

SKI DESTINATION DESCRIPTIONS

HARDWOOD SKI & BIKE

Hardwood is still in recovery mode as a result of the fire in late 2017. This winter the West Wing will be open for storage, seating and washrooms. They will have full rentals and waxing services. They are trying to arrange a food truck or trailer on site. Hardwood has seven intersecting and stacked loop trails ranging from 3.3 kms to 22 kms. They have state-of-the-art grooming and most trails are track set for both classic and skate skiing. There is a trail for every level of ability from beginner to elite racer. The Meadowlands trail across the road is an excellent trail for the novice skier in both classic and skate skiing. There are also 12 kms of snowshoe trails.

HIGHLANDS NORDIC

Highlands Nordic is located on the top of the Niagara Escarpment, close to Georgian Bay. It is known for excellent snow conditions and a long ski season. The 24 km trail network offers skiing for beginners to experts. The trails are well groomed and track-set for both classic and skate skiing. The longer trails begin with a climb up the escarpment, most of which can be done in the track, although some herringbone is required. There are 7.5 kms of snowshoe trails. The lodge has an excellent cafeteria, rentals, pro shop, and waxing facilities.

HORSESHOE VALLEY

This destination is an old favorite for many. There are approximately 40 km of trails, which run through the scenic rolling woodlands of the Copeland Forest and trails are suited to accommodate all abilities. There are 8 kms of snowshoe trails. Horseshoe has very good grooming. There is an indoor waxing area as well as ski rentals. Horseshoe is located at the junction of two snow belts and often has good skiing when other areas do not. There is a cafeteria with soup, sandwiches, a variety of snacks and refreshments.

GANARASKA FOREST

This ski centre has 42 km of excellent classic only trails ranging mainly from intermediate to expert. Trails are track set but they do not groom for skate skiing, which means the trails are narrower than at some other resorts. Less confident skiers may prefer to remove skis and walk down some hills in order to negotiate tight trails. There are two snowshoe loop trails of 2 and 8 kms. There is no skate skiing. There are no ski rentals but snowshoes can be rented. There is no longer a canteen for food purchases. Please bring a lunch.

MANSFIELD

This privately owned facility offers a network of trails for classic and skate skiing consisting of 40 kms of classic and 10 kms of skating trails. Trails are graded from novice to expert. With the exception of two beginner trails, all trails run through forest on top of the escarpment, which means there is a gradual hill climb to reach the trail network but it is a great ski down at the end. There are snowshoe trails as well. Facilities include a chalet with a cafeteria that sells delicious homemade food such as chili, soup, and brownies. There is a nearby building with waxing benches and ski rentals.

SCENIC CAVES NORDIC CENTRE

Scenic Caves Nature Preserve is on the highest point of the Niagara Escarpment, approximately 10 kms west of Collingwood. The trails range from beginner to intermediate. The area offers beautiful scenery, two lookouts over Georgian Bay and the Osler Valley, wooded wilderness and usually very good snow

conditions. The acquisition of a Ginzu groomer provides even better early and late season trails. There are 27 kms of combined classic and skate skiing trails, along with 10 kms of snowshoe trails. Facilities include a pleasant chalet and a heated lunchroom with wood stove. Drinks and snacks are available as well as limited hot lunch options such as soup, chili, fries, burgers, grilled cheese, but you may wish to bring your own lunch. There are ski rentals, waxing facilities, and a small retail outlet. There is also a warm up hut at the Lookout point with treats and refreshments, which is open most weekends.

WASAGA NORDIC

The park offers approximately 30 kms of trails through rolling terrain in the Dunes area. There are at least 10 intersecting trails to choose from, each designed for a different level of ability, as well as a 7 km skating trail. There are approximately 10 kms of snowshoe trails. The main ski hut provides a heated shelter for eating. There is a separate building for ski waxing. Ski and snowshoe rentals are available. Only soft drinks and snacks are sold so we suggest you bring your lunch. Ski conditions are posted on their Facebook page.