

# RA SKI & OUTDOOR CLUB

*January 2025*  
*More than just a ski club*

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL

Happy New Year! For new and returning members, welcome to our 2025 Ski season! Everybody, do your favourite snow-dance so that we will have a great time on the trails this year!

Our Club runs on volunteers, *including the Council members*, so we want to express a big “thank you” to the other volunteers who have stepped up for 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.

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

At this date, deadlines may have come and gone for our three major multi-day trips of the year – the week-long to Chamonix, a 2-day carpool to Tremblant, and a midweek carpool to Sunday River (rates offer extended to Feb 15) – but there is still time to register for our remaining joint bus day trips (with the Bytown Club) to Tremblant.

Reward the hard work of the Club Council and volunteers by participating, volunteering 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 and using the benefits of being a member with discounts at sports shops. 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.

When spring and summer roll around, new schedules for hiking, cycling, golfing and theatre in the park will be created and published, so stay in the loop by checking [www.raski.ca](http://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.

On behalf of the RA Ski & Outdoor Club Council  
**Jaime Impey**, Vice-Chair, [weeklong-2025@raski.ca](mailto:weeklong-2025@raski.ca)

## WEEKLONG 2025 – CHAMONIX FR

**JANUARY 31 – FEBRUARY 9, 2025**

Word certainly gets around about our fun Club and great trips! This year members will meet in Geneva from Ottawa-Gatineau region and the far reaches of Ontario (Thunder Bay), Sweden, and Brazil. Nearly 40 RA Skiers are travelling to the Mont Blanc Valley, one of the most famous alpine destinations in the world, which is paradise for winter sports over 5 resorts. We’ll also have a chance to travel through the famous Mont Blanc tunnel to visit the 100km of trails of Courmayeur, Italy less than an hour away. At the end of the ski trip, we will return to Canada via an overnight visit in Geneva, where we will have an entire day to explore the beautiful Swiss city.

### TRIP RENDEZVOUS NIGHT

When: Monday, January 20, 7:00 PM  
Where: Courtside A, RA Centre

We’ll be reviewing our 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.

Happy 2025! We hope to see you on the slopes and trails.



**Jaime Impey**, Vice-Chair, [weeklong-2025@raski.ca](mailto:weeklong-2025@raski.ca)

## DOWNHILL DAY TRIPS

It's been a few years since our first scheduled downhill trip in early December has had enough snow to actually take place, but this year our first trip on December 6th went ahead with three Valley-side runs at Camp Fortune open, and in surprisingly good condition.



**Dec. 6 – Fortune Friday, our first downhill ski of the year**

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



**Jan. 3 – Fortune Friday**

We have 9 downhill outings planned for the month of January alone – and don't forget our bus trips to Tremblant with the first trip on January 17, and four more times until mid-March.

We've also added an early March multi-day trip to Sunday River, Maine. With 139 runs, 19 lifts, and 2340 ft. vertical, it has a good variety of trails for everyone.



**Jan. 10 - Fortune Friday**

Details of all our downhill trips can be found at <https://www.raski.ca/downhill/downhill-schedule>



**Jan. 10 – Fortune Friday**

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



**Bob Cavan, Downhill Chair, [downhill-2025@raski.ca](mailto:downhill-2025@raski.ca)**



# CROSS-COUNTRY

## CROSS-COUNTRY DAY TRIPS

Like last year, it's been a slow start to the cross-country ski season.

Our first outing on December 14th went ahead, with a couple of intrepid skiers who enjoyed surprisingly decent conditions on the Gatineau Parkway.



**Dec. 14 – Our 1<sup>st</sup> XC outing, P8 to P9**

A couple of other skiers took advantage of good conditions in the Lac Philippe sector on Boxing Day. At the time of writing this on January 3, our other trips have been cancelled while we wait for more snow.

Thanks goes out to our patient and flexible trip leaders. Hopefully, by the time this newsletter is published we will have been able to get out for some skiing.



**Jan. 11 – RA skier on P8 to P9**

Watch for updates and photos on the RA Ski and Outdoor club Facebook page.

Our full schedule is on the RA ski website <https://www.raski.ca/cross-country/cross-country-schedule> and is also updated with any changes or cancellations.

## Cross-Country Mid-Week to Le Grand Lodge, Tremblant

**Feb 12-14, 2025**

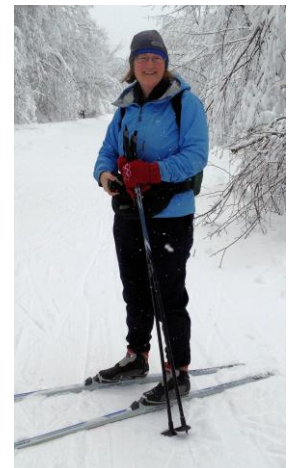
February 12-14, 2025 will find 24 of us in the Tremblant region enjoying a couple of days of outdoor activities and the many amenities of Le Grand Lodge, along with the food.

Cross-country skiers and snowshoers will find many trail choices at Domaine St. Bernard and Mont Tremblant will appeal to many downhill skiers.

We have half a room available for a female participant, and although the official registration date is past, please let me know if you are interested in coming along for the fun.



**Feb. 2017 – XC skiing at Le Grand Lodge**



**Jane Hilliard & Louise Cameron, XC Co-Chairs,**  
[xc-2025@raski.ca](mailto:xc-2025@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](mailto:RASkiClub+subscribe@groups.io) using the email address you wish email to be sent to.

- **WEBSITE**

[www.raski.ca](http://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.



RA Ski Club Facebook Page

## 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/discounts> and make any suggestions for other discounts to your Club Council.

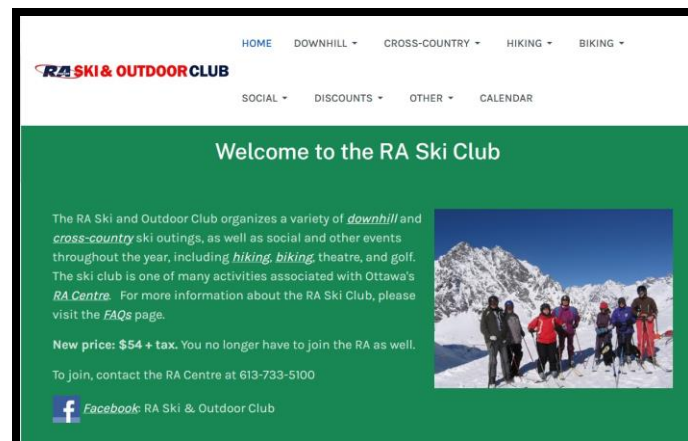
The more places we get. the more we save.

**Bob Cavan**, Downhill Day Chair, [downhill-2025@raski.ca](mailto:downhill-2025@raski.ca)

## NEW RA SKI WEBSITE

Our amazing RA Ski website has been completely rewritten, and has a new, fresh look!

Now it's even more amazing!



RA Ski Website

The website contains everything you wanted to know about the ski club, but were afraid to ask.

Check it out! [www.raski.ca](http://www.raski.ca)

## PHOTOS ON THE WEB

Photos are on the RA Ski web site, [www.raski.ca](http://www.raski.ca).

For photos, click on "Other" on the main menu, then 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."

## 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 – Parking Lot Status

<https://ncc-ccn.gc.ca/places/gatineau-park-winter-parking>

#### 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.pdf](https://ncc-website-2.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/Final_GP_Winter_Trails_Map.pdf)

#### Cross-Country Skiing in the Ottawa/Gatineau Area

A wealth of info about XC skiing around here, including ski trail reports, suggested trails in Gatineau Park and the Greenbelt, recommended waxes, a beginner's primer, how to wax your skis, etc. <https://xcskiing.ca/>

#### Daily photos of outdoor activities in Gatineau Park

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

### XC TRAILS IN OTTAWA

#### Cross-Country Skiing in and around Ottawa

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

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

You need to zoom in for Ottawa  
<https://nordic-pulse.com/ski-areas/CA/ON>

#### 1. Ski Heritage East

<https://www.skiheritageeast.ca/wpshe/>

40 km of trails along the Ottawa River, running from the Aviation Museum to Trim Road. [Map](#)

#### 2. Rideau Winter Trail

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

A 16 km trail running along the east side of the Rideau River from Donald St. (Adawe foot bridge across the Rideau River) to Bank Street. [Map](#)

#### 3. Kichi Sibi Winter Trail (Formerly Sir John A, MacDonald)

[wintertrail.ca](http://wintertrail.ca)

A 16-km SJAM trail runs west along the Ottawa River from the Canadian War Museum to the O-train Dominion Station (Scott Street). [Map](#)

#### 4. Britannia Winter Trail

<https://britanniawintertrail.com>

A 17 km trail, following the Ottawa River, from Andrew Hayden Park past Britannia Park to the Deschenes Rapids. [Map](#)

#### 5. Ottawa West Winter Trail

<https://www.owwt.ca/>

An 8-km (?) trail combining a portion of the Trans Canada Trail with the Watts Creek Pathway and several offshoot trails, running north-south and east-west, in the Corkstown Road / Moodie Drive / Robertson Road / Carling Avenue area. [Map](#)

#### 6. Wesley Clover Parks Trails

<https://www.wesleycloverparks.com/ski-trails/>

The Kanata Nordic XC ski club 18 km of ski 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 Canada

[www.canadatrails.ca/xc\\_ski/index.html](http://www.canadatrails.ca/xc_ski/index.html)

#### List of XC ski areas in Canada and the US

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



## USEFUL LINKS - DOWNHILL

### Local DH ski conditions

[www.skiottawa.com](http://www.skiottawa.com)

### Quebec DH ski conditions

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

### World-wide ski conditions

[www.skicentral.com/skiereports.html](http://www.skicentral.com/skiereports.html)

[www.onthesnow.com/ski-resort.html](http://www.onthesnow.com/ski-resort.html)

Sunday River, Maine 1-800-543-2754

<https://www.sundayriver.com>

Tremblant 1-888-215-4419 <https://www.tremblant.ca>

Vorlage 819-459-2301 [www.centrevorlage.ca](http://www.centrevorlage.ca)

Whistler 1-800-766-0449  
<https://www.whistlerblackcomb.com>

Whiteface 518-946-2223 <https://whiteface.com>

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

## SKI HILLS

	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Website</u>
Bromont	1-866-276-6668	<a href="http://www.skibromont.com">www.skibromont.com</a>
Calabogie	1-800-669-4861	<a href="http://www.calabogie.com">www.calabogie.com</a>
Camp Fortune	819-827-1717	<a href="https://campfortune.com">https://campfortune.com</a>
Cascades	819-827-0301	<a href="https://montcascades.ca/ski/">https://montcascades.ca/ski/</a>
Edelweiss	819-459-2328	<a href="https://www.sommets.com/en/discover-les-sommets/sommet-edelweiss/">https://www.sommets.com/en/discover-les-sommets/sommet-edelweiss/</a>
Jay Peak	1-802-988-2611	<a href="https://jaypeakresort.com/">https://jaypeakresort.com/</a>
Killington	1-802-422-6200	<a href="https://www.killington.com/">https://www.killington.com/</a>
Le Massif	1-877-536-2774	<a href="https://www.lemassif.com/">https://www.lemassif.com/</a>
Mont Blanc	1-800-567-6715	<a href="https://skimontblanc.com/">https://skimontblanc.com/</a>
Mont-Ste-Anne	1-888-827-4579	<a href="https://mont-sainte-anne.com/">https://mont-sainte-anne.com/</a>
Mont Ste-Marie	819-467-5200	<a href="https://montstemarie.com/">https://montstemarie.com/</a>
Morin Heights	1-800-363-2426	<a href="https://www.sommets.com/en/discover-les-sommets/sommet-morin-heights-winter/">https://www.sommets.com/en/discover-les-sommets/sommet-morin-heights-winter/</a>
Orford	819-843-6548	<a href="https://montorford.com/">https://montorford.com/</a>
Owlshead	1-800-363-3342	<a href="https://owlshead.com">https://owlshead.com</a>
Pakenham	613-624-5290	<a href="https://www.mountpakenham.com">https://www.mountpakenham.com</a>
St-Sauveur	450-227-4671	<a href="https://www.sommets.com/en/discover-les-sommets/sommet-saint-sauveur-winter">https://www.sommets.com/en/discover-les-sommets/sommet-saint-sauveur-winter</a>
Sugarbush	1-800-53-SUGAR	<a href="https://www.sugarbush.com">https://www.sugarbush.com</a>

## SAVE YOURSELF A FINE

### SPEED TRAPS

There are several speed traps and a photo radar where you will get ticketed for speeding:

1. Leaving the MacDonald-Cartier bridge coming in to Ottawa. The speed limit on King Edward Ave. is 40 km/hr, and it is enforced by photo radar as you come off the bridge.
2. Highway 5 freeway going north coming off the MacDonald-Cartier bridge going into Gatineau. There is often a speed trap in the 70 km/hr zone.
3. Leaving Old Chelsea heading to Camp Fortune or parking lots P8 / P9 on Meech Lake Road. There is often an unmarked police car checking for speeders in this 50 km/hr zone.

### CAR DOORS UNLOCKED

Make sure you lock your car in Quebec. Police check the parking lots very regularly and give you a ticket if your doors are unlocked or if your car's license plate is expired.

The fine is \$107 for leaving a car door unlocked.

It is illegal in Quebec to leave your car doors unlocked anyplace that is publicly accessible (like a ski hill parking lot.)

### EXPIRED LICENCE PLATES

The fine for an expired licence plate is \$495.

Even though the Ontario government scraped the licence plate renewal fees and stickers, vehicle owners must still renew their plates every one or two years. Be sure to keep your plate up to date online via Service Ontario.



## MORE PHOTOS



**Nov. 28 – Hike in the NCC Greenbelt**



**Nov. 3 – Hiking Ottawa River East**



**Nov. 19 – Hike to Healey cabin**



**Jan. 15, 2023 – XC ski at Relais Plein Aire**



**Nov. 12 – Hike to Brown Lake**



**Jan. 11 – Refreshments at Biscotti after XC ski from P8 to P9**





**Mar. 5, 2022 – XC ski to Herridge cabin**



**Mar 29, 2024 – Last Fortune Friday of the season**



**Aug. 13, 2023 – Golfing**



**Feb. 26, 2024 – Meet'n'Ski at Camp Fortune**



**Jan. 14, 2024 – XC ski to Taylor Lake (at Renaud cabin)**



**Aug. 14, 2024 – Biking to Aylmer Marina**





**Feb. 2024 – Banff Weeklong – RA skiers at Lake Louise**



**Jan. 14, 2019 – Bus trip to St-Sauveur**



**June 29, 2024 – Ottawa Titans baseball game**



**Feb. 2024 – Mid-week to Far Hills Inn**



**Feb. 14, 2024 – Meet'n'Ski at Edelweiss**



**Feb. 2020 – Weeklong at St. Moritz**