

January 2018

www.raski.ca

More than just a ski club

SNOWPHONE : 613-736-6235

WELCOME TO RA SKI 2018!

At the time of this writing, the snow conditions are fabulous but the deep freeze temperatures may be making it difficult to enthusiastically rise from our holiday induced food-coma/couch sitting and get out there on the trails! Let's hope we'll be off to a better start as January rolls along.

Your Club Executive worked hard to plan full programs for your Winter pleasure. We encourage you to reward their efforts by participating, helping out where you can, and letting other people know about us (bring a friend along to check us out). Help us grow our membership – let your friends and co-workers know that we're a friendly club with year-round activities. Become an ambassador by encouraging new members to join our four-seasons Club. Don't forget some of the benefits of being a Member: in addition to a wide array of organized programs, your membership offers you discounts at ski hills and sports shops too. Always carry your card and ask if a discount will apply. Check our website for updates that may be added after the deadline for this newsletter.

A big "thank you" for the work of our Executive, and the other volunteers who have already helped out in various activities or represented the Club through additional planning, leading Fall Hikes or Bike outings, and staffing our tables and booths at the Ottawa Ski and Snowboard Show, the MEC Open House and our own Open House in November.

Program Chairs encourage and welcome Club members to volunteer to lead an outing. It's not an onerous job, and the help is much appreciated. Please contact the XC, Snowshoe or Downhill Chair through the link on our website if you can help out.

Deadlines will have come and gone by early January for our three major multi-day trips of the year – the weeklong to Panorama, a 2-day carpool to Val David, and a 3-day carpool to Orford and Bromont – but there is still time to register for our two bus day-trips to the Laurentians. Monday, January 15 is a multi-option outing to St-Sauveur – ski alpine or cross-country or bring your snowshoes. Bring a non-skiing friend to enjoy a day of shopping, dining, or spending time at a spa. Monday, March 19 is another multi-opportunity day, this time to your choice of Mont Tremblant, Mont Blanc, or Domaine St-Bernard. Registration is as simple as picking up the phone and contacting Member Services at 613-733-5100.

Full calendars of shorter day (and occasional evening) activities are available in our annual Winter Program or see www.raski.ca for details. The Downhill Day program offers weekly meet'n'ski outings to local ski areas in Ontario and Quebec. The Cross Country schedule varies their calendar with weekday and weekend outings, primarily to Gatineau Park, but with the addition of trails in the city (Sir John A. MacDonald Parkway), the Greenbelt, and a bit further afield to Nakkertok, Bourget and Montebello.

To round out the RA Ski season, we'll be holding our popular potluck dinner evening and Annual General meeting. Stay tuned for details of these and other Social activities to be added to the calendar.

When spring and summer roll around, new schedules of hiking, cycling, golfing and theatre in the park will be created and published, so stay in the loop by checking www.raski.ca, following us on Facebook (find RA Ski and Snowboard Club of Ottawa and ask to join in), subscribing to our ski-mails or by checking the Snow Phone at 613-736-6235.

Happy 2018 and safe skiing to all of you! We hope to see you on the trails.

On behalf of the RASki Club Executive,

Jaime Impey, Vice-Chair, weeklong-2018@raski.ca

WEEKLONG TO PANORAMA, BC

January 27-February 3

Twenty-three RASkiers are heading to Panorama, British Columbia, to enjoy nearly 3000 massive acres of terrain across 4000 vertical feet of purely Canadian adventure. We'll be spending 6 days on the trails of the Panorama Resort, before departing to experience an evening in Banff, Alberta.



Some participants will be taking the opportunity to ski a day at Kicking Horse or the challenge of heli-skiing. For the rest, there are 129 named trails to explore and daily Mountain Friends tours to show us the best places to ski each day. The newly opened 127-acre terrain expansion in Taynton Bowl, the resort's expert backcountry-style bowl and a gladed, powdery paradise, should occupy the other adventurous skiers. Night skiing is available Thursday to Saturday in a small area off the Toby chair lift.

The Panorama Nordic Centre in the lower village offers more than 20 km of groomed trails for classic and skate skiing. The Centre also offers four beautiful snowshoe trails which take about 60-90 minutes to complete and are about 4 km in length. Just 20 km from the resort (accessible by free shuttle) is the Lake Windermere Whiteway, recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the longest ice-skating loop and alongside it is a 15 km Nordic loop which is groomed and track set.

Daytime or evening, Panorama offers incredibly savoury, tasty and fresh food dining experiences. We plan to schedule a number of group reservations to meet up and compare highlights of our days. From rustic to elegant, down-to-earth to high up in the alpine: a delicious adventure is always waiting. Off the trails, Panorama offers a number of activities (Hot pools, Massage and Spa, Fat Bikes, Skating, Wagon Rides, Snowmobiling, Paragliding, visiting the artisan town of Invermere), as well as many choices for apres-ski, bars, and night life too.

TRIP RENDEZVOUS NIGHT

WHEN: Wednesday, January 10, 7:00 PM

WHERE: Courtside A, RA Centre.

We'll be handing out airplane tickets, and going over everything you need to know about the trip. Pub night to follow in the Fieldhouse Bar & Grill.



Jaime Impey, Weeklong Chair, weeklong-2018@raski.ca

DOWNHILL DAY TRIPS

By the time this gets published the 2018 ski season will be well under way and many of us will have been on the slopes a couple of times already hoping to get our legs in good shape for the upcoming Weeklong Trip to Panorama, the Weekend to Orford/Bromont and our day Bus Trips to St Sauveur and to Mont Tremblant. Those are our major getaways but not the core of our winter program. That segment is called Meet and Ski, the weekly mid-week get together where we meet at the RA Centre on a different day each week and car pool to a different local hill each week. These Meet and Ski events are where we see each other on a regular basis and develop the friendships that have carried on over many years and throughout the summer months when we hike and bike and do lots of neat stuff together. Skiing is merely the starting point for this socially active club. But just like doctors we don't make house calls, you have to come to us.

The complete Downhill program with dates, times, destinations and hints is included in the colourful Winter Program 2017-2018 which you picked up at our annual ski show at the RA Centre, also available at the East Desk of the RA Centre, or if you prefer, downloaded from our web site at raski.ca. Perhaps I shouldn't say, "You have to come to us" because once you get started ' you'll *want* to come *with* us '.



Roger Duffy, Downhill Day Chair, downhill-2018@raski.ca

DAY BUS TRIPS

Baby it's COLD outside! ❄️

But take heart ❤️. Temperatures will be PERFECT on Monday, January 15th when we go to St-Sauveur!

Have you signed up for our Day Bus Trips? If not, register today to secure a place on the bus and help ensure that the trips are a GO!

- **Monday, January 15th: St-Sauveur**
Ski (DH & XC)/Snowshoe/Shop'n Spa.
Bus trip only: \$46.
Bus & DH lift ticket: \$89.
XC ticket \$16 (\$14 for 65+)
Snowshoe \$8.
- **Monday, March 19th: DH Ski at Tremblant or Mont Blanc; XC Ski/Snowshoe at Domaine St-Bernard;**
Shop/Dine in Tremblant Village. Bus: \$46. Use your Ski Max tickets or Passe-Partout card, or buy your ticket at the ski hill or XC/snowshoe centre.
With your RASki Club card, ticket prices at Mont Blanc are \$49 for adults and \$37 for seniors (age 60-69.)

Why drive when you can relax on a bus, enjoy après ski refreshments, then nap on the way back to Ottawa! And don't forget – fabulous prizes to be won!!

Call the RA Centre Registration 613-736-6224.

Andrea Conway, RA Ski volunteer, downhill-2018@raski.ca

DH/XC/SNOWSHOE SKI WEEKEND MONT ORFORD / SKI BROMONT

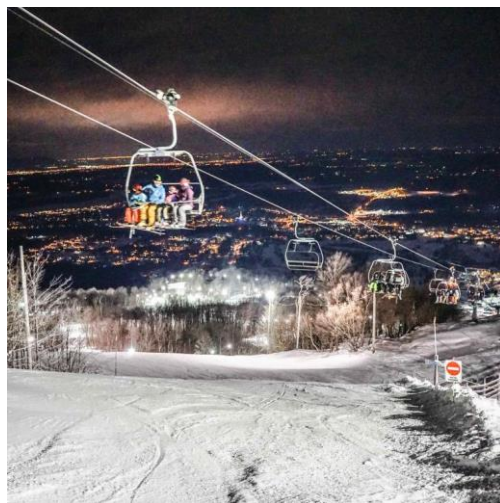
SUNDAY-TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18-20

Some 22 people have registered for this carpool trip to the beautiful Eastern Townships region of Québec.



Mont Orford

From our base at the Hôtel Chéribourg close to Parc du Mont Orford we will be splitting our skiing between two of the most fun ski centres in the region: Mont Orford and Ski Bromont.



Ski Bromont

At a height of 853 meters, Mont Orford is one of highest peaks in the Eastern Townships and a within a short drive is Ski Bromont, located on three peaks just outside the bustling town of Bromont. The ski centre features more than 141 trails and glades on 7 slope sides as well as the largest lit skiable terrain in North America.

Cross country skiing and snowshoeing is just a short drive away at Parc du Mont Orford. This provincial park and ecological reserve boasts an impressive 58 km network of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing trails.

For those that need a break from the hillside thrills, the Bromont Tanger Outlet boast over 30 stores to get your winter fashionista on.

TRIP RENDEZVOUS NIGHT

WHEN: Tuesday, February 13, 7:00 PM

WHERE: Courtside A, RA Centre.

We'll be finalizing carpooling and going over everything you need to know about the trip. Pub night to follow in the Fieldhouse Bar & Grill.



Louise Lefebvre, DH weekend Chair, dhweekend-2018@raski.ca

CROSS-COUNTRY

A “rocky” start to the season with scant snow and lots of gravel on the trails. It was touch and go after the fall rains closed many of our favourite trails in Gatineau Park but we are happy to report that most, if not all, are open for skiing again this winter.



Dec. 16/17 – First XC of the season, to Keogan cabin

Our first official XC ski of the season occurred on Dec 16 and we haven't looked back since – only one cancellation. For our 2017-18 season, we have a wide variety of 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".

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. And all this in the warm comfort of the RA lobby with an equally warm washroom nearby!!
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.

DAY TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

Most of our outings take place in Gatineau Park but we have planned many other destinations this year that will be of interest. Without compromising our ever-popular Gatineau Park day trips, we have increased the number of Greenbelt/city ski outings. Most are shorter and easier routes.



Boxing Day 2017 – XC ski to Taylor Lake

Here are a few season highlights:

- Evening Ski Mooney's Bay – Wed. Jan. 24
Ski the lit trails at the Mooney's Bay XC Ski Centre
- Greenbelt Moonlight Ski – Mon. Jan. 29
An easy paced ski and snowshoe outing along some Greenbelt trails. Snowshoers also welcome.
- Ottawa SJAM Trail – Sat. Jan. 13 & Wed. Feb. 14
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. 3
Enjoy the lovely, picturesque trails at the Chateau Montebello. Snowshoers also welcome.
- Day Bus Trip, Tremblant & Domaine St-Bernard – Mon. Mar. 19.
The day bus trip to Mt. Tremblant and Mt. Blanc features XC skiing at Domaine St Bernard.



Jane Rau, Cross-Country Co-Chair, xc-2018@raski.ca

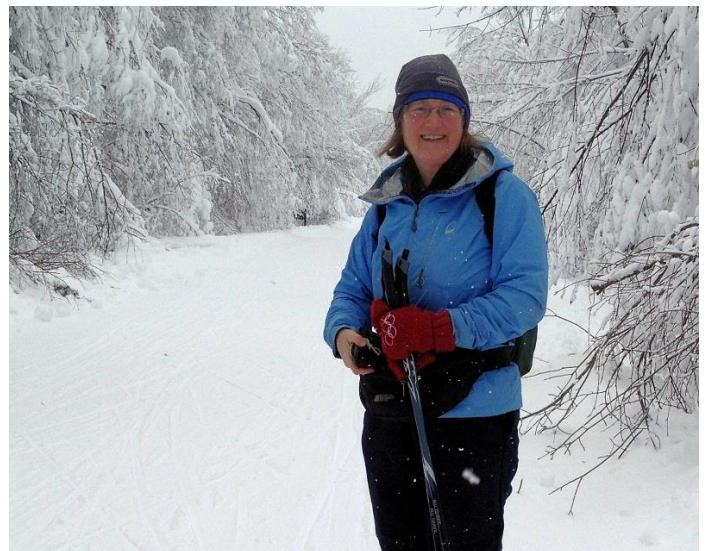
VAL DAVID WEEKEND

FRIDAY FEB. 9 – SUNDAY FEB. 11

There are still a few spots left on this weekend trip to the largest cross-country ski area in the Laurentians. There are also ample snowshoe trails in the same park and several downhill opportunities.

Specifically, we have room for another female looking for a roommate and 2 people wishing to share a room. There is also a single room available. Please contact the cross-country chairs by January 6 if you are interested.

The price includes 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, 2 nights accommodation at the Auberge du Vieux Foyer along with a cross-country ski pass.
Single - \$363, Double occupancy - \$278



Louise Cameron, Cross-Country Co-Chair, xc-2018@raski.ca

SUMMER SKIING - NEW ZEALAND

Aug. 5-11, 2018 (ski tour part)

Haka Tours is offering a seven-day ski tour of the South Island. The tour starts in Christchurch, During the seven days we will ski a day at six different ski hills (Mt. Hutt, Ohau, Treble Cone, Coronet Peak, Cardrona, and the Remarkables), with a day off in Queenstown.



Transport is by bus, and accommodation is dorm-type, although a single-room option is available at some of the places.

Cost for the tour part starts at NZ\$1799 (around \$1700 Canadian.) This covers accommodation, transport, a guide, and lift tickets during the seven days. In addition, you need to add airfare, meals, as well as hotels the day(s) before and after. This trip is not being done through the RA. You make your own reservations with Haka Tours and the airlines.

Info is on the web at <https://hakatours.com/new-zealand-snow-tours/south-island-snow-safari>

If you are interested, contact me.



Glen Campbell, publicity chair, publicity-2018{at}raski.ca

SOCIAL

SKATING

- Tues. Feb. 6: Skating at the rink of Dreams at City Hall. Meet up outside City Hall at the Marion Dewar Plaza at 7:30. We'll go to one of the Elgin Street pubs after a skate on the Rink of Dreams. For those of your looking for a different kind of skate, the canal is nearby!

PUB NIGHTS

- Wed. Jan. 10 (after week-long rendezvous)
- Tues. Feb. 6 (combined skating party/pub night)
- Wed. Apr. 18 (after Annual General Meeting)



Chuck Bain, Social Chair, social-2018{at}raski.ca

SNOWSHOE

The snow is on the ground, the weather is cold and we've just enjoyed our first outing to Cascades on January 3rd. There are lots more outings planned for the rest of the winter so come on out and join us!

Some are mid-week outings, there are several weekend ones to accommodate people who work during the week and some will be during our weekend to Val David and mid-week get-away to the Eastern Townships to explore completely new trails. We have some to places we haven't done before such as Larose Forest, Morris Island near Fitzroy and Mud Lake near Britannia, an easy one you are sure to enjoy. I may add more depending on weather conditions or if anyone wants to organize one. Just let me know.



Feb. 2014 – Snowshoeing at Val David

Don't forget the bus trip to St-Sauveur on Jan. 15, where we can snowshoe around Morin Heights. And March 19 is the bus trip to Tremblant/Mont Blanc for downhill skiers, but we'll go to Domaine St-Bernard to snowshoe the beautiful trails and feed the chickadees.

All the planned outings are on the website. 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; we once 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-2018{at}raski.ca and I will contact you. I look forward to having you join us!



Doris Dallaire, Snowshoe chair, snowshoe-2018{at}raski.ca

CYCLING

We bike fairly leisurely and take time to smell the flowers. We like to take photos, enjoy ice cream, and stop for a look at the views.

This year we went on twice the number of bike rides compared to previous years, some starting from the RA centre, and some remote starts as far afield as Burritt's Rapids, the Long Sault Parkway, and the 1000 Islands Parkway.

In May, we cycled from the RA to Dow's Lake to view the tulips; on Roger's "Roddle" from Burritt's Rapids to Merrickville including a treasure hunt there; and from the RA to ride the Pinecrest Pathway.



May 2017 – Cycling to see the tulips at Dow's Lake

In June, we biked from Bate Island to Shirley's Bay, with a refreshment stop in Britannia Village; and from the RA to Lac Leamy.

In July we cycled from Moussette Park to Aylmer; Bate Island to Lac Leamy; and Andrew Haydon Park to Stittsville for a treat at "Quitters" café.

In August, we cycled the Long Sault Parkway on the St. Lawrence; and from Moussette Park to Old Chelsea.

In September, we enjoyed a ride from the Aviation Museum to Petrie Island; and a ride along the 1000 Islands Parkway (which runs from west of Brockville to the outskirts of Gananoque).

Also in September, Yolanda organized a 4-day trip along the Petit Train du Nord from Mont Laurier to St-Jerome, a 232 km trip.



15-18 Sept. – Cycling the Petit Train du Nord

Finally, Glen led a gourmand trip from the RA to the Governor General's *Savour Fall* culinary event.

For next year, we plan an overnight on the 1000 Islands Parkway in May 2018 (options of 10 to 37 km each day on a flat, well-paved bike path, with an overnight at a resort on the St. Lawrence); and a day trip later in the summer of about 20 kilometres along the Cycloparc PPJ, which runs 91.7 kilometres in the Pontiac northwest from Quyon.

Maureen Adamache, Cycling Coordinator, hikes-2018@raski.ca

HIKING

This year we enjoyed:

- A Gatineau hike on the Eardley Escarpment in early April;
- An urban hike to Manotick in late April;
- Two greenbelt hikes:
 - Mud Lake in September, and
- Morris Island Conservation Area in October
- Six Gatineau hikes:
 - P11 to Carbide Mill, and Keogan to Western in September;
 - Kingsmere to Skyline, and McCloskey trail to Western in October; and
 - the Lauriault Trail, and Kingsmere to Keogan in November.

(More Gatineau hikes would have been nice, but serious flooding and washouts of roads and trails in the Gatineau prevented us from hiking old favourites like the Wolf Trail and P16 to Herridge).



28 Sept. – Hike to Western cabin with a stop at Huron cabin

We offer hikes on weekdays and weekends, at various levels of difficulty, and are always looking for leaders. In most cases, 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.

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 cycling has yet to begin.

Our first hike next spring will be in April 2018. Keep an eye on the calendar!



Maureen Adamache, Hiking Coordinator, hikes-2018@raski.ca

RA SKI CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday Apr. 2018 (exact date is TBD)

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.

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
<http://ncc-ccn.gc.ca/cross-country-skiing/cross-country-ski-trail-conditions>

Gatineau Park XC Trail Map
(Note : There are two pages. This is a large file and will take awhile to download.)
<http://s3.amazonaws.com/ncc-ccn/documents/GP-Winter-Trail-Map-2017-2018.pdf?mtime=20171204073558f>

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

List of XC ski areas worldwide
<http://www.skiresort.info/best-ski-resorts/sorted/cross-country/>

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
<https://xcski.org/all-ski-areas/>

List of XC ski areas worldwide
<http://www.skiresort.info/best-ski-resorts/sorted/cross-country>

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

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	montstемarie.com
Orford	819-843-6548	orford.com
Pakenham	613-624-5290	mountpakenham.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



Nov. 11 – Hike along Lauriault trail



Dec. 26/17 – XC ski, Lac Philippe to Taylor Lake



Sept. 6 – Mud Lake hike



Jan. 2017 – Weeklong trip to Sölden, Austria



23 Sept. - Cycling to Governor-General's "Savour Fall"



RA skier meets Governor-General David Johnston



Jan. 8/17 – Snowshoeing at Bruce Pit



20 Mar./17 – DH bus trip to St-Sauveur