



Annual Report

2018/2019

Volunteers	1
Programs' Achievements and Performance	2
Club Events	6
Facilities & Equipment	7
Board Activities.....	8
2019 Board Elections	9
Membership	10
Financial Report	11
Acknowledgments	11
En Francais.....	12

Volunteers

We have so many wonderful events like exchanges, races, sleep overs, training camps, fundraisers and all of this is volunteer driven. It has been a **stellar year with all of the volunteers who came out to help! We should be very proud of the excellent place that we create for kids to grow up, be fit and get outside. The Chelsea Nordiq board thanks everyone that has been a part of making this season so excellent.**

Volunteer support at club events

We found many new club members to fill important volunteer functions this year and we managed to run all club events with members stepping forward and filling spots to capacity. Three reasons are likely

at the heart of this (ok, four). 1. A huge improvement over past years is that iVolunteer seems to be well entrenched in our operations and when we run events it is much simplified to open iVolunteer and copy the event over from one year to the next. It gives structure for organizers and it makes it very easy to volunteer. You can choose to be with your friends, you see very clearly what roles are still needed. It tracks volunteer hours and generates reports at the click of a button. 2. Our volunteer policy (stipulating required volunteer hours for different programs) was put into force this year. 3. Communications were much improved with a monthly newsletter and program directors pushing information out to everyone (And 4 – all our great members!!! Without you, the other reasons would be kind of moot.)

Program Achievements and Performance

Accolades

This year saw two Chelsea Nordiqers receive awards recognizing their contributions.

Municipality of Chelsea Volunteer of the Year Award – Greg Caza was nominated, and by popular vote (yes, you the members are great voters!) won the Chelsea volunteer of the year—sport!

Ski de Fond Quebec (SFQ) Coach of the Year Award – At the end of year SFQ Banquet in Morin Heights, before an audience of all of Quebec’s Nordic racing athletes and coaches, our Head Coach Moe Samm won SFQ Coach of the Year, recognizing his contributions to both club and provincial athletes and Nordic skiing.

As a club and membership, we can be proud of how actively we are helping our larger skiing community.

Jackrabbit Highlights

The Jackrabbits and Bunnyrabbits program ran smoothly this winter with the exception of a few cancellations due to inclement weather. The program operated on the lands to the northeast of the Meredith Centre despite losing a portion of the trail network to development. However, since there was a small decline in enrolment, these lands worked well with this program. A new location from which to operate Jackrabbits will be selected for the 2019-2020 season since Chelsea Nordiq will no longer be permitted to use this land due to the lands being rezoned environmentally sensitive.



The program was fortunate to have a fantastic group of 22 registered coaches with many parents stepping in to assist the coaches in teaching young skiers new skills and fostering a welcoming environment for learning and making new friends. These volunteers are the backbone of the bunnyrabbit and jackrabbit programs-THANK YOU for your engagement and enthusiasm.

The Jamboree at the end of the season was an exciting time to show off new and improved ski skills and techniques with fun races and activities for both Saturday and Sunday groups coming together under fluffy snowflakes and milder temperatures. THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped with coordination, animating stations, distributing snacks and with setting up.

A sub-committee for finding a new, permanent home for Jackrabbits has been created. Please submit your ideas for locations to Moe Samm, Head Coach or Anne Hofmann or join the sub-committee.

Adventure Programs

All programs had terrific, creative leaders and parents taking groups out into all corners of the skiing region. Besides skiing, there were campouts, cabin stays and other adventures that contributed to a very full season. It is the opinion of many that our Adventure skiers are most in the know when it comes to the trails of Gatineau Park! Our Adventure programs continue to grow in number and popularity every year. We're pretty certain Chelsea Nordiq is the largest cross-country ski Adventure program in Canada.

Nordic Racing

For the second year the Chelsea Nordiq Nordic Race program worked together with the Skinouk ski club to create a larger training group for the nordic race juveniles and older athletes.

Summer registration was at an all-time high:

Total Athletes = 41

Juvenile Girls = 13 Juvenile Boys = 8

Junior Girls = 3 Junior Boys = 8

Junior Women = 4 Junior Men = 6

*Biathletes = 13

All summer athletes transferred into winter program

Total Athletes (not including Skinouk) = 43

Juvenile Girls = 15 Juvenile Boys = 11

Junior Girls = 2 Junior Boys = 10

Junior Women = 3 Junior Men = 3

*Biathletes = 14

Notes on Practices

- A big effort was made this fall/winter to coordinate practice locations with the midget racing program. Communicating the same starting parking lot aided with athlete/parent transportation.
- There were also large efforts to have at least one practice a month together with the Nordic race and midget programs. This normally occurred on a nordic race rest week or was an invitation to a time trial.
- Throughout the year and especially the winter, Camp Fortune was used as our main starting point/'home base' in an attempt to build community and consistency

Partnership with Skinouk

At the beginning of the season, the Board approved a continued partnership with Skinouk under the team name Equipe Ski Outaouais (ESO). This was run by Head Coach Moe Samm with Katie McMahon (Nordic coach) and Eric Schryer (Biathlon coach) and supported by Sophie Carrier-Laforte (Skinouk).

- to create better training groups,
- leverage the best coaching in the region and
- to create a bigger force on the national scale for this powerful region.

By the end of the season, it was another great partnership for the athletes. From our club administration and financial point of view, a new approach going forward is needed. Both clubs are in discussion about the coming season and how the resources of both clubs are used with to support the partnership. So discussions on how to partner with Skinouk have been initiated at the board level and in the next board mandate it will need to be determined how to adjust. Any member wishing to participate should let the president know.

Nordic Race Athlete Performance

Aaron Fahey – World University Games

Stella Duncan, Sienna Brennan-Raab - Quebec Development Team

Nordic Race Team is CCC Top 3 Most Improved Large Club 2018-2019

Our race team, the largest ever, finished the year with some big improvements in athlete's CPL ranking. This recognition is a testament to our coaching that addresses athlete development at all points in the spectrum of progression.

Good-bye to Katie and Eric

High performance Nordic Coach Katie McMahon and High performance Biathlon Coach Eric Schryer will complete their contracts on April 30, 2019. They have been coaching athletes in many programs over the years and have played an important role in developing racers. We wish to thank them both as they embark on new adventures and new challenges in Canmore, Alberta. All the best, Katie and Eric!

Track Attack

As in past years, the Atoms, PeeWee and Midget age groups on the racing side were called Track Attack. The program's focus is the introduction to racing, but still a whole lot of skills development. Season's highlights included an unbelievably huge amount of snow for great training and no cancelled races, lots of joint practices within Track Attack at Camp Fortune that overlapped with the older age groups, NORAMs, and a Experiences Canada exchange with Canmore (we went out in December and Canmore came during NORAMs).

This year was a Jeux de Quebec year which saw 9 Chelsea Nordiq athletes participating. 4 medals were won, our region was second in the overall standings and Outaouais won the Team Spirit award.

Biathlon Bears and Racing Bears - Air Rifle

The Air Rifle Biathlon Program has been re-invigorated and filled up very quickly with keen Bears (22) and Racers (13) attending Coupe Quebec races throughout the season. There were 13 medals awarded at QC cups and 3 medals at Jeux du Quebec.

Some successes of note:

- First time biathlon races were held at Jeux du Québec and Chelsea Nordiq was well represented (8 athletes, 2 coaches+ 2 parents).

- Parent involvement was amazing, tons of support making coaching easier.

- Kids had fun, they were asking for more at the end of the season.

Looking forward, communication at various levels can be improved:

i. From FQB to the club

ii. From the Program director to the coach (often last minute)

iii. From the coach/program director to

Also, preparation for local races can be better by handing out volunteer tasks in the fall when things are not frantic. Overall shooting percentages for Racing Bears can be worked on. Our kids can ski really fast, but we need to develop better shooters! For instance, more technical and practical knowledge is needed for coaches, for instance biathlon coaching skills

ii. Put more emphasis on natural alignment.

Biathlon Racing - .22 calibre

The .22 program is for biathletes who practice with a focus on competing. c. This season in comparison to last was pretty monumental in terms of the number of athletes who qualified for nationals in comparison to previous years. This year we had 10 Chelsea Nordiq athletes qualify for nationals (8 of which accepted) compared to 5 last year. A common theme in the improvement of performance in our athletes is their ski speed & competency on their skis. This is due to our move towards placing a higher emphasis on skiing in these development years & the collaboration of our nordic race & biathlon race program.

In addition to the improvements of performance made by the team as a whole, there are some key performance that are highlighted in the Athlete's performance section.

Biathlon Athlete Achievements:

i. 1 athlete (Zach Connelly) qualified for World Youth / Junior Championships.

ii. 3 athletes (Oliver Holder, Zac Connelly, Piaper Veinotte) qualified for the Canada Winter Games representing their respective provinces.

iii. 2 athletes won medals at the Canada Winter Games (Oliver Holder - Gold, Men's Relay & Piaper Veinotte - Silver, Women's Relay).

iv. 1 athlete won a gold medal at National Championships (Zach Connelly).

Chelsea Nordiq Mountain Bike Program

This was the second year mountain biking. Back by popular demand, it incorporated participating in a few local races as well as training around Camp Fortune. We also saw our first Chelsea Nordiq athlete participate in the Jeux de Quebec in mountain biking.

Canmore and Kimmirut Exchanges (Midgets (Track Attack); Senior Adventure and Nordic Race Juvenile)

This year we had one official exchange run between Canmore (Alberta) and Chelsea Nordiq, organized by our Track Attack (Midget) parents. It was highly successful (see Track Attack report). There was also

an exchange organized between the Kimmirut (Nunavut) high school and a local Ottawa high school suddenly needed a new Ottawa-area exchange group. Nick Anning was contacted and took advantage of the opportunity to mobilize 8 Adventure and 8 Nordic Race athletes to attend a 10-day exchange in April in Kimmirut. The participants from the North will visit Chelsea in May.

Chelsea Nordiq at the Canadian Ski Marathon

Once again, Chelsea Nordiq Adventure program coordinated their participation at the CSM, joined by other members. A fantastic snow season made the conditions excellent.

Club Events

Ski Swap

The Chelsea Nordiq Ski Swap, at Philemon Wright, was another success this year- raising over \$21,000 for our programs. We are looking for a new coordinator for next year. George Claydon is ready to transfer everything he has put in place to make the transition smooth: please contact George at skiswap@chelseanordiq.ca

Coupe Québec Biathlon Race in Chelsea

~150 athletes registered for the Biathlon Coupe Quebec #5 hosted by Chelsea Nordiq on 23-24 February 2019. Day one was beautiful and great followed by the required cancellation of day two due to excessively (and dangerous) icy conditions. Pierre Dupuis and team coordinated one of the best attended Quebec Cup's as well as hosting the Biathlon Banquet at the Meredith Centre.

Super Sprints

Chelsea Nordiq hosted its Super 6th Sprint Race at a new location this year: Chalet des Erables and the biathlon race course. Almost 200 athletes – between 7 and 18 years old with a smattering of masters – competed in this fast, challenging and dynamic cross-country ski race. Run in a King's Court format, each participant raced 4 times. The race started at 8:30am and was done by 2pm, everything running like clockwork with all participants very pleased with the day. No timing errors, shuttles back and forth, great concession, lots of sponsors gifts. Big applause to all the volunteers who helped Moe and Carolyn pull off such a great event!

Cookiebeiner Event

Snow, sun and cookies brought in a record attendance of 400 kids. New this year was a Fortune Lake cookie stop. A huge success led by Patty Chevalier and her team of smiling, engaged volunteers!

Ski-at-school Program

We had a lead coordinator (John Fahey) who did a fantastic job in bringing over 400 students through the system at the Meredith trails. A number of local skiers were hired as instructors and so the school kids had great direction.

Facilities & Equipment

Kubota and Groomer Equipment

This year the groomer allow for many more days of early season skiing around the range as Demsis was not able to groom with their big equipment for almost 1 month after the first snow fall. This year we found a sponsor to cover our maintenance costs of the Kubota. We also did a full overhaul to keep things running smoothly. Thanks Outcome Consultants and Stew and Vic for getting it done.

Good-bye Meredith Centre

The Meredith Centre has been a fantastic place for Jackrabbits and the Sprints. Lots of great memories but we must move on as we are no longer allowed to run grooming equipment on the environmentally sensitive wetland. See more under the Jackrabbit section.

Rider's Roost Clean-Up

A couple of pop-up work bees did the trick and the Roost was cleaned out and painted and 'decorated'. We now have our club sign out front to help identify it is us! It was used by a number of programs for dryland training. The pellet stove is a fantastic addition as is the popcorn machine. All programs are invited to use this facility at any time of year. It's yours to enjoy and is a beautiful spot nestled in behind Camp Fortune that makes the perfect jumping off point for exploring.

Board Activities

Newsletter

The newsletter has been going strong for 15 months. Feedback indicates the communication tool is working and all members appreciate the updates.

Member Survey

The Board of Directors is in the midst of surveying the membership and hopes to have results in time for the AGM. Survey findings will help establish priorities for the coming season.

Volunteering

Much more attention was paid to appreciation this year. So many put in so much effort to make our programs and events so good. We held coach appreciation day, we (finally!) had volunteer T-shirts for the ski swap, and we celebrated our volunteers at our year-end party. We gave coach toques and T-shirt's to coach volunteers. We also were in year 1 of the new policy for required hours of volunteering and it seemed to work (seamlessly). Our levels of volunteering were up across the board. Let's do it again next year. Thanks to Sean Kennedy for leading the charge on volunteerism.

Sponsorships

This year was a big success in raising sponsorship through selling logo placement on the wax trailer. \$13,500 was raised from 5 sponsors. For next year, the same can be accomplished if we use the summer months to find interested local businesses.

Placement Sports

The club attempted a fundraising initiative for making improvements in lighting around the range and race trails. While sponsorship money was raised (\$27,000 is in Placement Sports awaiting a project), we are currently evaluating how to spend the monies. In the meantime, the funds are under the care of Placement Sports.

Jackrabbit Sub-Committee

We formed a sub-committee to start considering new locations for Jackrabbits. Work is on-going and we hope to have something announced in the summer.

Partnership with Camp Fortune and NCC

The NCC is in the middle of renewing the Gatineau Park Master Plan. Club executive attended many consultations and face to face meetings with the NCC. Club members participated in NCC surveys and public consultations. Nordic skiing is a Gatineau Park anchor activity of both historical significance (the reason the park was formed initially) and part of its preservation. Club members are encouraged to continue to act as stewards respecting the natural condition of the park as well as other users.

Canadian Championships (ENGNE)

Moe Samm (Executive Director) and Carolyn Raab (President) are board members of ENGNE (Evenements Nordique Gatineau Nordic Events) which was the organization responsible for hosting the 2019 Canadian Nordic Championships held in March at Nakkertok (Cantley). The event was highly

successful with over 700 registered racers, 2300 participants (includes spectators and volunteers) and a break-even budget.

2019 Board Elections

Board members

Board members don't have to be super-fast skiers. If you are passionate about skiing and love spending time outdoors and are not shy about setting directions and taking decisions for the club, the club would benefit from you being a Board member.

If you bring a specific professional skill (finance, legal, policy, proposal writing) we can easily align responsibilities with your personal skills and preferences. The Board meets once a month for 2 hours year-round.

There are specific roles on the board (openings are outlined below). In addition, here is a list of club-related activities, for which the club could use Directors:

- Director, Volunteering.** This Director would implement our new volunteering vision and manage activities and tools to facilitate volunteering and to recognize volunteers.
- Director, Grants & Fundraising.** This Director would create teams of visionaries, writers and senior club members to search out grants to support our current and future club activities – and to write winning proposals for these grants. There are plenty of grants and funding possibilities out there to help the club with our awesome program, coaches and infrastructure.
- Director, Trails & Facilities.** This Director would coordinate with other club members the work necessary to maintain and upgrade the roost (Chalet des bénévoles), the stadium, the biathlon range & trails.
- Director, Communications & Marketing.** This Director would work with other club members and coordinate the club's public relations needs (get our name out there and make us more visible in the community) and to give direction as to which kind of content is needed on the CN website, social media and in a newsletter and maybe write a few articles in local papers.

Elections

This year's Annual General Meeting (AGM), which will be held on May 8th at 7pm at the Cascades Club. At the AGM you will have the chance to elect new Directors or re-elect current Directors. The table below lists the current members of the Board, their functions and their status with regards to this year's elections.

Board members are elected for 2 year terms and asked to renew their commitment every year. Our charter stipulates that – besides the 4 Executive Positions (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) and the 3 Program Directors – the Board has to have at least 3 additional Directors but can have up to 5 additional Directors. Below you can see the Board positions available this year.

This is a good time to consider your candidacy. Please let the Secretary, (secretary@chelseanordiq.ca) or the President (president@chelseanordiq.ca) know if you are interested to serve on the Board.

We need one week notice, which means that May 1st is your deadline to apply – please indicate which positions you are applying for.

Current Member		Position	Status for 2019-2020 Season	
1	Carolyn Raab	<i>President</i>	<i>Year 2 of first 2-year term</i>	
2	Sean Kennedy	<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Year 2 of 2-year term</i>	
3	OPEN	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Year 1 of 2-year term</i>	<i>position available</i>
4	OPEN	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Year 1 of 2-year term</i>	<i>position available</i>
5	OPEN	<i>Program Director - Biathlon</i>	<i>Year 1 of 2-year term</i>	<i>position available</i>
6	OPEN	<i>Program Director - Nordic</i>	<i>Year 1 of 2-year term</i>	<i>position available</i>
7	Nick Anning	<i>Program Director - Adventure</i>	<i>Year 2 of second 2-year term</i>	
8	Anne Hofmann	<i>Program Director - Jackrabbit</i>	<i>Year 2 of first 2-year term</i>	
9	Pat Audet	<i>Director</i>	<i>Year 2 of 2-year term</i>	
10	OPEN	<i>Director</i>	<i>Year 1 of second 2-year term</i>	<i>position available</i>
11	OPEN	<i>Director</i>	<i>Year 1 of second 2-year term</i>	<i>position available</i>
12	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Director</i>		<i>position available</i>
13	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Director</i>		<i>position available</i>
	Maurice Samm	<i>Exec. Director & Headcoach</i>	<i>Ex officio</i>	<i>N/A</i>
	Frank Lohmann	<i>Past President</i>	<i>Ex officio</i>	<i>N/A</i>

Membership

During the 2018/19 skiing season Chelsea Nordiq had a total of 405 active members with total membership at 748 (includes all registered members). This was a decrease in the club's active membership by 2% from 429 to 405, which is around our 5-year average.

Table 1 shows the numbers by program compared to last year:

	Fall/Winter 2017/2018	Fall/Winter 2018/2019
	Number	Number

Active Membership	429	405
Family Memberships	258	248
Bunnyrabbits	31	14
Jackrabbits	138	98
Mini-Adventure (8-9)	(Was part of JR)	18
Adventure Rabbit (10-11)	22	28
Adventure Explorers (12-13)	18	29
Nordic Adventure (14+)	38	32
Atoms (8-9)	19	33
Peewees (10-11)	37	29
Midgets (12-13)	25	32
Nordic Race (all)	36	42
Biathlon .22 (all groups) - includes masters sunday	22	20
Racing Bears	3	13
Biathlon Bears (11-14)	21	22
Masters of Adventure (18+)	14	25
Adult lessons (18+)	15	11

Financial Report

Financial Summary 2018-2019 (April 1, 2018-March 31, 2019)

In previous years, this annual report was written after the fiscal year-end and before the AGM. Since we are not currently at year's end, year-end financials will be presented at the AGM May 15th

Acknowledgments

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this report and the information contained herein:

Anne Hofmann, Matt Fantin, Pierre Dupuis, Katie McMahon, Carolyn Raab, Nick Anning, Jenny Sanchez, Kim Brennan, Julie Mellor, Maurice Samm, Patty Chevalier, George Claydon, Eric Schryer, Martin

LeGuerrier, and all of the other caring and committed people that have added to this report and to our year.

Sincerely

Carolyn Raab

President, Chelsea Nordiq, Ski & Biathlon Club

April 23rd, 2019

En Francais

Traduction en cours....

Si vous voulez une traduction de ce rapport annuel, veuillez contacter Carolyn Raab president @ chelseanordiq.ca