

January 2017

www.raski.ca

More than just a ski club

SNOWPHONE : 613-736-6235

HAPPY NEW YEAR, RA SKIERS!

Finally Mother Nature is paying us back for the terrible starts to the last couple of winters, with lots of early season snow. As I write this a day before winter even officially begins, all local hills are open with good conditions, many now open seven days a week, the XC conditions in Gatineau Park are great, and there is ample snow to snowshoe already.

Our chair-people have again provided us with a very full program of cross country, downhill and snowshoe outings. Be sure to attend as many as you can to enjoy time with like-minded people on great trips. Thanks to those who have volunteered for various activities so far this year, especially the ski shows and our Open House. Chairs are always welcoming volunteers to lead an outing. It's not an onerous job, and help is much appreciated. Contact the XC, Snowshoe or Downhill Chair through the link on our website if you can help out. A huge "Thank You" to those who have already volunteered and to the chairs who have put a great deal of time into planning the schedules.

We again have two mid-week bus day trips to the Laurentians, one January 19 to Mont Tremblant, Mont Blanc, or Domaine St-Bernard for the XC skiers and snowshoers and the second to Mont St Sauveur on March 20. You never know, there may be some post St. Patrick's Day hijinks on that one! These trips are a great way to ski or snowshoe in good conditions without worrying about driving! Register now by calling or visiting the RA East Desk.

Our carpool weekend trip to the Grand Lodge at Mont Tremblant in early February will be an opportunity for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing on the lovely trails of Domaine St. Bernard or Mont Tremblant, and enjoying fantastic food. Downhill skiers are welcome and can ski one of the many nearby ski hills using the lodge's shuttlebus. All our initial allotment of rooms have been booked but more may be found. Contact xc-2017@raski.ca if you are interested. Registration closes Jan. 17.

This year our three-day DH/XC/snowshoe trip returns to the popular Chateau Mont Ste-Anne February 24-27. Downhill skiers will have two days, Saturday and Monday at Mont Ste. Anne from our ski-in, ski-out accommodations, and a Sunday shuttle to the fabulous snow and views of Le Massif. XC skiers and snowshoers will have a great time on the trails of nearby Parc Mont Ste Anne, one of Canada's premier XC areas. **THIS TRIP IS NOW A GO!** Even though the registration is officially closed, you may still be able to get on the trip. Email weekend-2017@raski.ca and we will check to see if a room is available. Sooner is better than later!

Our popular weeklong trip is a return to Sölden, Austria after an absence of nearly a decade. This great resort has great dependable snow. In fact it is always about the first event on the world cup circuit because of its reputation for snow early and often. Not surprisingly, it is sold out and extra places have been filled. Watch our website and skimails in late spring for information on next year's great trip plans.

To end the ski season, we'll be holding our popular potluck dinner evening. Stay tuned for details. The Annual General Meeting will be held April 19th as well. Join us then, and don't forget our pub nights where we socialize over a beverage of choice, and tell (tall) tales about our ski adventures.



When spring and summer roll around, we'll have a new schedule of activities like hiking, cycling, golfing and theatre in the park.

So stay informed by checking out our fantastic website at www.raski.ca, by subscribing to our publicity emails or by checking the Snow Phone at 613-736-6235.

Happy and safe skiing to all of you! Look forward to seeing you on some of those outings.

Bill Buck, Chair, chair-2017@raski.ca

RA SKI CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday Apr. 19/17

You can thank your executive, volunteer to chair a portfolio, offer suggestions, and make your voice heard by attending the RA Ski Club's annual general meeting.

At the meeting, we will present reports on all our activities, and elect the executive for next year. We promise not to pressure you to run for a position, but please consider taking on a position if you can because there will be vacancies this year. As an added incentive, we will have a slide show of all our activities during the past year.

WEEKLONG TO SÖLDEN, AUSTRIA

January 27 – February 5

Forty-three RA skiers will experience this unique winter sports centre for 7 days, spending an 8th day touring Munich. Members will be travelling from Ottawa to Munich, via Toronto, and will be transported to the Hotel Tyrol in Sölden. Breakfasts and multi-course dinners are included.



Sölden's great winter ski area is directly connected to the glacier slopes by a number of ski lifts and gondolas called Golden Gate to the Glacier. Ski uninterruptedly from the village of Sölden up to the glaciers (3,250m). 34 state-of-the-art ski and mountain lifts (a perfect blend of futuristic

architecture and innovative technology) take you quickly and effortlessly on top of the most beautiful ski slopes. Not to be missed is the *ice Q gourmet mountaintop restaurant*, an eye-catching *glass cube* on top of *Gaislachkogel* peak (3048m), made famous in the Bond film *Spectre*. Another highlight - the Big 3 Rally – a 50 km route over three mountain peaks above 3,000 m which are easily accessible by ski lifts.

Cross-Country Skiing – loops in the snow...

Members will discover the silent part of Sölden - skiers of all skill levels will find a Nordic skiing heaven on a 185 km network of high-altitude or wide open valley basins trails for both classic-style skiers and skaters.

Sölden is a leading winter sport destination and hot spot in the Alps boasting quality services and premium shops or farmers' markets.



Sölden's party fun continues until the small hours - innumerable bars, pubs, clubs and trendy night spots in Sölden's unrivaled party zone. And then there is the Aqua Dome spa...the water bubbles up to the surface in the Ötztal valley from more than 6000 feet underground

and at a temperature of 104° F. Drift away in one of the twelve indoor and outdoor pools.

TRIP RENDEZVOUS NIGHT

WHEN: Wednesday, January 11, 7:00 PM

WHERE: Outaouais Room, RA Centre.

We'll be handing out airplane tickets, and going over everything you need to know about the trip.

Jaime Impey, Weeklong Chair, weeklong-2017@raski.ca

DOWNHILL DAY TRIPS

The RA Ski Club Downhill program got into action one day later than planned this year due to some crappy weather on the scheduled opening day. So much for plans made in August, but you'd think with so much early warning the weatherman could have done better for us. Hmm, maybe I haven't quite grasped the concept correctly. Anyway, all the ski hills are now open and the ski season is in full swing and we've got lots of ski days all lined up to take us through to early April. I won't list all our Meet n' Ski days here as there are so many, but by keeping up-to-date through the club Ski-Mail published weekly on the web by Glen Campbell, who by the way, is the owner of the melodious voice you hear when you call the Snow-Phone (613-736-6235), you can arrange your schedule to join in on the fun as frequently as possible.



DH Meet'n'Ski at Edelweiss

Oh wait, there's more.....two bus trips, one to Mont Tremblant/Mont Blanc on January 19th and the other to St-Sauveur on March 20th, *aannd* a three-day weekend trip to Mont Ste-Anne/Le Massif February 24th to 27th. Check the math.



Bus trip to St-Sauveur

Now for the small print: None of this means a hill of beans if you don't take part in the activities. Convince yourself to make this your biggest skiing year yet. Come out and enjoy some fun with your skiing friends. It's worth it.



Roger Duffy, Downhill Day Chair, *downhill-2017{at}raski.ca*

DH/XC/SNOWSHOE SKI WEEKEND MONT STE-ANNE & LE MASSIF

FRIDAY-MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24-27

Registration *HAS BEEN EXTENDED* (but there are a limited number of places).



Le Massif

Hurry up and get registered so you don't miss out on skiing in this spectacular region!

The package Includes:

- Return transportation by deluxe coach from RA Centre to Château Mont-St-Anne
- Local transfers by bus from Mont-Ste-Anne to Le Massif on Sunday
- 3 nights' accommodation at Château Mont-Ste-Anne – 2 queen beds per room
- 3 days' downhill lift tickets: Feb 25, 27 at Mont-Ste-Anne, Feb 26 at Le Massif, or
- 3 days' cross-country ski pass: Mont-Ste-Anne, or
- Snowshoe passes: Feb 25, 27 at Mont-Ste-Anne, Feb 26 at Le Massif
- Driver gratuities and all packaging taxes



Mont Sainte-Anne

DH: Mont Ste-Anne has 71 trails and 2050 ft. of vertical, while Le Massif has 52 trails and 2526 ft. of vertical, the highest east of the Rockies.

XC: Mont Ste-Anne XC Centre is the largest in Canada, with 200 km of XC trails.

SNOWSHOEING: 67 km of trails at Mont Ste-Anne, and 31 trails at Le Massif



Snowshoeing at Le Massif

For more information and registration go to www.raski.ca/docs/2017-Mont-Ste-Anne.pdf

Louise Lefebvre, DH weekend Chair, *dhweekend-2017{at}raski.ca*

CROSS-COUNTRY

We are off to an excellent start for this season. Many of us were out skiing as early as November when we had our first snowfall and it only got better as we moved into December. So far, we are definitely making up for the slow start last year. For our 2016-17 season, we have plenty of interesting outings planned this year. To see the trip schedule, go to www.raski.ca and, on the left side of the page, click "X-Country".



Dec. 11/16 – XC ski to Pink Lake

Before heading out to the RA Centre, don't forget to check the website (www.raski.ca) or SnowPhone (613-736-6235) for changes to the schedule. The SnowPhone is updated with the latest information about one hour before the scheduled departure time.

HELP YOUR FELLOW SKIERS TO STAY WARM

Even on the mildest winter days, it can get cold standing around waiting for everyone in the group to get ready to ski. Here are three important tips to ensure a safe and enjoyable outing for all:

1. Meet the group at the RA Centre, rather than at the trailhead. This ensures that you receive the safety briefing, the trip leader knows who you are, and you arrive at the parking lot at the same time as everyone else.
2. If you think you need extra time to prepare once you arrive at the parking lot, let the trip leader know. We can give you a head start from the RA Centre.
3. Wax your skis before you arrive at the parking lot and be ready to ski as soon as possible after arriving.



New Year's Day 2017 – At Renaud cabin

DAY TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

Most of our outings take place in Gatineau Park but we have planned a few other destinations that might be of interest. One new addition is the increased number of Greenbelt ski outings we have planned – six in all. Many members have asked that we include these shorter and easier routes to our schedule. Here are a few highlights:

- **Day Trip, Tremblant & Domaine St-Bernard – Thur. Jan. 19**
The day bus trip to Mt. Tremblant and Mt. Blanc features XC skiing at Domaine St Bernard. Trail fees \$20 (50% discount with Gatineau Park ski pass).
- **Greenbelt Moonlight Ski – Tues. Feb. 7**
An easy paced ski and snowshoe outing along some Greenbelt trails. Snowshoers also welcome.
- **Day Trip to Nakkertok – Thur. Feb. 9**
Try some different trails at Nakkertok North Nordic Ski Centre.
Trail fees \$14 (seniors \$12). This date may change depending on race programs at Nakkertok.
- **Ottawa SJAM Trail – Wed. Feb. 15**
The Sir John A. Macdonald trail is a groomed path running from Westboro Beach to the War Museum. Snowshoers also welcome.
- **Day Trip to Montebello – Sat. Mar. 11**
Enjoy the lovely, picturesque trails at the Chateau Montebello. Snowshoers also welcome. Trail fee \$10.

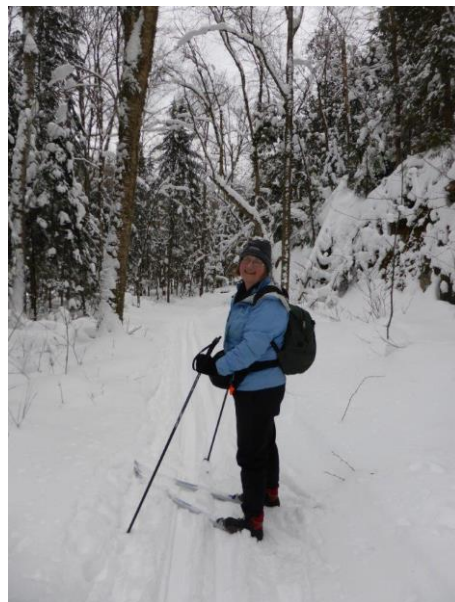
Jane Rau, Cross-Country Co-Chair, xc-2017@raski.ca

TREMBLANT XC / DH / SNOWSHOE WEEKEND

FRIDAY FEB. 10 – SUNDAY FEB. 12

This trip has filled up, but we can get some upgraded rooms! These rooms are a suite, with a King size bed and a double Murphy bed. The cost is \$400 each, double accommodation. If you are interested, please contact us before January 9. This is a carpool trip.

The price includes two breakfasts and two dinners at Le Grand Lodge Mont Tremblant (www.legrandlodge.com) with direct access from the hotel to the intermediate cross-country trails of the Domaine St-Bernard and a short drive away from the beginner cross-country and snowshoe trails of the Domaine and the cross-country trails of the Mont-Tremblant resort (www.skidefondmont-tremblant.com/en). There is a shuttle bus to the downhill area of Mont Tremblant and it is a short drive from Mont Blanc.



Louise Cameron skiing at Mont Tremblant

Louise Cameron, Cross-Country Co-Chair, xc-2017@raski.ca

SOCIAL

PUB NIGHTS

- Wed. Jan. 11 (after week-long rendezvous)
- Tues. Feb. 21 (combined skating party/pub night)
- Thurs. March 16 19:30
- Thurs April 27 19:30

Chuck Bain, Social Chair social-2017@raski.ca

SNOWSHOE

At last we have snow and we've just enjoyed our first outing to Cascades on January 2nd. There are lots more outings planned for the rest of the winter so come on out and join us! There are mid-week outings and several weekend ones to accommodate people who work during the week. We have some to places we haven't done before such as Larose Forest, Morris Island near Fitzroy, and one in the Greenbelt just off Corkstown Road near Wesley Clover Park.



Jan. 2/17 – Snowshoeing at Calabogie

Don't forget the bus trip to Tremblant on Jan. 19, where we can snowshoe at Domaine St-Bernard. And you can also still register for the Mont Ste-Anne weekend trip where the snowshoeing is absolutely wonderful. All the planned outings are on the web, and I may add a few more, depending on weather conditions and if anyone wants to organize one. So keep checking the website and the SnowPhone for last minute changes. I look forward to snowshoeing with you!



Jan. 2/16 Snowshoers and Frosty at Calabogie

And you never know who you will meet on the trails; last year we met Frosty at the start of the trail! If you want me to email you with last minute additions, just send me your email at snowshoe-2017@raski.ca and I will contact you. I look forward to having you join us!



Doris Dallaire, Snowshoe chair, snowshoe-2017@raski.ca

HIKES

This year we hiked 14 different trails in Gatineau Park including Wolf Trail and Lusk Falls. We also hiked Greenbelt trails, including Morris Island Conservation Area and Mud Lake. We had very popular urban hikes, including Beechwood Cemetery.



Sept. 6, 2016 – Hike to Mud Lake

We offer hikes on weekdays and weekends, at various levels of difficulty, and are always looking for leaders. You can meet us at the RA to carpool, or go straight to the trailhead if you let the leader know in advance. Hikes are followed by optional excursions for coffee, ice cream or casual lunches.



Sept. 27, 2016 – Hike to Pink Lake

RASki hikes are a great way to get fit for winter skiing and snowshoeing, and a fun way to stay fit in the spring when the snow's gone and the bicycling has yet to begin.



Oct. 26, 2016 – Morris Island hike

Our first hike next spring will be an urban hike on April 29, 2017.

KEEP INFORMED

How can you find out about what events are planned?

- **WEB SITE**
Check out the RASki club's amazing web site www.raski.ca
- **SKI-MAIL**
Subscribe to the RA Ski club's Ski-Mail e-mail list. (Go to our web site at www.raski.ca, and click on "E-Maillist", in the box on the left.)

Ski-Mail provides you with the latest information on ski club events. Ski-Mails are issued weekly during the ski season, and as events occur during the rest of the year. As we use Yahoogroups to distribute the Ski-Mail, you have to put yourself on the list – we can't do it for you. You can unsubscribe at any time you choose.

- **SNOWPHONE**
Check the **SnowPhone** at (613) 736-6235. This phone message is updated regularly, and provides the latest information on upcoming events.

RA SKI ON FACEBOOK



We are on Facebook under "RA Ski and Snowboard Club of Ottawa".

On our Facebook page you will find:

- Our members' reports on snow conditions (both downhill and cross-country.)
- RA Ski Club news, including upcoming events
- Facebook posts from local ski hills.

PHOTOS AND TRIP REPORTS

TRIP REPORTS

Downhill and cross-country trip reports for the last month are put on our website www.raski.ca. Click on "Trip Reports" on the index on the left-hand side. Older trip reports are there as well.

PHOTOS ON THE WEB

On the RA Ski website, you'll find lots of photos of all our activities.

1. Go to www.raski.ca, and click on "photos" on the left side.
2. Click on the set you want (Cross-country, Downhill, Snowshoeing, or Social).

To see the photos as a slideshow:

1. Double-click on the album, then on the upper right, click on the little icon that looks like a computer screen with a right-arrow on it. Wait a few seconds and the slideshow will start. Click on the right arrow to advance to the next slide.

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

RA SKI CLUB

RA Ski SnowPhone 613-736-6235

RA Ski Web Site www.raski.ca

CROSS-COUNTRY

Gatineau Park XC phone line 819-827-2020

Gatineau Park XC ski conditions – NCC website
www.canadascapital.gc.ca/places-to-visit/gatineau-park/ski-conditions

Gatineau Park XC Trail Map
(Note : There are two pages. This is a large file and will take awhile to download.)
www.ncc-ccn.gc.ca/sites/default/files/pubs/gatineau_park_wintertrails_map_2016-17_lr_0.pdf

Reports from skiers about Gatineau Park trail conditions
http://skitrails.xcottawa.ca/skitrails_gatineau_park.php

List of XC ski areas in Quebec
www.cross-countryski.com/quebec.html

List of XC ski areas in Canada
www.canadatrails.ca/xc_ski/index.html

List of XC ski areas in Canada and the US
www.cross-countryski.com/resorts.html

List of XC ski areas worldwide
http://xcski.org/snow_conditions.php

Daily photos of outdoor activities in Gatineau Park
<http://musicianonskis.ca/blog/>

Useful info on Cross-country skiing
www.9round.com/articles/nordic-skiing-for-fun-and-fitness

DOWNHILL

Local DH ski conditions www.skiottawa.com

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

World-wide ski conditions
www.skicentral.com/skireports.html

SKI HILLS

	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Website</u>
Bromont	1-866-276-6668	skibromont.com
Calabogie	1-800-669-4861	calabogie.com
Camp Fortune	819-827-1717	campfortune.com
Cascades	819-827-0301	montcascades.ca
Edelweiss	819-459-2328	skiedelweiss.com
Jay Peak	1-802-988-2611	jaypeakresort.com
Killington	1-802-422-6200	killington.com
Le Massif	1-877-536-2774	lemassif.com
Mont Blanc	1-800-567-6715	skimontblanc.com
Mont-Ste-Anne	1-888-827-4579	mont-sainte-anne.com
Mont Ste-Marie	819-467-5200	montstefmarie.com
Pakenham	613-624-5290	moutpakenham.com
St-Sauveur	450-227-4671	montsaintsauveur.com
Sugarbush	1-800-53-SUGAR	sugarbush.com
Tremblant	1-888-215-4419	tremblant.ca
Vorlage	819-459-2301	skivorlage.com
Whistler	1-800-766-0449	whistlerblackcomb.com
Whiteface	518-946-2223	whiteface.com

MORE PHOTOS



Oct. 4/16 – Hike at Mer Bleu



Nov. 5/16 - Wolfe Trail hike



Oct. 10/16 – Hike to Lusk Falls



Nov. 28/16 First XC ski of the season, P8 to P9



RA downhill skiers



RA cross-country skiers