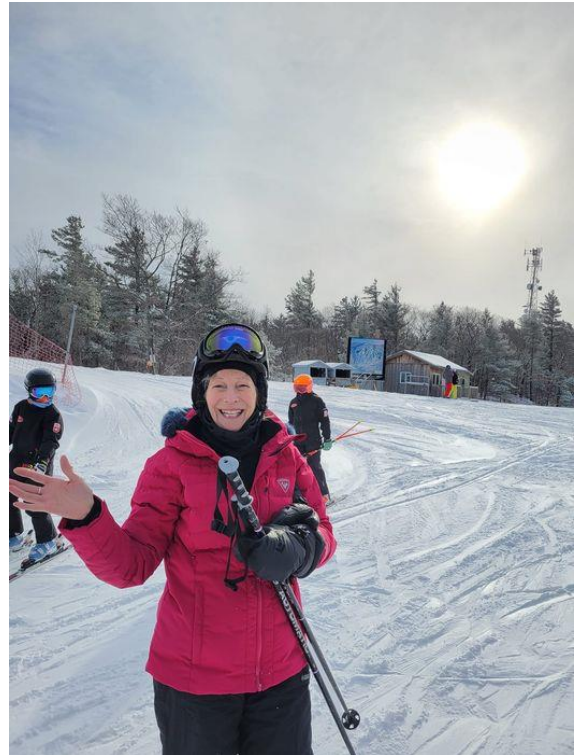
Our ski season had a good start with some RAski members getting a few runs at Camp Fortune on December 7.

Our Fortune Fridays events – a weekly Friday ski day at Camp Fortune – always gets a good turnout and we managed to get 3 of those in before the Christmas break.



Jan. 5 – Fortune Friday

We have 9 downhill outings planned for the month of January alone – and don't forget our monthly bus trips to Tremblant with the first trip on January 19. Details of all our downhill trips can be found at <https://www.raski.ca/index.php?target=downhill>



Jan. 7 – Our DH outing to Calabogie was cancelled, but a few people went anyway... and had fun.

So, get those skis out and let's enjoy whatever ski conditions come our way.



Bob Cavan, Downhill Chair, downhill-2020@raski.ca

CROSS-COUNTRY

Cross-Country Mid-Week to Far Hills Inn Feb 14-16, 2024

DAY TRIPS

It's been a slow start to the cross-country ski season. The club's first few day trips were cancelled due to poor conditions or lack of snow. The rest of the season will be that much sweeter.

The trip schedule has been updated to re-schedule a couple of the earlier outings. Keep up-to-date with our website, the ski mails and our group Facebook page.

These are the day trips for which we have trip leaders. If you have suggestions for other trips or destinations, or if you are willing to lead a trip, contact us at xc-2020@raski.ca.

- Thurs Jan 11** Date Change** - 10:30 AM – Gatineau - P16 to Herridge/Healey
- Sat Jan 13 - 10 AM – Gatineau - **Destination change** P20 to Taylor Lake
- Tues Jan 16 - 10:30 AM – City - Britannia Winter trail
- Sun Jan 21 - 12 noon – Gatineau - P6 to Pink Lake (several trail options)
- Thurs Jan 25 -10:30 AM – City - Kichi Sibi Winter trail
- Sun Jan 28 - 12 noon – Gatineau - P7 to Huron
- Wed Jan 31 - 10:30 AM – Greenbelt - P20 Mer Bleue
- Sat Feb 3 - 10 AM - Gatineau - P20 to Lusk Cabin
- Tues Feb 6 - 10:30 AM – City - P27 Heritage East City trail
- Fri Feb 9 - 10:30 AM -Gatineau - P17 to Brown Cabin
- Wed Feb 21 - 10:30 AM – Greenbelt - P19 Leitrim Road (originally scheduled for January 3)
- Sat Feb 24 - 10 AM - P6 to Pink Lake (intermediate trail)
- Wed Feb 28 - 11 AM - P7 Larose Forest
- Sun Mar 3 – 12 noon - Gatineau - P12 to Western
- Wed Mar 6 - 10:30 AM – City – Heritage East City trail – east to Orleans
- Sat Mar 9 - 10 AM - Gatineau - P20 to end of Lac Philippe
- Tues Mar 12 - 10:30 AM - City - Rideau Winter Trail
- Thurs Mar 21 - 10:30 AM - Gatineau - P6 to King Mountain “Biathlon”
- Sun Mar 24 – 12 noon – Gatineau – P16 to Herridge/Healey

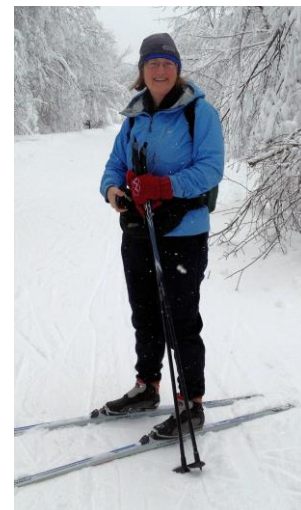
This trip sold out quickly and 26 participants are looking forward to skiing the trails at Far Hills again this year.



Feb. 2023 – Skiers at Far Hills



Feb. 2024 – RA skiers at Far Hills



Jane Hilliard & Louise Cameron, XC Co-Chairs,
xc-2020@raski.ca

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES

You can find or receive news and updates about Club activities through a number of methods:

- **SKI-MAIL**

Find out about last-minute additions or changes, club news, and upcoming events, by subscribing to Ski-Mail, our e-mail newsletter.

Send an email to: RASkiClub+subscribe@groups.io using the email address you wish email to be sent to.

NOTE: If you haven't been receiving Ski-Mails since December, you need to re-subscribe, as we had to change our e-mail provider.

- **WEBSITE**

www.raski.ca

- **FACEBOOK**



Visit us on Facebook to learn about upcoming events, read members' comments, and much more! Go to **RA Ski and Snowboard Club of Ottawa** and ask to join.

PHOTOS ON THE WEB

Photos are on the RA Ski web site, www.raski.ca.

For photos, on the left sidebar click on "Photos", then on the appropriate album ("Cross-country", "Downhill", "Snowshoeing", or "Biking Hiking and Skating".) To see the photo larger, double-click on it.

To see the photos as a slideshow

1. Double-click on the little square icon on the top right under the number of photos. Wait a few seconds and the slideshow will start.

Downloading photos

1. Double-click on the photo.
2. On the bottom right, click on the down arrow with the bar underneath it.
3. Click on the size you want (i.e., "Original".)
4. Click on "Save File", then click on "OK."

Your file will be downloaded to your directory "Downloads."

DISCOUNTS

Our club has the power of group purchasing to obtain discounts at many local ski hills, sports stores, and other venues. Check out the current offerings at <https://www.raski.ca/index.php?target=discounts> and make any suggestions for other discounts to your Club Council.

The more places we get. the more we save.

Bob Cavan, Downhill Day Chair, downhill-2020@raski.ca

USEFUL LINKS

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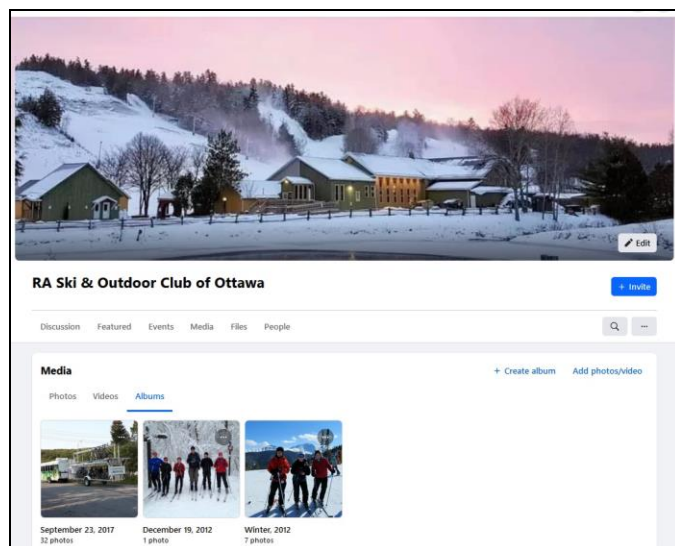
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RA Ski Facebook page

USEFUL LINKS – CROSS-COUNTRY

GATINEAU PARK

Gatineau Park XC phone line

819-827-2020

Gatineau Park XC ski conditions – NCC website

<http://ncc-ccn.gc.ca/places/ski-conditions>

Gatineau Park Trail Map Showing Recommended Trails

This map shows in green which trails are recommended.

<https://ncc-ccn.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=9fb8f1b699fb4653b14ec9f06e3f7ed7>

Gatineau Park XC Trail Map

(Note : There are two pages. This is a large file and will take awhile to download.)

https://ncc-website-2.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/Final_GP_Winter_Trails_Map_LR.pdf

Ottawa Gatineau Cross-country Ski Conditions

This gives skier's first-hand reports how the trail conditions are for Gatineau Park, Nakkertok, Mooney's Bay, Kanata, Greenbelt and Kichi Sibi (Formerly Sir John A. MacDonald).

http://skitrails.xcottawa.ca/skitrails_gatineau_park.php

Daily photos of outdoor activities in Gatineau Park

<http://musicianonskis.ca/blog/>

XC TRAILS IN OTTAWA

<https://ottawatourism.ca/en/ottawa-insider/cross-country-skiing-and-around-ottawa>

XC Maps and Grooming Conditions in Ontario (including trails in Ottawa)

<https://nordic-pulse.com/ski-areas/CA/ON>

Maps of Cross-Country Trails in Ottawa Area (Jan. 2020)

These maps are taken from [NCC Urban Ottawa XC Trail Maps](#)

1. Ski Heritage East (<https://www.skiheritageeast.ca/wpshe/>)

17 km of trails along the Ottawa River, running from near Blair Road in the neighbourhood of Rothwell Heights, east to Trim Road in Orleans. [Map](#)

2. Rideau Winter Trail (www.rideauwintertrail.ca)

9 km trail running along the east side of the Rideau River from Donald St. (Awaaw foot bridge across the Rideau River) to Hurdman O-train station. [Map](#)

3. Kichi Sibi Winter Trail (Formerly Sir John A. MacDonald) (www.wintertrail.ca)

The 16-km SJAM trail runs along the Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway, from the Canadian War Museum to Westboro Beach. [Map](#)

4. Britannia Winter Trail (<https://britanniawintertrail.com/>)

8 km trail, following the bike path towards downtown from about Belltown Dome, around the pier in Britannia Park, and east to the Sir John A MacDonald Parkway. [Map](#)

5. Ottawa West Winter Trail

<https://www.facebook.com/OttawaWestWinterTrail/>

8-km trail combining a portion of the Trans Canada Trail with the Watts Creek Pathway and several offshoot trails, from Corkstown Road at Moodie Drive to Carling Avenue. [Map](#)

6. Wesley Clover Parks Trail

<https://wesleycloverparks.com/trails/>

The Kanata Nordic XC ski club manages trails winding through Wesley Clover Parks, an equestrian park about 20 minutes west of downtown. Trails are limited to members only on weekends, but anyone can buy a day pass on weekdays. [Map](#)

XC TRAILS WORLDWIDE

List of XC ski areas worldwide

<http://www.skiresort.info/best-ski-resorts/sorted/cross-country/>

List of XC ski areas in Quebec

www.cross-countryski.com/quebec.html

List of XC ski areas in Canada

www.canadatrails.ca/xc_ski/index.html

List of XC ski areas in Canada and the US

www.cross-countryski.com/resorts.html

<https://xcski.org/find-a-ski-area/>

List of XC ski areas worldwide

<http://www.skiresort.info/best-ski-resorts/sorted/cross-country>

USEFUL LINKS - DOWNHILL

Local DH ski conditions

www.skiottawa.com

Quebec DH ski conditions

<https://maneige.ski/conditions-de-neige>

World-wide ski conditions

www.skicentral.com/skireports.html

www.onthesnow.com/ski-resort.html

SKI HILLS

	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Website</u>
Bromont	1-866-276-6668	skibromont.com
Calabogie	1-800-669-4861	calabogie.com
Camp Fortune	819-827-1717	campfortune.com
Cascades	819-827-0301	montcascades.ca
Edelweiss	819-459-2328	skiedelweiss.com
Jay Peak	1-802-988-2611	jaypeakresort.com
Killington	1-802-422-6200	killington.com
Le Massif	1-877-536-2774	lemassif.com
Mont Blanc	1-800-567-6715	skimontblanc.com
Mont-Ste-Anne	1-888-827-4579	mont-sainte-anne.com
Mont Ste-Marie	819-467-5200	montstemarie.com
Morin Heights	1-800-363-2426	sommets.com/en/ski-mountains/sommet-morin-heights/
Orford	819-843-6548	orford.com
Owlshead	1-800-363-3342	owlshead.com
Pakenham	613-624-5290	mountpakenham.com
St-Sauveur	450-227-4671	sommets.com/en/ski-mountains/sommet-saint-sauveur/
Sugarbush	1-800-53-SUGAR	sugarbush.com
Sutton	1-866-538-2545	montsutton.com
Tremblant	1-888-215-4419	tremblant.ca
Vorlage	819-459-2301	skivorlage.com

Whistler 1-800-766-0449 whistlerblackcomb.com

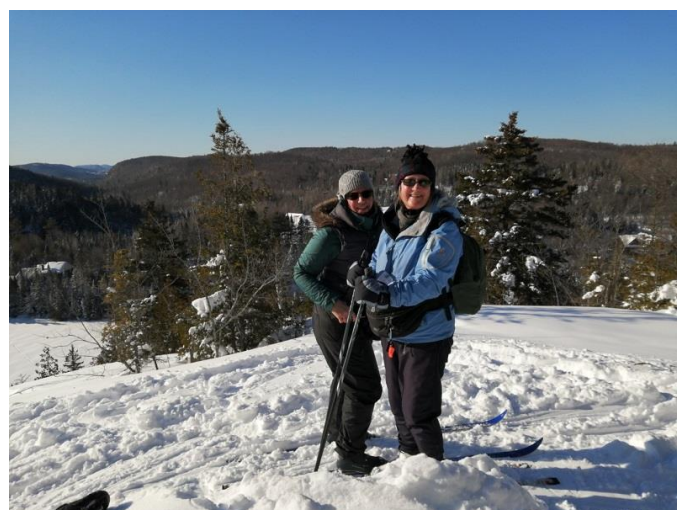
Whiteface 518-946-2223 whiteface.com

NOTE: Many ski hills have web cameras where you can see the current weather, crowds, and ski conditions all in real time.

PHOTOS FROM WEEKEND & MID-WEEK TRIPS



Feb. 2023 – Whiteface, NY



Feb. 2020 – Val David, Que.



Feb. 2020 – Bromont, Que.



Feb. 2017 – Mont Ste-Anne, Que.



Feb. 2019 – Val David, Que.



Feb. 2017 – Grand Lodge, Tremblant



Feb. 2017 – Snowshoeing at Mont Ste-Anne



Feb. 2016 – Val David, Que.



Mar. 2015 – Jay Peak



Feb. 2014 – Snowshoeing at Val David



Feb. 2015 – Snowshoers at Tremblant



Jan. 2013 – Val David, Que.



Feb. 2014 – Le Massif, Que.



Mar. 2012 – Sugarbush, Vermont