

Soo Finnish Nordic Ski Club

Annual Awards Banquet



Sunday, April 9, 2017

Grand Gardens North, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Soo Finnish Nordic Ski Club Awards Banquet Program 2017

4 PM Doors Open & Package Pick Up: Bunnyrabbit & Jackrabbit

5 PM Presentations & Dinner
Cash bar available throughout the evening.

Presentations:

1. Welcome *MCs Eamon MacDougall, Finn Taylor & Sebastien Gingras*
2. Grace *Racing Rabbits Team*
3. Coach Acknowledgement *Diane Charron-Bishop & Cassandra Nielsen*
4. Youth 'Joie de Ski' Awards *Dave Patterson & Coaches from each class*
5. Graduating Bunnyrabbit Awards *Sr. Bunnyrabbit Coaches & Kinsmen Rep. Brad Phaneuf*
6. Kinsmen Trophies *Level Four Coaches & Kinsmen Rep. Brad Phaneuf*
7. Track Attack Medals *Don Hall, Marjorie Hall & Rob MacDougall*
8. Racing Rabbits Trophies *John Santana, Phil Dopp & Joe Reich*
9. Biathlon Bears Medals *Matt Towle & Derek Rouleau*
10. Ski Team Awards *Erin Mallinger, Greg Prodan & Ian Sinclair*
11. Kevin Allan Riutta Award *Amy Wheeler Reich*
12. Jim Patterson Memorial Award & 'Joie de Ski' Pin *Dee Patterson*
13. Janet Rodger-Anderson Award *Joanna MacDougall*
14. Club Distance Awards *Margaret Meincke*
15. President's Award *Betty van Kerkhof*
16. Silent Auction Winners *Temeara & Gavan Barrett*
17. Closing Remarks – See you next season

Message from the Board

The Soo Finnish Nordic Ski Club has a long history of community service with respect to cross-country skiing in Sault Ste. Marie. As the club's name suggests, its roots stem directly from the many Finnish immigrants who settled in the Sault Ste. Marie area in the mid-1900s. These members of the Finnish immigrant community wanted to recreate a sense of community in their new home – and they succeeded! The *Canadian Finnish Club*, as it was initially named, was founded in 1953 and the *Soo Finnish Ski Club* was incorporated in March 1991.

We are Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario's premier cross country ski club with programs, lessons, events, and races that cater to all ages and abilities; located in the beautiful Hiawatha Highlands. Our club's volunteers and staff are active in building and maintaining the 35-kilometer trail system at Hiawatha Highlands. We are outdoor enthusiasts who promote the sport of cross country skiing, a sport for life, at the local, provincial, and national levels, competitively and recreationally. We are volunteers who appreciate the importance of giving back to our community. We are family and friends.

We lost a dear friend, a member of our club and executive, and a devoted volunteer this past July. There has not been a day that he is not thought of by our ski club family. A plaque will be installed shortly in Mr. Doug Cuddy's memory.

A special note of appreciation for many, many years of service goes to two members of our Board: Adriana Tomie and Betty van Kerkhof. Both members will be stepping down this year. Thank you, Betty and Adriana, for all of your support and 'skiing' us in the right direction.

This past 2016/2017 ski season was exceptional. Snow made its debut in time for our program start dates and it fell so well that we had over 380 cm! Thank you to the Hiawatha Highlands staff and trail volunteers for the daily maintenance of our second home.

We had excellent attendance at all of our events this year: the Trail Trot, Ski Swap, New Year's Eve Lantern Ski, Hiawatha Snowfest, Bon Soo Lantern Ski, Mabel Lake Ski Tour, Ski the Trails, and the Family & Friends Ski Day. There

were no cancellations due to extreme cold or mild temperatures! Appreciation goes out to the numerous volunteers who were involved with all of our events.

More good news: the Government of Canada is investing \$22,374 to help us, in partnership with the Kinsmen Club of Sault Ste. Marie and the Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority, replace existing lighting and install additional new lighting on the two-kilometre Kinsmen ski trail. Additional lighting will include access points from the parking lot to the ball field, and at the trail head of the Pinder Trail System. The funding will also help cover the costs of installation of a new outdoor speaker system. Thank you, Terry Sheehan, Member of Parliament for Sault Ste. Marie and the Government of Canada through the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program.

As a club member, we invite you to attend our monthly meetings and provide input or lend a hand with the preparations for the 2017/2018 season. Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled at the Civic Centre, on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 7 PM.

Tonight, we celebrate the season. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for being a Soo Finnish Nordic Ski Club member. Enjoy the evening.

Board of Directors

President: Joanna MacDougall

President Elect: Vacant

VP Operations: Betty van Kerkhof

Co-VP Programs: Amy Wheeler Reich

Co-VP Programs: Cassandra Nielsen

Treasurer: Laura Didier

Secretary: Leigh Colpitts

Dee Patterson

Linda Hadley-Piscopo

Adriana Tomie

Bonnie Yurich

Jennifer McFarling

Bunnyrabbit and Jackrabbit Season Highlights

The 2017 season saw 125 children aged four to 14 years old participate in the Bunnyrabbit and Jackrabbit athlete development programs. We had 43 volunteer coaches, which included 10 teen coaches – thank you!

Our season kick-off was on December 17th and it started us off right: on snow! Children got to meet their coaches and teammates, ski, and enjoy the food tent treats. Although we took one Saturday off for the holidays, we still had 12 terrific mornings together.

We offered two racing opportunities for our children this season: a classic technique interval start time trial at Hiawatha Snowfest in January, and a freestyle mass start race in February. Congratulations to all participants! Our children pushed themselves to learn and do new things, and showed great sportsmanship. And what's a race without finish line cookies and hot grape?!

Despite the cold temperatures, our Jackrabbit Olympics was a very fun day and included a group dance and games such as Zip Line, Bean Bag Boozle, Candy Race, and an Obstacle Course. The events were followed by a yummy hot dog social and cookie medals. Thank you to all the volunteers.

Our final event, the Family and Friends Ski Day, is always a nice and easy going morning. Skiing the Pinder backwards makes it feel like a whole new trail.

Our programs focus on physical literacy, skill development, and FUN. Cross country skiing is a great way to enjoy the winter by exercising and playing with friends in the great outdoors. We have the best kids, coaches, and volunteers! We are always looking for ways to improve – come support our team. Please contact us now if you can coach or help us prepare for next season.

- Cassandra Nielsen and Diane Charron-Bishop

Graduating Bunnyrabbit Awards

Presented to the most promising male and female skiers who are graduating from the Bunnyrabbit Program.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
2016	Max Allison	Brooke Wylie
2015	Jadon Pino	Claire Hill
2014	Kai Foster	Kate de Beer
2013	Aedan Smyth	Jenna Caple
2012	Eamonn Rushon Martineau	Dargus Burzese
2011	Cole Barbeau	Lauren Bowden

The Kinsmen Trophies

Presented to the most promising male and female skiers who are graduating from the Jackrabbit Program.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
2016	Zarek Sand	Anna Towle
2015	Cole Barbeau	Ava Nixon-Holmes
2014	-	Malia Kirk
2013	Keon Shafiee Caleb Barynin	Julie Delorme Courtney Gingras
2012	Declan MacDougall	Shilo Rousseau
2011	Terry Bariciak	Temeara Barrett
2010	Sebastien Gingras	Emma Karklins
2009	Matteo Reich	-
2008	William Stewart	Erika Mihell
2007	-	Maggie Kirkwood
2006	Jordan Reinke	Frances Mallinger
2005	Adam Hopfgartner Liam Ortiz	Catherine Mallinger

Track Attack Season Highlights

Track Attack 2017 was all about fun, adventure, and trying new things. Participation rates were high, with most skiers showing up each week. Special thanks to the parents who frequently skied with us; they were a great help and made the whole experience all the more fun.

Dargus Burzese	Néomie Graham	Celeste Schoahs
Owen Duncan	Abigail Peake	Waylon Rushon Martineau
Trysten Kahtava	Brennan Murray	Holly Zayachkowski

All nine Track Attackers and quite a few parents attended the St. Joe Island Maple Syrup Stampede. Snow conditions were good, and the new trails and new experiences were wonderful. For an even greater adventure, those that could make it did the 14 km Mable Lake Ski Tour. The hills, rough at times, were great fun and the weather was beautiful.

Closer to home, we ran two events for the Jackrabbit Olympics. Also, by popular request, Track Attackers strapped on snowshoes for a hike that included one very steep hill that required a rope to negotiate.

Early in the season, Coach Rob showed us a small, ungroomed trail that leads down to the Crystal Creek, where we built a fire and roasted hot dogs and marshmallows. On another occasion, with the help of Coaches Rob and Joanna, we were able to access the trails on the Algoma Rod and Gun Club property, which are not normally open to the public. The terrain there is incredible, all big hills and wide-open skating lanes. This, along with the Crystal on the same day, was almost enough to do old Coach Don in, but he made it back in one piece, with a broad smile.

As in 2016, Track Attack will be producing its own music video, this year to the tune of the hit song "All Star". The soon-to-be YouTube sensation will be released tonight at the Jackrabbit banquet.

Above all, many thanks to our nine Track Attack skiers. They are fine young people who love skiing and have a real thirst for adventure.

- Rob MacDougall, Marjorie Hall, and Don Hall

Racing Rabbits Season Highlights

The Racing Rabbits program is designed for skiers who have graduated from the Jackrabbit program or participated in Track Attack, and are looking for an opportunity to spend more time on both classic and skate skis. The focus continues on skill development and fun, with an introduction to different race formats.

Cole Barbeau	Ava Nixon-Holmes
Ahnika Davey	Eamonn Rushon Martineau
Shail Giroux	Zarek Sand
Erik Kary	Arwin Shafiee
Evan Morrison	Anna Towle

This year's Racing Rabbits put in a strong season training every Thursday and Saturday. Not only did they improve their skiing technique and endurance, they also worked on their eye rolling and stomach muscles from all of Coach John, Joe, and Phil's jokes and shenanigans.

Racing Rabbits participated at both club time trials, the Maple Syrup Stampede, the Mabel Lake Ski Tour, and two informal 'Thursday Night Time Trials'. Racing Rabbits Shail Giroux, Erik Kary, and Anna Towle attended the Ontario Provincial Midget Championships in Peterborough, Ontario, and competed in multiple events including a 3 km freestyle interval start, 3 km classic mass start, a freestyle ski cross, and some fun relay races. Kavi Giroux (Jackrabbit Level Three) also competed and Tom Towle was the Soo Finnish mascot in a retro race suit at Midgets.

Jim Patterson Memorial Award

'Joie de Ski' Pin

	2016	2015	2014
Jr Bunnyrabbit	Arabella MacLachlan Katie Sharabura Aly Sharabura	Thomas Towle Aubrey Coletti	Kiera Francis Temilade Adebowale Valerie Hallett
Sr Bunnyrabbit	Jenna deBeer Eden Bishop	Sophie Barbeau Madeline Coulman	Kavi Giroux
Level One	Nairn MacWilliam Valerie Hallett Ethan Mittleholtz	Noah Mittleholtz Rowan Baldock Ashlyn Baars	Chelsea Tyrrel Kohen LaBlance
Level Two	Fraser Moody Vitaliy Kubin	Graham Kirk	Anirudh Gupta
Level Three	Isaac Smyth	Kyle Pino	Ava Nixon-Holmes Brennan Murray
Level Four	Dargus Burzese	Waylon Rushon Martineau	Laura Caple
Racing Rabbit	Shail Giroux	Martin MacDougall	Julie Delorme Jak Cameron
Track Attack	Néomie Graham	Esther Yule	Mitchell Swinn Lauren Stenta Sarah Krysa Charlotte Reich

Presented to a child in each group
who loves to ski and have fun, and
works hard to become a better skier.

2013

Seth Bishop
Mathew Guido-Schoepfner

2012

Jenna Caple
Zoe Foltz

2011

Mathew Michaud

2010

Holly Zayachkowski

Clare Baldwin
Mya Moody

Anirudh Gupta

Douglas Brodie

Miia Luomaranta

Riley Reid
Anna Towle

Ava Nixon-Holmes
Owen Duncan
Hunter Banks

Paulina Siltanen
Hannah Dunlop

Julie Delorme
Evan Baldwin

Avery Hemsworth
Abigail Peake

Malia Kirk

Julie Delorme
Katja Karhi

Michael Shepherd
Christopher Zayachkowski

Paige Bowes

Julie Delorme
Emily McNamara

Courtney Gingras
Christopher Zayachkowski

Sila McGuffin
Michelle Delorme

Téa Lane
Emily Williams

Michael Shepherd
Caleb Barynin

Nathan Hallett
Ella Santana

Finn Taylor
Andrew Quon

Raili Kary

L5 - Callum Nixon-Holmes
L5 - Annika Lane

L5 - Andrew Quon

L5 - Hanna-Liisa Linquist
L5 - Emma Karklins
L5 - Amy Verdecchia

Christopher Zayachkowski

Michaela Barbeau

Sean Smith

Junior Ski Team Season Highlights

The Junior Ski Team trained on-snow every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Their goal is to have as much fun as possible while using the skills learned in Jackrabbits to develop both more efficient skiing technique and speed. This was achieved by taking part in many technique-oriented drills, practice relay races, practice sprint races, and long distance ski outings.

Evan Baldwin
Jak Cameron
Nevan Keating

Martin MacDougall
Micah Peake

Angus Taylor
Keon Shafiee

Many of the juniors were able to compete at local events which included a 5 km classic interval start at Hiawatha Snowfest, a 4 km freestyle mass start at the club's second time trial, and a 7 km classic mass start at the Maple Syrup Stampede on St. Joseph Island.

Coach Ian supported Micah and Martin who raced at the Ontario Midget Championships held at Kawartha Nordic Ski Club. Martin raced a 5 km distance and Micah raced a 3 km distance in the freestyle interval start and a classic mass start. They also participated in a fun yet icy freestyle snow cross race, freestyle team relay, and classic team sprint. Other out of town events included Martin, Jak, and Makenna (senior) travelling to Walden Nordic to compete in a 5 km classic mass start race at the 2017 Woolly Hippo Invitational.

- Erin Mallinger, Greg Prodan, and Ian Sinclair

Senior Ski Team Season Highlights

The Soo Finnish Nordic Senior Ski Team trains year-round, from June to March. Athletes do a combination of dryland training activities including running, roller skiing, cycling, and strength work in the off season. Once the snow arrives, the athletes work hard on ski technique and skiing fast to be prepared for the long race season. The seniors meet three times a week for team practices, and team members train on their own during the rest of the week.

Gavan Barrett

Temeara Barrett

Gareth Bellinger

Makenna Cameron

Sebastien Gingras

Declan MacDougall

Eamon MacDougall

Derek Rouleau

Finn Taylor

The seniors competed at several races throughout the season, from the club level to the national level. They travelled to races in Thunder Bay, Gatineau (QC), Temiskaming, Peterborough, and Canmore (AB). Members also participate in local events such as the Hiawatha Snowfest and the Maple Syrup Stampede. Highlights include: Declan's bronze medal at Easterns in his first race back on scene, Declan and Sebastien's medals in Temiskaming where they proved themselves as classic sprint specialists, Gavan's bronze medal in the classic mass start and second place in the ski cross at Midget Championships, and Makenna's debut as an Ontario Cup racer in Temiskaming! The ski team is supported at OCups and training camps by Northern Ontario Division (NOD) coaches Toivo Koivukoski, Dave Nighbor, and Jordan Cascagnette from Nipissing University.

The juniors and seniors did things a little differently this year by training together. Junior athletes got a chance to learn from the seniors and experience training at a higher level, and senior athletes got a chance to model all the skills they've worked on in previous years. We had a great season and look forward to another even better one next year. New members are always welcome to come out and join both teams!

- Erin Mallinger, Greg Prodan, and Ian Sinclair

Email contactus@soofinnishnordic.com to learn more about the ski teams.

Golden Ski Award

Presented to the skier who has shown a high level of talent, success, and sportsmanship during the past year.

2016	Declan MacDougall	2008	Andrew Barbeau
2015	Shilo Rousseau	2007	Hilary Mallinger
2014	Matteo Reich	2006	Adam Kates
2013	Erika Mihell	2005	Mathew Cuddy
2012	Wendy Mihell	2004	Mathew Cuddy
2011	Jack Carlyle	2003	Victoria Koskenoja
2010	Jack Carlyle	2002	Victoria Koskenoja
2009	Jack Carlyle	2002	Emily Hayman

Coach's Award

Presented to the skier who has shown the most improvement in his or her performance over the previous year's results.

2016	Temeara Barrett	2010	Liam Ortiz
2015	Declan MacDougall	2009	Jack Carlyle
2014	Josiah Reinke	2008	Jack Carlyle
2013	Matteo Reich	2007	Adam Hopfgartner
2013	Sebastien Gingras	2007	Catherine Mallinger
2012	James Isaacs	2006	Ben Vanbiesbrouck
2011	Wendy Mihell	2005	Alexander Steele

On Target Award

Introduced in 2014, this award goes to an athlete on the Senior Team who portrays a dedication to the sport of Biathlon.

2015	Derek Rouleau	2014	Dalton Hertz
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Biathlon Bears Season Highlights

Biathlon Bears is an introductory program to biathlon: the combination of skate skiing and air rifle marksmanship. Biathlon Bears meet on Wednesday evenings to learn and practice air rifle target shooting at Anna McCrea Public School and work on skate skiing on Saturday mornings in one of the ski programs. This year, we had nine members who attended weekly practices from November to March.

Seth Bishop

Erik Kary

Kyle Pino

Ahnika Davey

Vitaliy Kubin

Akela Sand

Owen Duncan

Gus Morin-Strom

Anna Towle

On February 25th, our biathletes had the opportunity to put the two disciplines together at the Algoma Rod and Gun Club. Thanks goes out to Maj. Pierre Breckenridge, the Algoma Rod and Gun Club, and Hiawatha Highlands grooming staff for supporting this experience.

Owen and Akela attended the Blind River Invitational on March 4, 2017. Akela earned third place and Owen placed first his category and shot clean. Well done!

- Matt Towle & Derek Rouleau

Post-Secondary Cross Country Skiing

Continuing to cross country ski in a group or team does not have to end when you graduate from high school. There are universities, colleges, and national training development centres which offer opportunities to train and compete at various levels and races provincially, nationally, and internationally.

Soo Finnish Nordic is proud to have three athletes who compete, under our club name, but away from home:

Jack Carlyle at the Alberta World Cup Academy

Erika Mihell at Lakehead University

Matteo Reich at Laurentian University

Congratulations to our athletes for their excellence in cross country skiing!

Kevin Allan Riutta Award

Given annually to the person, who through example, endeavour, and leadership, promotes and fosters cross country skiing among the youth of Sault Ste. Marie.

2016	John Santana	2001	Dee Patterson
2015	Diane Charron-Bishop	2000	Sharon Cuddy
2015	Cassandra Nielsen	2000	Lynn Rosso
2015	Matthew Towle	1999	Mary Ann Hayman
2014	Hiawatha Highlands Staff	1998	Rich & Sue Greenwood
2013	Maxine Orr	1997	Ted Sutton
2012	Colin Templeton	1996	Bonnie & Rick Yurich
2011	Joanna MacDougall	1995	Virve Manniste-Squire
2011	Amy Wheeler Reich	1995	Jan Duggan
2010	Larry Tomie	1994	Helen Lindfors
2009	Carl Rosso	1993	Matt Kommusaar
2008	Kevin Grant	1992	Allan Spurr
2007	J. J. Hilsinger	1991	Wayne Westman
2006	Chris Kitzman	1990	Jim & Dee Patterson
2006	Wendy Steele	1989	Paul Neimi
2005	Peter Uhlig	1988	Melba Kinnunen
2004	Jim Maxwell	1987	Kitty Dustin
2003	Michael Keating	1986	J. J. Hilsinger
2002	Dennis Paradine	1985	Heikki Kinnunen

Jim Patterson Memorial Award & 'Joie de Ski' Pin

Jim Patterson's Memorial Award celebrates the participation and accomplishment of those ski club members who share enthusiasm, love of skiing, and sense of fun.

- 2016 Raymond Bone, Ian Sinclair, Peake Family, Stewart-deBeer Family, Murray Family
- 2015 Moody Family, Shannon Ramsay, Andrea Howland, Erin Mallinger, Lawrence Foster, Greg Prodan, Colin Edwards, Emily Hayman
- 2014 Diane Charron-Bishop, Towle Family, Taylor Family, Hertz Family, Baldwin Family, McGuffin Family, Sam Nicoletta, Dunlop Family
- 2013 Ortiz Family, Robert and Vera McCron, Betty Noland, Gloria Mears
- 2012 Barrett Family, Karklins Family, Jessica Chiarello
- 2011 Mike Keating, Eric Piscopo, Larry Tomie, Hall Family
- 2010 Jennifer McFarling, Irvine Family, Santana Family, Carlyle Family
- 2009 Linquist Family, Gingras Family, MacDougall Family
- 2008 Tomie Family, Reich Family, Buckner Family
- 2007 Nearing-van Kerkhof Family, Hopfgartner-Kitzman Family
- 2006 Steele Family, Mihell Family, Adam Kates, Brady Dunne
- 2005 Boucher Family, Larry Tomie
- 2004 Bellinger Family, Gordon Family, Julia Wytsma, Cody Noland
- 2003 Mario Festival, Barbeau Family
- 2002 Bob Fadock, Dennis Paradine, Hogan Family
- 2001 Elaine Windus, Paul Barbeau, Paul Pothier, John Kasch, Scott Capell, Mallinger Family
- 2000 Margaret Meincke, Mary Ann & Dave Hayman, Ken Lomas, Dave Thomlinson
- 1999 McGregor Family, Haapalainen Family, Jake Marcinkowski, David Poitevin, Lynn Rosso
- 1998 Virve Manniste-Squire, Gary Hogan, Carl Rosso

Janet Rodger-Anderson Award

This award was presented in 2003 to commemorate a dear friend to SFNSC and many of its members, Janet Rodger-Anderson. The award is given annually to the master skier who through example, endeavour, and friendship, promotes and fosters cross country skiing among the people of Sault Ste. Marie.

2016	Snowfest Team	2009	Jennifer McFarling
2015	Mary Ann & Darren Linquist	2008	Robert Mears
2014	Dave Lomas & Scott McCron	2007	Dee Patterson
2013	Margaret Barbeau	2006	Marg Meincke
2012	Carla & Mike Buckner	2005	Paul Barbeau
2011	Larry Tomie	2004	Mario Festival
2010	Grahame Gordon	2003	Tenho Tikka

President's Award

Awarded annually to a person who has made a significant contribution over many years towards club activities and cross country skiing in Sault Ste. Marie.

2016	Joanna MacDougall	2008	Adriana Tomie
2015	Amy Wheeler Reich	2007	Paul Barbeau
2014	Doug Cuddy	2006	Melba & Heikki Kinnunen
2013	Rachelle Barbeau	2005	Sue Greenwood
2012	Lora Kinnunen	2004	Gloria & Robert Mears
2011	Laurie Carlyle	2003	Betty & Tom Noland
2010	Kevin Hogan	2002	Vera & Robert McCron
2009	Kinsmen Club	2001	Bob Fadock
2008	Jim Mihell	2000	Carl Rosso
2008	Betty van Kerkhof	1998	Doug & Sharon Cuddy

We wish to thank our sponsors, partners, and supporters for their dedication and kind generosity; their contributions make it possible to maintain cross-country skiing excellence on our trails as well as in our community.



Ken & Cory Steinburg



