

Hello HOC Winter Sport Participants

As our province struggles to bring the spread of the Covid-19 virus under control, Bonnie and I have made the painful decision to cancel the bus and resort bookings for our HOC ski day trips for the remainder of the ski season. While the chance of group bus travel anytime in the next few months seems remote, if the Covid-19 situation improves to the point where our region is back in the Red Zone by the end of February or early March, we still hope to offer alternate activities, if they are allowed, on dates that were set aside for ski day trips.

We sincerely regret the loss of the entire winter sport schedule, but we look forward to the winter of 2021/2022 with the hope of better times ahead. With that in mind, Heather McClintock and Ralph Gardave have already begun preliminary plans for a Club trip to Silverstar in January of 2022. Keep your eyes open for an announcement as we move toward the Spring.

Speaking of the Spring, Isabel Bravo (Hiking Director), Heather Wilson (Cycling Director) and Sandy Nay (Paddling Director) are busy putting together their Spring events for the Club. As soon as Covid-19 restrictions allow, watch the Events Calendar for an exciting schedule of activities this Spring. Our hope is to come back stronger than ever.

In spite of the fact that our worst fears have been realized, many members worked very hard to plan our winter activities. I would like to thank Sandra Redfearn, Ruth Merz and Patti Blair, our ski instructors; Ralph Gardave, Heather McClintock, Freda and Clive Wright, Bonnie Quinn and Patti Blair our extended trip leaders and all of you who volunteered to be Bus Captains this winter. Thank you for all of your time and effort. Our events can't take place without your commitment and participation.

Special mention must go to Bonnie Quinn, Marjorie Dieterman and to Danielle Roche. Much to our chagrin, we discovered that a season that doesn't take place requires far more work than one that does. With every twist and turn, Bonnie and Marjorie were there to make sure that everything worked as it should. In her first weeks as our new Club Manager, Danielle has learned all about refunds. Hopefully, next year she doesn't have to use this new skill nearly as often.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our members. Thank you for your support. Thank you for your participation. Thank you for your patience and understanding. You are the heart and the backbone of our Club. I believe that the Spring will bring better days and that next winter will be great, once again.

In the meantime, please be safe.

I look forward to seeing you on the trails or on the water as soon as we can.

Jim Blair

Ski Director