

# RA SKI & OUTDOOR CLUB

April 2026

More Than Just a Ski Club

Editor: Glen Campbell, [publicity-2025@raski.ca](mailto:publicity-2025@raski.ca)

[www.raski.ca](http://www.raski.ca)

## RA SKI ANNUAL CLUB MEETING & COUNCIL ELECTIONS

**When: Tue. May 5, 7:00-8:30 PM**

**Where:** RA Centre, LifeFIT Studio B (formerly known as the Outaouais Room), near the East Wing desk

### **WE NEED A QUORUM (25 MEMBERS)!**

If you can't make it to the meeting, please send in a proxy (available [here](#)) so that you will be counted.

E-mail it to [secretary-2025@raski.ca](mailto:secretary-2025@raski.ca)

**Attendees:** Please email [membership-2025@raski.ca](mailto:membership-2025@raski.ca) for the supporting documents

Your Council worked hard to set up this season's programs. You can thank them by coming out to our Annual Club Meeting, volunteering to be on the Club Council or helping plan next year's activities.

- Let us know what you did and didn't like this year, and how we can improve
- Hear the reports from each of the Council Member portfolios.
- Elect the Council for next year. All positions are open for election:
  - \* Chairperson
  - Vice-Chair & weeklong coordinator
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Membership Chairperson
  - Publicity Chairperson
  - \* Social Chairperson
  - Downhill Weekend Chairperson
  - \* Downhill Chairperson
  - Cross Country co-Chairperson(s)
  - Hiking & Cycling Chairperson
  - \* Snowshoe (soon to be Member-at-large)\*Vacant
- See photo highlights of our activities over the past year. You're probably in one of the photos.

### **PLEASE VOLUNTEER!**

We have vacancies on our Council, so please volunteer and help us run our programs next year!

- Nominate yourself or someone else.
- Send nominations to: [secretary-2025@raski.ca](mailto:secretary-2025@raski.ca)

## MESSAGE FROM THE CLUB COUNCIL

Our 60th ski season has trickled to an end with a few weather-related cancellations following great trips to the Dolomites of Italy, Mont Tremblant, and strong cross-country and downhill day programs giving us multiple chances each month to meet and ski together. Thank you to our Club members who participated in our ski programs. We hope to see you at our Spring, Summer and Fall activities, too!

We have two key activities coming to cap off our extended ski season – Our **Year-end Potluck Dinner**, a great season wind up social event on April 25, and the **Annual Club Meeting** on May 5.

The Annual Club meeting plays an important part in determining the future of the Club. We have a few vacancies in our roster. Listen to the Chair reports, bring constructive feedback and suggestions, volunteer for a role – big or small, and encourage your friends to take an interest in our Club. We need those of you who value the activities and atmosphere of the Club to come forward to contribute to the organization of our activities and develop methods of **attracting** and **retaining** members in the Club.

### **THANK YOUs**

The Club Council would like to thank the staff of the RA who supported our programs this year. Additionally, we remind you that your Club runs on Volunteer Power and so, especially during **National Volunteer Week** (April 19 – 25) a big “thank you” for the work of our Council members, Trip Leaders and other volunteers, who have pitched in at various activities, led outings, or have stepped up to lead spring hikes and cycling outings. You continue to contribute to the success of the Club and our activities. Thank you for all you do.

### **SPRING and SUMMER – even more to do!**

Check out the Hike, Cycling and Social calendars published to date in this Newsletter. Keep checking [www.raski.ca](http://www.raski.ca) for updates and following us on Facebook (find RA Ski and Outdoor Club of Ottawa and ask to join in) or subscribing to our Ski-Mails to see what we have planned until the snows come again!

A large graphic celebrating 60 years. The number '60' is rendered in a stylized, rounded font with a gradient from orange to pink. To the right of the '0' is the word 'YEARS' in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Founded in 1966-1967**  
RASKi has just turned 60!

How long (*or how often*) have you been a member?  
Tell us your stories! Send us your photos!  
We are planning to celebrate all season long!

Contact: [weeklong-2025@raski.ca](mailto:weeklong-2025@raski.ca)



**Jaime Impey, Vice Chair** on behalf of the Club Council  
[weeklong-2025@raski.ca](mailto:weeklong-2025@raski.ca)

## CROSS-COUNTRY 2025-26 WINTER

### Day Trips

The cross-country ski day trip season started in Gatineau Park on 13 December 2025, when seven skiers travelled from P8 to P9 and back. All in all, 14 of the 18 planned day trips went ahead, with the last trip taking place on 8 March 2026. Trip cancellations were due to weather that was either too cold or too mild.

The group sizes ranged from three to eight participants. Trip distances ranged from 4.3 km to 11 km. There was an average of 5.4 participants per outing and the average distance skied was 7 km. Five trips took place in Gatineau Park, one trip was to Larose Forest, and the remainder were on city or Greenbelt trails.

Generally speaking, the outings were on fairly gentle trails. The participants' abilities varied somewhat, but the groups were always accommodating to people's various levels. Most outings were followed by a visit to a local café, pub, or restaurant.



**January 2 – XC Ski in the Greenbelt near Leitrim Road**

For next season, let us know your favourite routes, or trails, that you have always wanted to try (including those outside of Gatineau Park and the city) and if you are willing to lead any day trips.



**March 1 – XC ski on the Ski Heritage East Trail in Orléans**

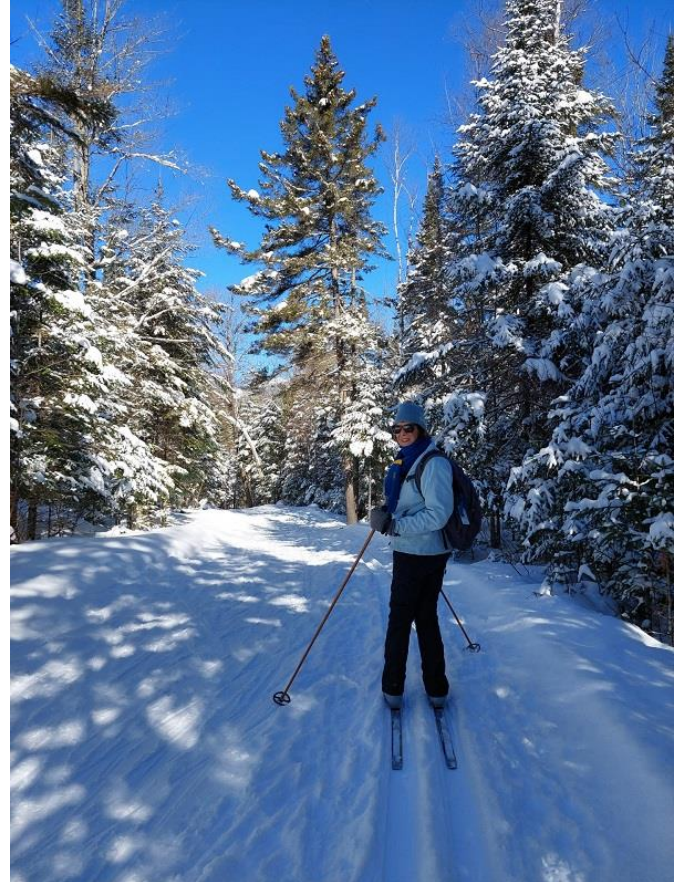
We would not be able to offer these day trips without our gracious volunteers. A big "thank you" to Bob, Jane M, Louise C, Marie-Reine, Gillian, Michael, and Jane H for leading our day trips. We are always looking for new leaders in order to offer a variety of routes on our day trips.

**Mike Dewing**, XC co-chair [xc-2025@raski.ca](mailto:xc-2025@raski.ca)

### Mid-Week Trip – Le Grand Lodge, Tremblant

From Feb 11 – 13 this year, 17 skiers got together at Le Grand Lodge near Tremblant for a winter getaway.

Two years ago, there wasn't enough snow to ski on; last year, a snowstorm left too much snow; this year, we had a Goldilocks moment – it was just right! Great weather shone upon us, not too warm, not too cold. Lots of trails and activities were available to choose from.



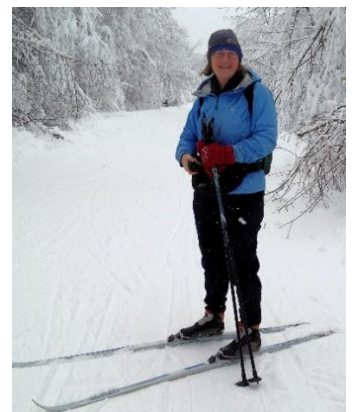
**Cross-country skiing at Le Grand Lodge**

Several downhill skiers joined us to enjoy the slopes at Tremblant and Mont Blanc, while cross-country skiers found expertly groomed trails at Domain St. Bernard and Le Petit Train du Nord (in St. Jovite and Tremblant village). There was even a snowshoer and maybe some shopping. I also heard that a few visited the Spa Scandinave on Wednesday.

I think that everyone managed to enjoy the hot tub or sauna at the Lodge at some point. Great for those tired muscles!

The abundant breakfasts and 3 course dinners kept us well fueled for the outdoor fun.

**Trip Leader:** Louise Cameron



**Mike Dewing & Louise Cameron**, XC co-chairs, [xc-2025@raski.ca](mailto:xc-2025@raski.ca)

## IKON PASS Group Sales

For 2026-27 we are partnering with Skican for added Club member benefits, including a \$100 CAD Skican voucher to use on a RA Ski weeklong trip, where Skican is the tour operator (*we are going to Panorama in 2027, perhaps a second Ikon destination in Europe TBA*). You may even be eligible to win your pass.

You'll be able to purchase a new or renewed Ikon Pass or Ikon Base Pass at special group pricing rates via the **Club's Skican portal** that has been set up for RA Ski.

Contact [weeklong-2025@raski.ca](mailto:weeklong-2025@raski.ca) for the members' link.

CAD	Regular	Club Price	Renewal
<b>Ikon Pass</b>	\$1,889	\$1,729	\$1,819
<b>Ikon Base Pass</b>	\$1,279	\$1,229	\$1,249

(Note: *price effective until May 7, then rates increase*)  
Additional prices for young adult (13-23), child (5-12) and 4 and under.

## WEEKLONG - DOLOMITES

Our 2026 Weeklong trip to the Italian Dolomites was a fun week of snow, great skiing, good temperatures, wonderful dining, some ski touring, site-seeing, and a once in a lifetime experience of seeing the Olympic Torch Relay pass our door mid-week.



**2026 Weeklong – Olympic torch passing through town**

We are already looking at choices for 2026 both in Europe and Canada.

### SAVE THE DATES

- **February 20-27, 2027: Panorama BC**
- **Late-January, early February:** add a placeholder to your calendars – we are in the process of locking down another great destination in **Europe**.

## DOWNHILL

### Downhill Day Program

The 2025-2026 downhill ski season is coming to a close and it's a measure of a good ski season if all ski hills are able to keep their operations going right into April, and our downhill ski program just managed to get there with our April 1 Meet n'Ski at Calabogie



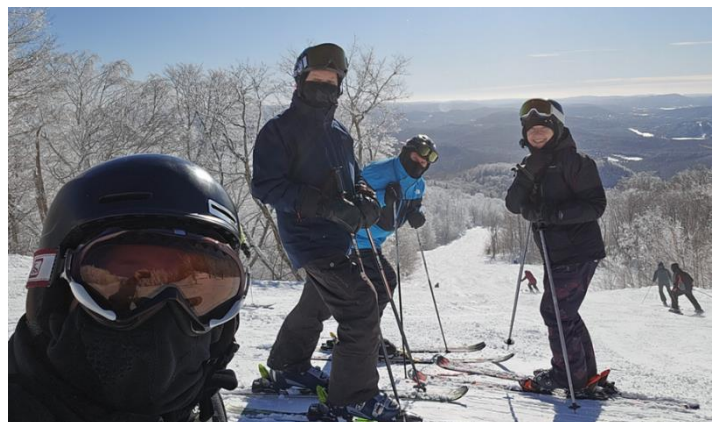
**Apr. 1 – Calabogie - Final Meet'n'Ski of the season**

The ski season had a good start on the first week of December as we transitioned from our hiking program which ended the last week of November. The first local hill to open tends to be Camp Fortune, and it's always fun to start skiing on our ever-popular "Fortune Fridays"- an informal weekly Friday meet-up at Camp Fortune for members, family, friends and for those just wanting to take a day off work. This regular weekly outing has turned into our most popular day ski event with many members and friends joining in for an enjoyable outing.



**Dec 5 – Camp Fortune – First ski day of the season**

Our 5 Tremblant ski bus trips were well attended with the last trip on Friday March 13. We lucked out with weather on all the bus trips with spectacular conditions and minimal crowds.



**Jan. 16 - Tremblant bus trip**



### Feb. 4 – Edelweiss Meet n' Ski

Despite a few frigid days during the last weeks of January, our Meet n' Ski program managed to get in 13 of 15 trips to local hills. Apart from a few re-scheduled days to avoid bad weather or driving conditions, we got out to all of our favourite destinations.

Our planned **multi-day trip to Bromont, Quebec** March 9-13, 2026 was, unfortunately, the victim of warm 17C weather followed a day later by freezing rain. The 15 persons who registered for the trip wisely cancelled, but this destination will be on our calendar in the future.



### Feb. 17, 2026 – Meet'n'Ski at Mont Ste Marie

The up/down temperatures in March made for a few days of challenging conditions but, all-in-all, the days we managed to get out were well worth it. There is no such thing as a bad ski day!!



**Bob Cavan, DH Coordinator, [Downhill-2025@raski.ca](mailto:Downhill-2025@raski.ca)**

## SOCIAL

Last year we lacked a Social Chairperson, so we only had a couple of activities. **Hopefully at our Annual Club Meeting someone will volunteer to be our Social Chairperson, so we can have more events.**

In the past, our activities have included theatre-in-the-park, watching a baseball game, visiting a museum, and golfing.

We hope to have a number of social activities over the spring and summer. In many cases, we are working out the details, so be sure to check your Ski-Mail, the RA Ski website, or our club's Facebook page.

### RA SKI ANNUAL POT-LUCK DINNER

Celebrate the coming of spring at our annual potluck dinner.

**WHEN:** Saturday April 25, gathering at 5:30 p.m. (eat at 6:30)

**WHERE:** 1081 Ambleside Dr. (Ambleside 1) Party room. Bring a dish to share, and your own beverages.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Richmond Rd (west of Woodroffe), turn north onto New Orchard Dr, then left onto Ambleside. There is a visitor's parking in front of the building and some parking on Ambleside. (watch the no parking areas!) There will be a notice on the call board informing you of the ring number for the party room. Take the elevator down to the Upper Basement level.

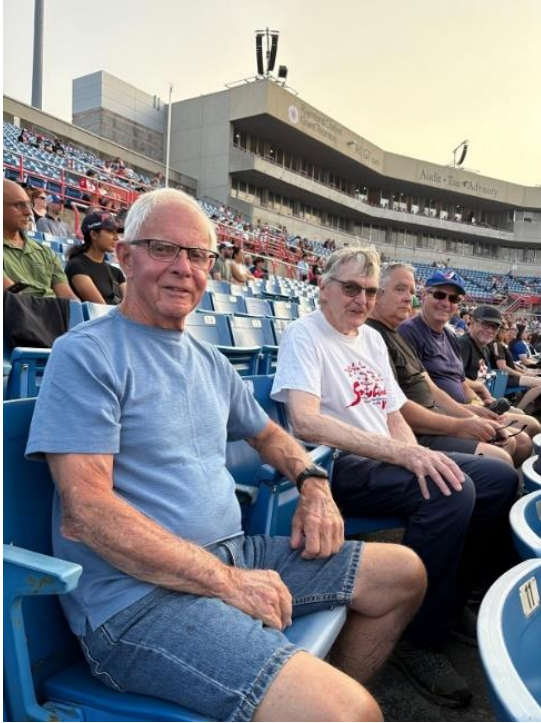
**YOU MUST LET US KNOW YOU ARE ATTENDING.** Due to the size of the room, there is a limit of 35 people. Contact Louise Cameron at [xc-2025@raski.ca](mailto:xc-2025@raski.ca) and let us know what you plan to bring – appetizer, main course, side dish, salad, dessert.



### April 2025 – Potluck dinner

### BASEBALL

- **Friday June 16, 2026 @7pm**  
Star Wars night  
Ottawa Titans vs. Quebec City Capitales
- **Friday July 17, 2026 @7pm**  
Women in Baseball night  
Ottawa Titans vs. Down East Bird Dawgs



Aug. 8, 2025 – RA skiers watching a baseball game

### NATIONAL ART GALLERY TOURS

Thursday nights June 18, July 16 & Aug. 20.  
We will get a private tour, and the Art Gallery is free Thursday evenings!



Aug. 2019 – Tour of the National Art Gallery

### THEATRE-IN-THE-PARK

- **Company of Fools** – Our annual trek to Shakespeare in the Park sometime between July and late August. The Company of Fools always does one of Shakespeare's plays in a humorous way.



Aug. 14, 2025 – Company of Fools "Comedy of Errors"

- **Odyssey Theatre** – The play is always a lot of fun, and takes place in Strathcona Park along the Rideau River. Date TBD (mid-July to late August.)



Aug. 2025 - Odyssey Theatre play "The Girl with No Hands"



Aug. 2025 – RA skiers at the Odyssey Theatre

### GOLF

We had a golf outing in 2023, but not since, as we didn't have a Social Chairperson. **Hopefully we can find someone to volunteer to we can organise another golf outing.**



Aug. 12/23 – Golfing at Anderson Links

## HIKING & CYCLING

Hello RA Ski Club Members! After a banner year of hike and cycle outings in 2025, the RA Ski Club is gearing up for another successful hike and cycle outing season. My thanks to all our generous volunteer leaders who have stepped up to lead a hike or outing this spring...we couldn't provide these recreational opportunities to our members without your input. If you would like to lead a hike or cycle outing over the summer or into the fall, please get in touch with me.

**Members, please be sure to let the hike/cycle leader know you are coming by registering at [hikes-2025@raski.ca](mailto:hikes-2025@raski.ca).**



### June 20/25 – Cycling to Lac Leamy

We ask that you be on time and dress appropriately for the weather. A helmet and water are essential. Your leader will indicate whether a picnic or restaurant lunch is involved. Finally, be sure to check our website ([www.raski.ca](http://www.raski.ca)) or the RA Ski Facebook page the day/evening before the outing for any possible cancellations or change in destination due to weather. Above all, enjoy!

Below are the schedules for our hike & cycle outings. We might add more as the season progresses, so check your Ski-Mail, the RA Ski website ([www.raski.ca](http://www.raski.ca)) and our FaceBook page regularly.

**Jane Maxwell, Hiking & Cycling Chair, [hikes-2025@raski.ca](mailto:hikes-2025@raski.ca)**



### Sept. 26/25 – Hike to King Mountain

## 2026 CYLING SCHEDULE

- **Sat. May 9** – Carleton Place to Almonte along Trans Canada Trail Lunch stop at Barley Mow in Almonte. Return on same trail. Meet at 10:30 a.m. Leader – Gord Chamberlain
- **Sat. May 16** – 'Roger's Roddle' along Long Sault Parkway – 10:30 a.m. Leader: Roger Duffy
- **Sat. May 23** – Bate Island to Lac Leamy – Meet at 10:30 a.m. at Bate Island for a 22 km. ride along bike paths to Lac Leamy. Leader: Bob Cavan

6

- **Wed. May 27** – Relais Plein Air (P2) Gatineau Park to Chelsea and return. Lunch in Chelsea. 10:30 a.m. Leader: Gord Chamberlain
- **Wed. June 17** – Bells Corners to Stittsville on rail trail. Meet at Canadian Tire west parking lot, 2135 Robertson Road for a 20 km. round trip out to Brews & Blues Café on Stittsville Main Street. Leader: Bob Cavan
- **Thurs. June 25** - Moussette Park to Aylmer – 10 a.m. Coffee stop in town. Leader: Chris Hutton
- **Wed. July 8** – Richcraft Rec Centre to KIN Winery in Carp. 24 km round trip on quiet country roads. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at Richcraft Rec Centre – 4101 Innovation Drive, Kanata. Leader: Bob Cavan
- **Wed. July 15** – Relais Plein Air (P7) Gatineau Park to Chelsea and back. Lunch in Chelsea. Meet at 10:30 a.m. Leader: Jane Maxwell
- **Tues. July 21** – Bells Corners. Meet 10:30 a.m. at Andrew Hayden Park most easterly parking lot. Leader: Bill Danson
- **Sat. Aug. 22** – P27 (Sir George Etienne Parkway) to Petrie Island – 10:30 a.m. Picnic lunch at Petrie Island. Coffee & social at NCC Riverhouse with a 'reward'. Swimming possible at Riverhouse. Leader: Yolanda Banks
- **Fri., Aug. 28** – Osgoode Rail Trail – Meet at Bakkers General Store, Manotick Station Rd for a 20 km round trip to Osgoode. Leader: Bob Cavan
- **Fri. Sept. 11** – Russell Rail Trail 2.0 to Embrun and return – 10:30 a.m. Ice cream stop in Embrun and a BBQ lunch at Gord's Place. Meet at Russell Curling Club - 1072 Concession Road. Leader: Gord Chamberlain
- **Thurs. Sept. 17** – Hog's Back Falls to Rideau River Falls along Ottawa River. Lunch at Tavern on the Falls. 10:30 a.m. Leader: Wendy Cram
- **Thurs. Sept. 24** – Andrew Haydon Park to Shirley's Bay Bring a picnic lunch. Leader: Chris Hutton

## 2026 HIKING SCHEDULE

- **Wed. April 22** – Macoun Marsh/Beechwood Cemetery - Earth Day Celebration at Macoun Marsh Reopening/Beechwood – 10:30 a.m. Macoun Marsh is located at SE corner of Beechwood Cemetery, Ottawa Leader: Bob Cavan
- **Fri. May 1** – "May Day Meander", Fletcher Gardens. 10:30 at RA west entrance. Leader: Bob Cavan
- **Wed. May 20** – NCC West Greenbelt, P11 Stoney Swamp. Leader: Mike Dewing
- **Sat. June 6** WALKING TOUR of Governor-General's Residence, private gardens and greenhouse. Lunch at Tavern on the Falls. Meet at 9:45 a.m. at Glen's home. Leader: Glen Campbell
- **Sun. June 28** – Gatineau Park (P7) to King Mountain Look Out. Bring a lunch. Post-hike social at Chelsea Pub. 10:30 a.m. Leader: Gord Chamberlain
- **Thurs. Sept. 3** – P16 to Healey Cabin – 10:30 a.m. Lunch at the cabin. Coffee afterwards at l'Oiseau Bleu, Chelsea Motel. Leaders: Diane Law & Rob Christie
- **Sat. Sept. 19** – P1 (Relais Plein Air). Trails 66 & 67 with Louise Cameron

- **Fri. Oct. 2** – Larose Forest Meet trip leader, Mike Dewing at 10:30 a.m. in parking lot P7 (south end of Larose Forest).
- **Thurs. Oct. 8** – Gatineau Park (P11) to Carbide Ruins – Meet in P11 parking lot. Leader: Bob Cavan
- **Wed. Oct. 14** – P7 to King Mountain (Gatineau Park), 10:30 a.m. Meet Marie-Reine in P7 parking lot. Bring a lunch or snack. Leader: Marie-Reine Fournier.
- **Wed. Oct. 21** - 'Gatineau Park Cabin Cruise' - Meet at 10:30 a.m. at Keogan Parking lot to hike to Western Cabin. Leader: Bob Cavan

## HIKING STORY

In Fall 2024, I joined one of the hikes you led through Gatineau Park, from the Wakefield Inn. I took a wrong turn on the highway and, as a result, was at least thirty minutes late for the hike. I finally met up with everyone at the cabin and was able to make the return hike with the group. I am always the slowest hiker or skier in any group. This is because there is so much to see and I do try to see it. In this regard, I can't help myself.

As we hiked along, I was looking at the stones on the path. They were an assortment of stones, not all alike at all. I finally picked one up and put it in my pocket. It reminded me of a coccyx, but I didn't really know what it was.

The stone has now been identified by the local geological society and it turns out...it's a piece of prehistoric coral. I thought you might like to know that. Whoever would have imagined Gatineau Park as being an undersea coral reef?

So, you never know what wonders life may bring your way, in the unlikeliest of places. Being the slowest club member does, after all, come with certain advantages. Thank you for all the hikes and skis you lead. Maybe you'll be the next one to find a little treasure for your pocket.

Sue Hoegg



**Jane Maxwell, Hiking & Cycling Chair, [hikes-2025@raski.ca](mailto:hikes-2025@raski.ca)**

## SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES

You can find or receive news and updates about Club activities through a number of methods:

- **SKI-MAIL**

Find out about last-minute additions or changes, club news, and upcoming events, by subscribing to Ski-Mail, our e-mail newsletter.

Send an email to: [RASkiClub+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:RASkiClub+subscribe@groups.io) using the email address you wish email to be sent to.

- **WEBSITE**

Our amazing RA Ski website contains everything you wanted to know about the ski club, but were afraid to ask.

[www.raski.ca](http://www.raski.ca)



- **FACEBOOK**

Visit us on Facebook to learn about upcoming events, read members' comments, and much more! Go to **RA Ski and Snowboard Club of Ottawa** and ask to join.

## DISCOUNTS

Our club has the power of group purchasing to obtain discounts at many local ski hills, sports stores, and other venues.

Check out the current offerings at <https://www.raski.ca/discounts> and make any suggestions for other discounts to your Club Council.

The more places we get, the more we save.

**Bob Cavan**, Downhill Day Chair, [downhill-2025@raski.ca](mailto:downhill-2025@raski.ca)

## OTTAWA OUTDOOR SHOW

**Come visit us at the RA Ski booth!**

**When:** Sat. & Sun. Apr. 25-26

**Where:** Nepean Sportsplex



## PHOTOS & TRIP REPORTS

Photos and trip reports from most of our outings are on the RA Ski web site ( [www.raski.ca](http://www.raski.ca) ).

### TRIP REPORTS

Trip reports for all our outings over the last year are put on our web site [www.raski.ca](http://www.raski.ca). Click on "TRIP REPORTS" on the menu at the top of our home page.

### PHOTOS

For photos, click on "PHOTOS" on the menu at the top of our home page.

Then click on the appropriate album ("Cross-country", "Downhill", "Snowshoeing", or "Cycling Hiking Golf & Theatre".) To see the photo larger, double-click on it.

**To see the photos as a slideshow:**

1. Double-click on the little square icon on the top right under the number of photos. Wait a few seconds and the slideshow will start. Click on the right arrow to advance to the next slide.

### Downloading photos:

(Unfortunately you now need a Yahoo account.)

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."

We also put "RA Ski Photos of the Month" at the bottom of our home page [raski.ca](http://raski.ca).

**MORE PHOTOS**



**2026 Weeklong, The Dolomites, Italy**



**Jan. 16 – DH bus trip to Tremblant**



**2026 Weeklong, The Dolomites, Italy**



**Jan. 17 – XC Ski on Heritage Trail East**



**2026 Weeklong, The Dolomites, Italy**



**Jan. 22 – XC Ski on Britannia Winter Trail**



**Jan. 8 – XC ski at Relais Plein Air**



Jan. 23 – DH Fortune Friday



Feb. 6 – DH Fortune Friday



Jan. 29 – XC ski on Chelsea Community Trail



Feb. 11-16 – XC Midweek at Le Grand Lodge, Tremblant



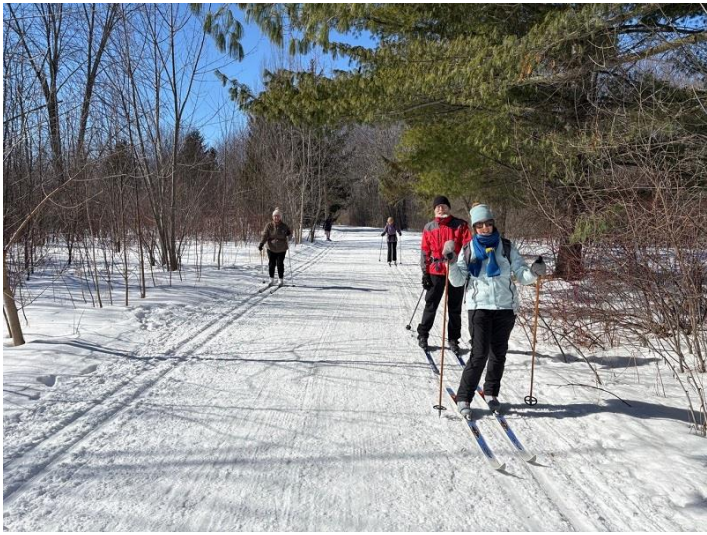
Feb. 11-16 – XC Midweek at Le Grand Lodge, Tremblant



Feb. 4, DH Meet'n'Ski at Edelweiss



Feb. 17 – DH Meet'n'Ski at Mont Ste-Marie



**March 1 – XC ski on Heritage East trail**



**March 17 – DH Meet'n'Ski at Pakenham**



**March 4 – DH Meet'n'Ski at Calabogie**



**March 25 – DH Meet'n'Ski at Edelweiss**



**March 6 – DH Fortune Friday**



**June 25/25 – Mud Lake hike**



**March 6 – XC Ski at Anderson Road**



**July 18/25 Biking on the Chelsea old rail line**