

**CARIBOO SKI TOURING CLUB**  
**43<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 25, 2019**  
**MINUTES**

**In attendance: 47 people.**

**Introduction of Executive:** President: Brian Kennelly  
Vice-President: Chris Hyde  
Treasurer: Tania Gruene  
Secretary: Charlotte Kurta

**Director Reports: an overview of the Club's past year.**  
**Written reports attached at end of agenda.**

1. President's Report. Brian Kennelly.

*CSTC President's report, AGM, October 25, 2019.*

It's been an interesting year for the Cariboo Ski Touring Club. We started at this time last year with a new Vice President, Chris Hyde, Treasurer, Kelsey Berlinger and myself as President. We also had Mike McLaughlin step in as Equipment and Grooming Director. Neil Mackay became the Ski Trails and Signs Director, and Joe Daigle became the new Snowshoe Trails Director. Past President, Bruce Self also accepted our appeal to become the new Snowmaking Director.

Near the end of the year, Kelsey accepted a new job in Ft St John, and had to resign from the Treasurer position. We appreciate her service and the continued effort to get our accounting functioning on Quickbooks.

Tania Gruene, who has served us so well as Club manager for the last eight years through our building period, decided at the end of the season that it was time she refocused on her own career and stepped down. I'd like to take this time for all of us here to express our appreciation for the admirable job she did in that role. Thank you, Tania!

I'm not sure how that focus has gone for Tania, though, as in April she accepted our request to take on the Treasurer's position for the interim; and that in the midst of changing our accounting system over to Quickbooks. Thank you again, Tania.

We've also had resignations from Elaine Watteyne, our highly valued volunteer extraordinaire, from both the Social Director's and the Loppet Coordinator's positions; and from Taylor Mastre who has done a yeoman's job as our Backcountry director. Thank you to both of them!

Cassidy Haber, who joined us last year as the lodge and rental shop attendant, accepted what we hope will be at least a three year term as Club Manager and YSS Program Coordinator. So far he is proving up to the task of learning to fill the oversize shoes Tania vacated. Welcome Cassidy!

Our winter had its normal slow start last year with thin snow during the Christmas holiday, and then when the snow came, so did the cold. This made our first two months more challenging for skiing than we would like, but it ended up a fairly good year of skiing. We hosted a very successful Biathlon BC Cup that attracted athletes and families from far afield. Congrats to Jim Crellin and Chris Eldon for that job well done!

Unfortunately the cold caused an 11th hour cancellation of our loppet, but then we did see a positive response to our Fun Free-style race near the end of the season. and another successful Ski Tournament with its new format. Thank you, Elaine, Brian, and Sunshine. We also experienced a very welcome growth in our SDP program promising a healthy future, thanks in great part to Chris Hyde's dedication. Thank you, Chris.

We also held a fairly successful fundraising event necessitated by multiple mechanical issues with our aging snowmobile fleet. More importantly our Grant writers, Brian Black and Marilyn van Leusden came through once again to acquire most of the funds needed to finance the first and foundational phase of our snow-making project.

Bruce Self and Greg Strebel managed a minefield of delays and bureaucracy to power through and get the snow-making project completed. This should provide a big enhancement to the quality of skiing for both our YSS and SDP program through any thin snow sessions that occur. Well done Guys!

Our Website Director, Shannon Coffey, coordinated a remake of our website to make it more user-friendly, informative, and dynamic with direct links to social media. I think we all appreciate the update, Shannon.

A lot goes on behind the scenes to ensure we survive and thrive as a volunteer organization. Thank you to Charlotte Kurta, our Secretary who keeps us organized and our policies current; to Peter van Leusden who organizes our coaches training (even happening tonight, as we speak, getting things rolling); and to Ron Watteyne who teaches our adult skiers and ensures the community is informed of what is happening here; and to Vicki and Charlie Esplen for all their hard work making the Dragon's Lair a place where kid's love to ski and play.

I've been around our system which all looks good, really more like a golf course at the moment, thanks to our Trails Director, Neil Mackay, and to Mike McLaughlin for keeping our fleet in running shape. I would also like to thank all of our event volunteers and volunteer coaches and track-setters, without whose support, we could not operate. Thank you, everyone.

I would like to close on a note about our future. All of us here want to see the facilities and opportunities we provide our members and the public maintained and to continue to improve. In years where our snowfalls have been less than desired, our costs haven't changed, but our memberships have dropped. Daily ski passes help with our operating costs, but our memberships and season passes are our real bread and butter; they form the basis of our budgeting and efforts to hedge against contingencies such as the aging or failing of our equipment. Even if a person doesn't use our facilities often enough in a year to "make their pass pay", they make an important contribution to ensure the facilities are up to par when they are able to use them. They also get

the benefit of knowing they belong and contribute to such a fine organization and ski community. So finally: Thank you to all of you members and pass holders.

2. Treasurer's Report. Tania Gruene. See financial statements attached.
3. Manager's Report. Cassidy Haber.

Looking forward to the 2019/2020 season, we are going to continue our pursuit in acquiring new members, who will also potentially become great future coaches. I know first hand of the enjoyment only a few sessions on skis can give you! As many of you know, my present position is a new one, and I have a lot of learning to do, but I have great ideas and ambitions going forward to aid in the success of this club. As has been mentioned, last season was a strange one, with many highs and lows that proved to hinder quality of skiing—this being said, we had an excellent turnout for both our ski school, and SDP program. I would like to continue to host frequent events over the duration of the season, as I believe last year's were a great success and garner new interest.

The focus for myself this year will be the acquisition and maintenance of volunteers, as well as heavy promotion of the club and its facilities. This will be especially important with the downturn in the local economy encouraging a more stringent budget in our community. Programs like the SDP are an enormous asset in the culturing of the youth into what I believe is a little known sport, and I appreciate everything Chris and Laurie are doing in that regard.

We are seeing a strong start this year with 3 schools already signed up for Ski School, and I'm fairly certain we will get a few more—hopefully meeting our capacity for the season! Now to get some more coaches on board...anyone? :)

4. 2018/19 Directors' Reports. See below.

- A. Backcountry Report. Taylor Mastre.
- B. Coaching Report. Peter van Leusden.
- C. Equipment. Jim Capan / Mike MacLachlin.
- D. Fundraising / Grant Applications. Brian Black / Marilyn van Leusden
- E. Governance and Policies. Charlotte Kurta
- F. Hallis Lake Ski Tournament. Sunshine Borsato.
- G. Loppet.
- H. Membership. Greg Strebel.
- I. Nordics/Biathlon. Chris Elden.
- J. Publicity / Adult Lessons. Ron Watteyne.
- K. Rental Shop / Lodge. Cassidy Haber
- L. School Ski Program. Vicky Esplen / Tania Gruene
- M. Skill Development Program. Chris Hyde.
- N. Snowshoeing. Joe Daigle.
- O. Social Committee. Vacant – no director yet.
- P. Trails & Signage. Neil Mackay.
- Q. Website. Shannon Coffey.

Motion to accept Committee Reports: Greg Strebel. 2<sup>nd</sup> Evi Black. All in favour and approved.

**5. Election of Executive Officers: all positions nominated and accepted by acclamation.**

1. President: Brian Kennelly
2. Vice President: Chris Hyde.
3. Treasurer: Tania Gruene.
4. Secretary: Charlotte Kurta

**Signing Officers for CSTC Regular Account**

1. President Brian Kennelly.  
206 Giesbrecht Road  
Quesnel BC V2J5E8  
250-991-8709  
[briankennelly@gmail.com](mailto:briankennelly@gmail.com)
2. Vice President Christopher Hyde  
174 Coach Road  
Quesnel BC V2J5A2  
250-983-8770  
[Chyde79@gmail.com](mailto:Chyde79@gmail.com)
3. Treasurer Tania Gruene  
1548 Davon Road  
Quesnel BC V2J6N9  
250-991-6906  
[t.gruene72@gmail.com](mailto:t.gruene72@gmail.com)
4. Membership Director Gregory Strebel  
3641 Quesnel-Hydraulic Road  
Quesnel BC V2J6G4  
250-747-3586  
[gpstreb1@telus.net](mailto:gpstreb1@telus.net)

Signing officers for Gaming Account – see next page.

## Signing Officers for CSCT Gaming Account

1. President Brian Kennelly.  
206 Giesbrecht Road  
Quesnel BC V2J5E8  
250-991-8709  
[briankennelly@gmail.com](mailto:briankennelly@gmail.com)
2. Vice President Christopher Hyde  
174 Coach Road  
Quesnel BC V2J5A2  
250-983-8770  
[Chyde79@gmail.com](mailto:Chyde79@gmail.com)
3. Treasurer Tania Gruene  
1548 Davon Road  
Quesnel BC V2J6N9  
250-991-6906  
[t.gruene72@gmail.com](mailto:t.gruene72@gmail.com)

Motion to accept the list of Signing Officers for the CSTC for the year 2019/2020. Motioned by Joe Daigle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tony Jaffary, and approved.

## **Proposed List of Directors for 2019/2020 Ski Season**

| <b>Director</b>     | <b>Role</b>                        | <b>Contact Info</b>                                                          |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chris Hyde          | SDP Director                       | <a href="mailto:chyde79@gmail.com">chyde79@gmail.com</a>                     |
| Bruce Self          | Snowmaking Director                | <a href="mailto:bushytat@gmail.com">bushytat@gmail.com</a>                   |
| Greg Streb          | Membership / Registrar Director    | <a href="mailto:gpstreb1@telus.net">gpstreb1@telus.net</a>                   |
| Mike McLaughlin     | Equipment & Grooming Director      | <a href="mailto:mikemac2@telus.net">mikemac2@telus.net</a>                   |
| Sunshine Borsato    | Ski Tournament Director            | <a href="mailto:sunshineborsato@hotmail.com">sunshineborsato@hotmail.com</a> |
| Brian Black         | Grant Writer                       | <a href="mailto:bnblack01@gmail.com">bnblack01@gmail.com</a>                 |
| Marilyn van Leusden | Grant Writer                       | <a href="mailto:marilyn.vl@hotmail.com">marilyn.vl@hotmail.com</a>           |
| Charlotte Kurta     | Governance                         | <a href="mailto:chkurta@gmail.com">chkurta@gmail.com</a>                     |
| Jim Crellin         | Nordics/Biathlon Director          | <a href="mailto:acrellin@quesnelbc.com">acrellin@quesnelbc.com</a>           |
| Chris Elden         | Nordics/Biathlon Director          | <a href="mailto:porcupin@Quesnelbc.com">porcupin@Quesnelbc.com</a>           |
| Shannon Coffey      | Website Director                   | <a href="mailto:shannon.coffey@icloud.com">shannon.coffey@icloud.com</a>     |
| Ryan Titley         | Backcountry Director               | <a href="mailto:titleyr@hotmail.com">titleyr@hotmail.com</a>                 |
| Cathy Walsh         | School Program Director            | <a href="mailto:cathywalsh@shaw.ca">cathywalsh@shaw.ca</a>                   |
| Peter van Leusden   | Coaching Coordinator Director      | <a href="mailto:vanleusdenp@gmail.com">vanleusdenp@gmail.com</a>             |
| Ron Watteyne        | Adult Lessons & Publicity Director | <a href="mailto:threewatts@shaw.ca">threewatts@shaw.ca</a>                   |
| Neil Mackay         | Ski Trails and Signs Director      | <a href="mailto:neilmackay@fortisbc.ca">neilmackay@fortisbc.ca</a>           |
| Joe Daigle          | Snowshoe Trails Director           | <a href="mailto:smokinjoedaig@hotmail.com">smokinjoedaig@hotmail.com</a>     |
|                     | Social Director                    |                                                                              |

**Coordinators**

Cassidy Haber Club Manager/Ski School Coordinator

[cassady1020@hotmail.com](mailto:cassady1020@hotmail.com)

\_\_\_\_\_ Loppet Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_

Motion to accept the list of Directors for the next year. Motioned by Mike MacLachlan. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Josephy, all in favour and approved.

End of Annual General Meeting.

**Special Presentation: Corrinne Cook and Christine Turlet**

**See reports attached.**

## 2019 Backcountry Report

### Taylor Mastre

If you don't already know, I am stepping down as Backcountry Director as I am leaving the community. As much as I want to, it would be really difficult to perform these duties while I don't live here. I sincerely thank the Board for sharing all of their combined knowledge and skills. It made my time here much easier and very rewarding.

The year was kicked off with an Introduction to Backcountry trip to the Kibbee Lake cabin. Despite another -30 celsius trip, I had 3 participants and myself attend.

Mt Murray cabin –

September 29th work party had 13 volunteers.

Cabin was re-stocked with wood and a hand rail was built onto last year's new stairs. Garbage was collected from around the cabin and taken to the landfill.

Mt Waverly cabin – No work done this year. Wood supply in good shape.

Moncton cabin – Ryan Titley led 6 of us total to the Moncton cabin for a very eventful firewood party. The contents of the outhouse were emptied and buried. Battery pack powered LED lights were installed in the cabin.

Cariboo Mtn cabin – No work done this year. Wood supply in good shape.

Other business – I still have the 100lbs propane tank that we extracted from the Murray Cabin. Who can I give it to?

I am very happy to have spent the last three seasons on this Board. This is a great group of people and I will miss seeing you.

Thank you for all of your support and guidance.

Taylor Mastre

Wish List for New Backcountry Director:

- Insulation at Cariboo Mtn Cabin
- Look into the cost and efficacy of adding a "Donate Here" button for the backcountry cabins on the website. By not having an online donation option, it becomes a barrier for people who would otherwise be donating for their stays in the cabins

### **Biathlon. Jim Crellin, Chris Elden.**

We had 10 competing athletes including four adults.

There were 4 BC Cups last year, including the one hosted by CSTC. Competitions were also in Prince George, Vanderhoof and Kelowna. A fifth scheduled event in Whistler was cancelled due to a lack of snow.

National Championships were in Whistler. Ryan Elden, a CSTC alumnus, and Chris Elden both competed and earned several medals each. Ryan also competed for Team BC at the Canada Winter Games winning a gold medal in the pursuit and bronze in the relay.

We will set up the range and start 2019-20 training season in November. This is later than usual, but we no longer have an off season range to practice at, and many of the team members are time limited because they participate in other activities during the off season.

Now that we have a cross country team we will coordinate some of our ski practices with them.

We continue to work with the Recreation Department at the Ministry of Forests regarding approval of a permanent target platform in order to meet proposed new legislation requiring the capture of lead. However, progress on this has been slow.

Our rifle supply is in good shape with all juveniles and older (11+ yrs) on biathlon rifles. We will be receiving a new Junior Bear rifle stock this fall that was purchased with Gaming Grant funds.

We are not hosting a BC Cup this year. There are four scheduled in: Sovereign Lake, Prince George, Burns Lake and Vancouver Island. BC Winter Games are in Ft. St. John in mid-February. We have one athlete who is age eligible.

National Championships are in Val Cartier in late March.

We thank the club and all of the many volunteers for their dedicated support of our endeavors.

### **Membership Report for AGM.**

Greg Strebel.

Total number of members last season 329 (174 Female, 155 Male)

#### Categories

10 members under 5 (free membership, CCBC fees paid by CSTC)

303 Skiers (18 Adult and 6 Junior/Student Backcountry)

16 Snowshoers

Present Season to Date (22 October 2019)

Total members 162 (84 Female, 78 Male)

3 members under 5

150 Skiers (7 Adult and 1 Junior/Student Backcountry)

9 Snowshoers



## **AGM Fundraising Report**

Brian Black

### **Projects:**

#### **Snowmaking**

The Snowmaking project was completed in 2019. The objective of this project is to provide more snow in the core area of the venue in order to lengthen the season and provide better conditions for the operation to the Ski School. Financing was from Quesnel Community Foundation \$8000, BC Rural Dividend Fund \$10,000 and Northern Development Initiative Trust \$54,635. Total of fundraising initiatives was \$72,635. Total cost for the project was approximately \$86,000 leaving \$13,365 to be paid by the CSTC.

#### **Snowmobile Purchase**

A used snowmobile was purchased to build our fleet of grooming equipment. The total of fundraising from the membership was \$3875 with a matching grant from CCBC \$825 to meet the total cost of \$4700

#### **Operating grants:**

\$16,500 from Gaming, this was submitted by Tania Gruene .

### **Total cash grants in the 2018-2019 year = \$ 93,835**

There are currently no fundraising initiatives underway.

#### **Loppett 2019.**

Cancelled because of the cold.

#### **Skill Development Program. Chris Hyde.**

The 2018/2019 season was an exciting one! We had excellent participation and growth in the SDP program. This season we introduced the Yeti program which is a fun non competitive program that we hope to develop in to a more adventure-based program. We continue to offer Track attack as well for those who want to continue to refine their skills.

Our goal is to continue to retain more SDP participants as they complete level 4 jackrabbits and turn them into life long skiers while introducing a new generation to our club through the bunnies program.

For the season Sunshine also put together a race team which had participants practicing on Tuesdays and competing in races around the region.

We were challenged with the cold but still had the die-hards come out to ski on really cold days. We had some makeup days and extended the season to make up for the days in which it was too cold to ski.

We are very fortunate to have such dedicated volunteer coaches and we were able to recruit some more for the upcoming season which is great! We have worked extra hard to put the word out about our youth programs but some of the best advertising comes from word of mouth. So please talk

about our club and programs to your non-skier friends and please don't hesitate to share a post on facebook with any group or person you feel would be interested.

### **Website Report. Shannon Coffey**

<https://caribooski.ca>

The website continues to be a valuable source of information about the Cariboo Ski Touring Club. Some of its main features are the events calendar, link to Zone 4 online registration, webcam, and backcountry cabin booking calendar as well as containing all the club information on trails, lessons, rates etc.

This past year a plug in allowing the club's Facebook feed to be viewed on the website was added. This allows for more frequent updates of information such as weather conditions and events by the club manager and more access as people who do not have Facebook accounts can view the information.

The website will always be a work in progress as it is a dynamic document. Please continue to forward information, suggestions, and photos to shannon.coffey@icloud.com.