



## WINTER WORDS



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### Newsletter of the Ski Atlantic Seniors' Club (SASC)

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Spring Issue

April 2015

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#### President's Message

Hi Everyone,

What a successful season we have had and such wonderful conditions for the last number of weeks. Our trips to Sunday River and Stoneham, along with Kell Antoft Days and skiing at our individual hills have kept members smiling during this outstanding year.

We have many people to thank.

First off, Jim and Maureen Betts for guiding Denyse Kyle, Chris Andrew, and Gale Dempsey through their first year of planning ski trips. This was a huge task and we appreciated their commitment needed for these projects to run smoothly.

Also, thank you to ski directors for their yearlong work and especially for planning Kel Antoft Days. I was able to attend four of these days and can tell you, the directors go all out to make this day special. Members enjoyed lunches, prizes, music and of course skiing. Next year it is my mission to attend Ben Eoin and Martock.

One of our goals this year was to emphasize PR, which we were able to achieve through newspaper articles, radio interview, and a TV clip.

The first article and photo, written by Tom Peters was published in the Halifax Chronicle Herald featured an interview with Ray Provencher, our Vice President. Another article, advertising our great club and written by Lori Gallagher, appeared in the Daily Gleaner. This story included a group photo and an interview with Linda Hubbard, Crabbe Mt. Director, and myself. Just before Kel Antoft Day at Crabbe, I was interviewed with Information Morning Fredericton host Terry Sequin, which gave me an additional opportunity to spread the word about SASC. A television crew was at Ben Eoin to film part of their Kel Antoft Day. Paul Black was interviewed as well as Harry Henderson who was celebrating his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday, and has been skiing for over 60 years. Another member, Jimmy Clothier, celebrated his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday at Sunday River. Go guys!!

The sport of skiing received PR inadvertently as a result of Poley's fire. The hill's quick recovery after their devastating fire was in the news many times. They didn't skip a beat, it was skiing as usual. Unbelievable!

Great press. Let's keep it up!

The sale of Crabbe is another big story. Negotiations are in the works with Leslie Wilson and local business men. An open house meeting has been held with over 300 attending to

discuss the situation, and to come up with a plan, short and long term. No financial details were given due to confidentiality. I will keep you informed of the progress.

A special thanks to Harold Wainwright for making the 'Wain Wrench'. The tool used for buckling boots. Harold is 85 and is still skiing at Martock.

A reminder to members that our AGM is June the 18<sup>th</sup>, in Debert Nova Scotia and our Golf Classic Tournament is in September. Organizers are looking into the location and date. A good possibility is the resort town of St. Andrews, New Brunswick. I will let you know shortly. Hope you can attend both events.

To all board members, thank you for your support and dedication to SASC. Without you it just wouldn't happen.

As our ski season winds down, I do hope SASC goals for fun, friendship and fitness met your expectations.

Have a wonderful summer!

*Judy Hawkins, SASC President*

### **The Ski Atlantic Senior's Club promotes fun, friendship and fitness**

It was reported by Lori Gallagher in the Fredericton Gleaner recently that The Ski Atlantic Seniors' Club is proof that you're never too old to try something new. Some members have been skiing all their lives; others are returning to a sport they used to enjoy, but a few are hitting the slopes for the first time and discovering a new passion.

The club was formed in 1989 by a man named Kell Antoft, says Judy Hawkins, president of SASC. He was born in Denmark After he retired from Dalhousie University he wanted to share his love of skiing and he

wanted to promote a healthy lifestyle," she says.". He was active in the club into his 80's.

The club began with a dozen members and has since grown to nearly 1,000 strong, she says, and has the participation of all eight ski hills in the Maritimes. There are 18 members on the board, which looks after the direction of the club and its policies.

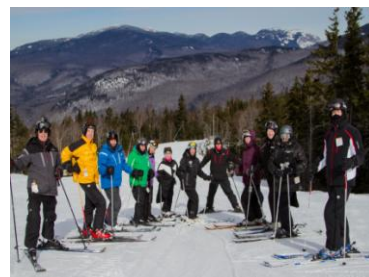
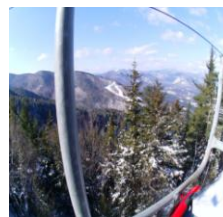
The camaraderie is big part of what makes the club so great, says SASC Director of Crabbe Linda Hubbard. She also indicated that socializing is as important as anything else the club brings into the lives of its members. Members keep in touch with the club through a newsletter "Winter Words" which is available on the SASC website. Also there are two out-of-province ski trips organized by the board each year at reasonable cost. Sunday River in Maine and Stoneham in Quebec were the club's destinations this past season. There are close to 100 members of the SASC that call Crabbe their home ski hill.

Although people age 55 and more may join SASC as a social member, skiing memberships are restricted to those that are 60 years of age or older.

*The above is an excerpt from the original article that was published in the Daily Gleaner on march 15, 2015*

*WW Editor*

### **Mountain Time**



### **Mountain Time**

Written by Tom Grantham

Frosty skis  
Frosty breath  
Frosty slopes that we can ski

Rosy cheeks, new techniques  
No more workweeks  
Just chic boutiques

Down the trail, we all sail  
Left, then right, with no fear

To the lift, it is our gift  
Up we go in the chair  
We have no great fear  
We are high in the air

Like a bird that can't be heard,  
We all glide through the air  
Oh my dear!

Off the lift, it is so swift  
Let it snow  
Let it blow  
Let it drift  
We can all downshift

Down again becomes a trend  
Until we reach the lower end  
All we have to do, is ascend the next bend

It makes old age easy to cope  
Instead of moping with no scope

Until that final run, we now know  
That skiing is almost done.

Spring is near, skiing is done  
Next year will be more fun.

Written by Tom Grantham February 2015

### **The Life and Times of Captain James (Jimmy) Clothier**

Jimmy is one of the oldest members of the Senior Atlantic Ski Club (SASC) and a very active skier at Martock.

Jimmy was born in Burgeo Newfoundland on February 13, 1926, to a family of four children - ALL BOYS! In 1944 he emigrated from Newfoundland to Canada, sponsored by his brother, who was in the Canadian Navy at that time. Jimmy went to Halifax to work at the Dockyard.

The next year he shipped out on an Imperial Oil tanker as a deck hand. This ship was later sold in Saint John, NB and Jim transferred to an iron ore bulk carrier, the *LOUISBOURG*. After two and a half years transporting iron ore from Wabana, Newfoundland to Sydney, NS, Jim signed off and joined a general cargo carrier plying from Montreal and Saint John to South Africa, with stops at Rio de Janeiro, Holland and Narvic in Norway. When the ship finally returned to Montreal Jim was faced with a seaman's strike that was in effect at that time. He signed off and made his way to Halifax, where he elected to attend Navigation School, rather than stand picket duty with the union.

Following Navigation School in 1949 Jim joined the Foundation tug *LILLIAN*, as an able seaman. Later in the year the tug was posted to Bermuda. Jim, newly married, reluctant to move to Bermuda returned to Imperial Oil and joined a coastal tanker, servicing many Maritime ports.

In 1951 Jim sat for the 350 Ton Ticket (Home Trade) and took command of the *T I SERVICE*. The ferry operated between Big Tancook, Little Tancook and Ironbound Islands, in Mahone Bay. At that time Jim and his family moved to Big

Tancook Island where he and Janette raised their family of one girl and five boys. Ten years later Jim brought the new ferry *SHOREHAM* around from the A. F. Teriault Shipyard in Meteghan to Mahone Bay. She replaced the retired *T / Service* for "The Tancook Run." In 1981 the new steel hulled *WILLIAM G. ERNST* was commissioned in Chester with Captain James Clothier as Master.

In retirement, Jim and his wife Jeanette (married 65 years) sailed together on their yacht *SAIL ON* with trips to Newfoundland and the Bahamas. Jim and Jeanette now live in Chester Basin and have 16 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

In the winter skiing is Jimmy's avocation.

*Submitted by Gail Fraser*

### **Stoneham Ski Trip**

The Trip Committee had chosen well for the 2015 ski ventures as the SASC ski trip for March 8 – 13 had 57 members head for the ever popular ski resort at Stoneham Quebec. The trip booked up very early and the organizers ended up with a waiting list. Mother Nature graced us with beautiful weather all week. Even the driving conditions were on clear roads all the way up and back. Temperatures and snow conditions were near perfect all week. Looking up at this hill during the day is inviting enough but to see it lit up at night is all the more reason to hurry up and get the skis on and get at it. On Monday there was an after ski gathering/meet and greet so everyone could pass along their first impressions/brags about skiing the 40's/blacks. With the conditions as they were even a few of the more timid skiers tried their luck on these double blacks for the first time. Not to be forgotten was the Feu Follet with the full breakfasts a la carte and of course the three course meal at suppers. One complaint on the trip came from an individual

who jumped on the scales upon returning home and discovered they had gained four pounds after hot dogging all week. To add to this great week numerous members took in the remnants of the Quebec Winter Carnival, visited the Ice Hotel and checked out the remaining sculptures of the Carnival.

It was a pleasure to look back at this experience of meeting new members, seeing old and everyone having a safe and enjoyable week. Many thanks and high fives go out to Gale Dempsey and Chris Andrew for executing such a care-free week.

*Submitted by Bob Webb*

### **Ski Hill Reports**

#### **Ski Wentworth**

It doesn't seem possible, but another ski season is behind us. While the snow was late coming at the start of the season, once it started coming it didn't know how to stop. As I skied the last day at Wentworth, 6 Apr 15, both the conditions and the weather were absolutely great. When I got up the next morning and looked outside there was four inches of fresh snow to be shoveled, but alas not to be skied on.

This season there were 4869 visits to Ski Wentworth by SASC members. This number is down a bit from last year and may be attributed to the late start of the season and all the storms that came mainly during the week. It seems the majority of seniors prefer the short line-ups (if any) during the week as opposed to lengthy line-ups during the weekends. This year was similar to the last two years in that the best skiing was in March and this year we had the bonus of an additional week in April.

As the ski demo days were so successful this year, we thought we would try something else as well. As many of members also enjoy cycling,

we approached Hub Cycle about holding a bike seminar regarding changes in technology that make riding more comfortable for seniors. Also they will give tips about picking the bike that is right for you. They are willing to do a seminar at their Truro location and another one in Halifax at a place yet to be determined, both taking place in the month of May. There is no cost involved, but we need to know if there is interest from the membership to go forward with this event. So if you are interested in attending, please email me at [rhatkinson@eastlink](mailto:rhatkinson@eastlink) and note which location you would prefer. Depending upon the response it will be held at one location, two locations or not at all.

This is my last report as the SASC director for Ski Wentworth as my three-year term comes to a close at this year's AGM. I have enjoyed my time on the board and worked with some wonderful people with the one purpose of trying to make the SASC even better for the members. We do need someone to step forward to be the new representative for Ski Wentworth and if you might be interested please contact me to discuss what the position involves. I will be skiing there next year and am more than willing to give you some assistance, should you need it.

*Robert Atkinson, SASC, Director – Ski Wentworth*  
[rhatkinson@eastlink.ca](mailto:rhatkinson@eastlink.ca)

### **Martock Ski Hill**

Another ski season has ended. A somewhat crazy one it was! Late start but after that all we saw was snow, snow, snow! It was great (on the hill)!! Kell Antoft Day was a huge success with the normal good food, great friends and a lot of chatter. Special thanks to

Heather and Jim for their support and donations to our special day.

As winter lingered on so did the fantastic ski conditions at Martock. The hill stayed open an extra week and skiing on Easter Sunday was as good as it gets. Martock had 1,901 senior visitors this year! It will be a long time before we get a winter such as 2015. Happy summer to all and see you next year.

*Lee Brannen, SASC Director, Martock*

### **Ben Eoin Ski Hill**

Ben Eoin held their Kell Antoft Day on Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. It was a fabulous day. Lunch was served in the lounge for the 60 members who enjoyed themselves immensely. SASC received some further publicity from ATV, who interviewed Paul Black (our past president). They aired a clip of Ski Ben Eoin for the CTV program "Live at 5". During the Kell Antoft Day members of Ski Ben Eoin gave recognition to Harry Henderson, who at the age of 89, has been skiing uninterrupted for the past 63 years. A great inspiration for all SASC members.

*Kathy Gouthro, SASC Director, Ski Ben Eoin*

For further information on the events and activities going on at Ben Eoin please consult their website: <http://www.skibeneoin.com/>

### **Crabbe Mountain**

It has been a busy and eventful season at Crabbe. We had a slow start re snow, temperature, and hill conditions, but there have been no valid complaints in the second half of the ski season during which SASC skiers have experienced the best conditions in years.

Seniors always enjoyed each others' company at lunch time during the week, but the largest crowds were usually on Tuesdays, as the Hill provided a sweet treat, along with coffee/tea, for a donation.

Due to a huge snowstorm, Kell Antoft Day, this year, was a mostly Crabbe event, except for two Wentworth members, Jeanne Coppillie, and Tiit Ulesoo, who arrived before the storm. We enjoyed the lively music of the SASC band, featuring guests, Jane Ogilvie of Nfld., and Robert Cassie of Fredericton, along with regulars, Jeanne Coppillie of Wentworth, and Lynn Gulliver & Curry Alders, both of Fredericton. Closed highways prevented Pat Connors and John Llewelyn from performing with the band. Those attending, close to sixty, enjoyed a delicious meal, as well as a 50's & 60's trivia quiz, and numerous door prizes.

Because of my personal experience of having injured myself, I now appreciate much more the financial donation given annually by the Ski Atlantic Seniors' Club to the Ski Patrol of each participating hill. I received excellent care and emergency treatment by Larry Harley and his team, which I was grateful for, as I was in a great deal of pain. It would have been nice had they had a heated floor in their Ski Patrol Hut; (not about to happen) it was almost like laying on the ground. However, I was given hand warmers, which helped greatly while waiting for the ambulance.

Another special event for members of Crabbe Mt. SASC was held on the Tuesday after the Stoneham trip. Organized by Ray Kaine and myself, Todd Rider, a Level 3 Instructor at Crabbe, gave freely of his time and talent to conduct a videotaping / critiquing session. I was told that 17 members availed themselves of this beneficial opportunity to see themselves ski and receive some helpful pointers.

Before the open meeting on March 26th, which a good number of Seniors attended, rumours were rampant re the sale of Crabbe, at least

one of which was quite funny. Although I was unable to attend, I was informed that the presenters were very enthusiastic and well organized, presenting short and long term goals, and looking to enlarge the group of investors before making a definite proposal to the Wilsons.

This is my fourth and final term as Director for Crabbe Mt. I've enjoyed the experience immensely and have grown personally; as well, I have made many new friends and acquaintances.

### **Local investors hope to buy Crabbe Mountain**

It was reported in the Fredericton Gleaner by Adam Bowie recently that after almost 25 years in the ski-hill business, the owners of Crabbe Mountain say they are planning to close the hill permanently at the end of the winter season.

But before you worry you might be losing one of the best places to ski and snowboard in Atlantic Canada, owner Leslie Wilson says a group of local business professionals have been working to put together a deal to buy the facility and continue operations seamlessly into 2015-2016 winter season.

The owners (Wilson Family) indicated that they have been meeting with a group of local investors for a couple of months now, and they are interested in purchasing the business and property. Basically, they are presently working towards an agreement that will provide a seamless transition in ownership before next season.

Writing in the Kings County Record Tammy Scott – Wallace reported the manager of Poley Mountain as indicating that Poley Mountain found itself in a similar position fifteen years ago. And at that time shareholders rallied together and bought the hill from the private owners, which turned the tides for Poley and turned it into a local and regional "Success Story".

While Poley has endured its challenges over the years, the popular ski hill has become a premiere destination for skiers and snowboarders in the Maritimes, which Anderson relates largely to the ownership model at Poley. The hill is owned by 96 shareholders that are committed to reinvesting all profits back into the hill. The affairs at the hill are administered by a 10 member board. Anderson is

hopeful that a similar solution will be found to keep Crabbe in operation.

*WW Editor*

## **Poley Mountain**

The past ski season started out as a disaster, and ended as an unqualified success.

It all began with the fire that completely destroyed the lodge a few weeks before the scheduled start of the ski season, and continued with the unusual lack of snow until January. But the management team and staff at Poley quickly adapted and had a 'trailerville' established on the site of the vanished lodge before the usually-busy Christmas week. They worked nightly to build up an artificial/man-made snow base so their skiers were able to ski a few trails while waiting for Mother Nature to provide the real white stuff. It was a strange sight to ski those pre-snowfall days. We would ride the chairlift and see bare ground beneath us, and see full snow coverage on the adjacent trails. And the view from the top was equally confusing. Bareness everywhere except for the snow on the few runs.

This being the Maritimes, the real snow did come repeatedly and in major dumps. The scenery became what we expected and the skiing became superb, with no major rainfall during the usual January and February thaws. Had it not been for the need to prepare for the construction of a new lodge, it is possible that we could have continued to enjoy skiing at Poley, on fully-covered trails, for two weeks or more.

Kell Antoft Day was unusual as well. It was scheduled for a Monday but due to a major snowfall the preceding Sunday, had to be postponed to the following Thursday. This meant that our usual visitors from other ski areas could not join our festivities (except for President Judy Hawkins and Director Linda Hubbard, both from Fredericton), but we had a

good turnout of Poley people to complement the good weather and ski conditions.

We filled one of the trailers and really would have been stressed had we had many guests from the other hills.

Now that the season is over, the hill management and their crews are in the process of completing a 14-month building project in 9 months in order to open for our skiing enjoyment around mid-December, We wish them well, and thank them for rescuing an outstanding ski season.

*Murray Goodman, SASC Director, Poley Mtn.*

## **Poley's New Lodge Unveiled**

The Kings County Record reported on March 24<sup>th</sup> that the Executive Board of Poley Mountain unveiled the plans for the new lodge at Poley, to replace the old one that was destroyed by fire. The new lodge is a two level design amounting to 26,000 square feet with hill facing windows that go from ground level to the roof line.

The main floor will house the retail boutique, guest services, kitchen, and serving area, cafeteria, seating area, as well as, administrative offices and wash rooms.

The basement will be for the rental shop, tuning, and repair shop, ski patrol, ski school, day care, lockers, washrooms, changing areas and storage.

The original lodge was completely destroyed by fire in December, causing an estimated 3 million dollars in damage. The hill's administration and staff made an admirable recovery to meet the needs of the upcoming season. In the old lodge's place, trailers were put in place to provide all the facilities required and then some. The estimate for the new lodge is 5

million dollars. Work on the new facility began immediately after the completion of a successful 2014-15 ski season, the first week of April. The new facility is expected to be completed in time for next season, according to Bill Anderson, General Manager, Poley Mountain.

Visit their website if you want further information.

*WW Editor*

### **Mount Farlagne Ski Hill**

For further information on the events and activities going on at Mount Farlagne please consult their website:  
<http://www.montfarlagne.com>

### **Attention SASC Members**

Photomaster, Irene Ferguson, is looking for photos to post on the SASC website. Please forward your photos of club activities, along with the location, date and the names of any people in the photos, to [john\\_irene\\_ferguson@yahoo.ca](mailto:john_irene_ferguson@yahoo.ca). Please put SASC Photos in the subject window. "Any members who do not want their photo posted on the SASC Website should contact Irene Ferguson at the given Website"

### **Bean Counter Babble**

From Ken F Cameron / Club Treasurer

May 31 marks the end of the financial year for the Club and it will be the end of my second year as Club treasurer. Comparing my experience in year one to that of year two, I must admit that this one has been more fun, less stressful and much more rewarding. I want to thank the Club members, the Board members, the previous treasurer John

Llewellyn, our register Mary Drake and all those individuals that allowed me this opportunity and "dragged" me through that first year.

Until taking on this task, I never fully appreciated the sacrifices and efforts necessary to keep this dream of Kell Antoft alive to this day. It is in his honour that I feel privileged to, in a small way; perpetuate that dream of allowing us to experience this passion until our last breath. And I hope mine comes at the top of the Beaver at Ski Wentworth with my wine skin. (Those were the days!!)

Moving to Club financial matters as the 2014-15 ski season draws to a close – we have slightly over \$193,000.00 in the "pot" to distribute to the hills. Distribution per hill depends on the tally of visits per hill upon closing. There were 875 ski passes issued this season with one honorary pass issued to David Wilson. There were 65 social passes processed including the Life Time Social Pass to Mary Lou Courtney; with social members as far afield as Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Connecticut, USA. We welcomed 109 new members in total. Both club trips were fully booked well in advance and each had a waiting list. This is due to the diligent efforts of Jim and Maureen Betts along with their crew. The Club will have a small surplus in the Operating Account and the two Trip Accounts at the fiscal year end.

The least pleasant chore to me as Club treasurer is issuing ski pass refunds. As the ski season approaches, we get our pass with much anticipation of fun with friends on the hill; and I know that a cancellation is not done lightly. I issued nine refunds this season, and it is my hope that all nine will be back on the hills next winter, better than ever. Although this is nine too many; it is only 1% of total ski passes issued



– this made up of skiers mainly in the 60 to 80 age group.

So when you consider all the facts, we are not doing badly for a group of seniors (or a bunch of “old farts” as the case may be). We may not be young; but we are truly young at heart – thanks to Kell Antoft for developing an organization in which we are able to nurture that feeling.

#### **Current SASC Membership Statistics for 2014 – 15 Ski Season**

Crabbe	126
Poley	192
Mont F	11
Ben Eoin	118
Martock	168
Wentworth	254
Brookvale	4

**Total passes issued: 875, total social passes 65.**

#### **Membership Age Ranges**

87 years old	2
86	1
85	2
84	4
83	6
82	2
81	5
80	4
79 to 75	51
74 to 70	166
69 to the end	634

#### **Out Best years to date for enrollments**

2012-13	Ski 986	Social 52
2013-14	Ski 933	Social 53
2014-15	Ski 875	Social 65

Submitted by Ken F Cameron / SASC Treasurer

*Note it was mistaking reported by the editor in the last issue that our enrollment was expected*

*to surpass 1000 for the past season. The actual number was 875, as shown above.*

#### **Current SASC Board of Directors - 2014-15**

- Judy Hawkins – President (Crabbe)
- Ray Provencher, Vice President (Martock)
- Paul Black - Past President (Ben Eoin)
- Ken Cameron –Treasurer (Wentworth )
- Peter Etheridge – Secretary/Editor “Winter Words” (Poley)
- Connie Uytterlinde– Director, Communications (Martock)
- Jim & Maureen Betts – Director, Ski Trips (Wentworth)
- Don Mac Donald – Director Ski Hill Registrar (Martock)
- Kathy Gouthro – Director, Ski Instructors (Ben Eoin)
- Robert Atkinson – Director, Ski Wentworth
- Murray Goodman – Director, Ski Poley
- Kathy Gouthro – Director, Ski Ben Eoin
- Linda Hubbard – Director, Ski Crabbe
- Gary Thorne – Director, Ski Mount Farlagne
- Lee Brannen – Director, Ski Martock
- Pauline MacDonald – Member at Large
- Mary Drake – Registrar, 12 Janda Crescent, Tantallon, NS, B3Z 4R8, Email: gedrake@eastlink.ca

#### **Attention All Members**

*You may consider submitting an article(s) to “Winter Words” that you think is of interest to the general readership. Peter Etheridge, Editor: [pether@rogers.com](mailto:pether@rogers.com),*