**Devon Nordic Ski Club**

**President's Report - April 2026**

The start for the 2025 - 26 season was on December 7th with snow packing on the classic tracks and skate lane. The opening for skiing on classic groomed tracks was December 13th. Skiers were happy to be out on the trails even in the cold temperatures. The season progressed with some decent snowfalls and some rain and wind storms as usual. The best skiing was likely the first week of March.

The Club welcomed some new members to the board, Tony, Laura, Andrew and Nolan.

*March 4th grooming had the trails in perfect winter condition for the ladies social ski.*



**Key activities to note for the 2025-26 season were;**

- **Devon Golf & Country Club Open**

This season the Devon Golf & Country Club opened the club house in the upstairs restaurant for the public and skiers on Wednesday through Sunday for the winter.

Skiers enjoyed the excellent food and refreshments throughout the winter. Their extra parking lot was open for skiers as well and surely helped on the busy “perfect” ski days and weekends.

- **Winter Trail Maintenance**

The trails and skate track were re-aligned in a few places to satisfy the Golf Course turf maintenance team. The alignment ended up making grooming easier and saving us from needing to shovel thin spots as much this season.

- **Trail Grooming**

With some good snowfall the RVA South hill and upper classic track were groomed a few times. We received many positive comments about the grooming of the hill for advanced skiers who train for events.

Stuart held an equipment and grooming training day On November 30th which was attended by 5 people. The majority of the grooming once again was performed by Stuart and Bob and some with Laura.

Many wild swings in weather posed a challenge for sure and the grooming was carried out with different equipment and methods every time.

- **Events and Programs**

***Adult Learn To Ski*** - program was hosted by Mary Ann Bennett

***The Ladies Social Ski*** - had many afternoons of meeting for loop or two of skiing followed by refreshments and socializing in the Golf Course restaurant afterwards.

***Birkie Training*** - Every year, though not an organized event, was being done by many of the long-time skiers in Devon as is witnessed every year. Many of these skiers enjoyed the

challenge of the RVA South Hill and the great year round conditions DNSC offers, notably the double classic tracks.

***Spring planting at Centennial Park*** - For close to 30 years the club has adopted a flower bed in the park "The Nordic Bed" and supplied and planted various perennial and annual flowers for the public to enjoy.





- **The Youth Development Program – ( Jack Rabbits** )

There was registration of 21 kids in the various age groups. The club was very appreciative of the volunteer coaches who helped out every Sunday afternoon to provide a fun learning environment. Doug Macaulay once again coordinated the program as head coach.

The youth program family fun loppet was held on very good trail and weather conditions Sunday March 1, followed by a social with food and refreshments in the golf course restaurant.

- **Yearly Comparison of Registered Club Members (includes youth)**

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| 2026 | 86 people | 2023 | 94 people |
| 2025 | 89 people | 2022 | 107 people |
| 2024 | 74 people | 2021 | 155 people (covid times) |

- **Facebook Followers**

April 23/26 - 2549

April 26/25 - 2284

April 01/24 - 2100

May 01/23 - 1839

April 17/22 - 1530

- **Notices and Info to the Public**

Over the last 3 years, the club has used linktr.ee/devonnordicskiclub as a means to display club information such as trail maps, golf course etiquette, links to registration, club fees and grooming donations etc. This link is shown in a fixed spot on our Facebook page, top right hand corner. The content shown on Linktr.ee can be arranged by us and we can sort any documents that we link. The number of public views is also recorded. This process is done to combat the Facebook issue of important posts being buried by new posts.

Facebook is still used for announcements and for the public to post feedback and photos etc.

- **In memory of Karen Macaulay**

Karen passed away in the middle of February 2026. She was closely involved with the DNSC for more than 15 years in various capacities. Her coaching and helping of the youngest little 3 - 6 year old first time skiers was the highlight along with being on the board of directors. She skied the longer trails during the weeks with friends and family and enjoyed the lovely snow and trails in Devon. Karen will surely be missed by the club

and the skiing community. A trail sign is being made and will be put up on one of her favourite trails in remembrance of her club involvement.

- **Board of Directors and Volunteers**

The club could not run as we do without the generous time put in by all the club volunteers. I would like to acknowledge the support of all the volunteer board members, youth coaches, parent helpers, and trail clean up helpers, who in their various capacities contributed many hours for the success of our club.

- **My last year as President**

My family is moving to Vernon, BC this summer so this will be my last meeting on the DNSC board. With 7 years on the board and 5 years as president, I enjoyed all the people I have met, fellow board members, the club's challenges and successes but most of all, the great skiing. The club is more popular than ever with the avid Devon and Edmonton area skiers. I wish the continuing board all the success, good luck and the best snow conditions into the future.

Sincerely,

Bob Scheele

Outgoing President – DNSC