

**H.O.C.**  
**ALL ABOUT SKI/SNOWSHOE DAY TRIPS 2020-2021**

**Introduction**

Optimistically, our 2020/2021 season opens on Dec 5, 2020 and runs to March 20, 2021. For the coming season we have decreased the number of weekend trips and increased the number of weekday trips. This is to take advantage of the fact that resorts are much less busy on weekdays which is a big consideration while Covid-19 restrictions are in place. To the extent possible, there is a balance in the number of trips to the various ski/snowshoe destinations. However, there are many factors to work around including: venue availability; weather and snow conditions; appropriate venues for lessons; holidays and our club's extended trips. For example, at the beginning of the season when we hold most of our lessons and clinics, we choose venues that offer teaching grids. Historically some venues have less snow, so we don't book these until a bit later in the season. Late season trips are scheduled on Saturdays only, as the trails become degraded by Sunday and the snow is often too thin for re-grooming.

**Covid - 19 Consideration**

Several changes will take place to our day trips this season. For details please read the document [Covid -19 Safety Winter Sports](#), which can be found on our website in the top right corner of the Home Page. It is worth noting that bus trip numbers will be limited to 34 participants throughout the season. There is also a change with regards to cancellations if members are experiencing Covid -19 symptoms. See cancellation policies below.

**Registration and Payment**

The Ski/Snowshoe Schedule for the entire season will be posted on our website in early November. It can be found on the 'Schedules' page and individual trips are posted on the Events Calendar. The Events Calendar is where you go to register for trips and lessons.

**Registration Opens** at the beginning of the previous month. For example, you can start registering for December trips at the beginning of November. You can start registering for January trips at the beginning of December, and so on.

**Registration Closing:** If you are registering for a Saturday trip, registration closes at midnight on Thursday. If you are registering for a Sunday trip, registration closes at midnight on Friday. The same principle applies if you are registering for a Tuesday or a Wednesday trip.

**Wait List:** If a trip fills during the registration period, you have the option to join the wait list. Your name will be placed in a queue and you will be notified by email if a spot comes open. It is possible the wait list may be more active this winter than in previous years. If you are on a wait list, please try to leave the date open as long as possible so you are available to respond on short notice.

**\*\*\*NEW\*\*\* Bus fare AND Trail Fee Payments must accompany online registration.**

**This season, both the Bus Fare and Trail Fees will be paid online when you register.**

There is an early bird bus fare of \$25 for those registering a week or more in advance of the day trip. After that you must pay the regular bus fare of \$27.50. Nonmembers also pay \$27.50.

Trail fees will also be paid online at the time of registration. This payment system is being introduced as a Covid-19 safety measure in order to reduce the need for bus captains to handle and collect cash and to improve physical distancing on the bus. The cost of a ski/snowshoe trail pass is \$21 for all trips. The cost of a snowshoe-only pass is \$15.50. These prices represent the weighted average cost of the group trail fees for all trips currently scheduled for the upcoming season. Wasaga Provincial Park will be excluded. It is the only cash destination (\$10 trail fee).

Once registration and payment for Bus Fare and Trail Pass are complete, you will receive a confirmation by e-mail.

**There are no stand-bys. Bus and trail fees cannot be collected on the bus.** You must pre-register to go on the trip. Non-members must pre-register, pre-pay and submit the waiver.

## **Cancellations:**

If you cancel a day trip please contact our Club Manager, Bonnie Quinn, by phone or e-mail: 905 634-2012 [info@haltonoutdoorclub.ca](mailto:info@haltonoutdoorclub.ca) There is no option for self cancellation on-line. The deadline for cancelling a day trip in order to receive a full refund is 48 hours prior to the trip. For example, if a trip leaves at 8:00am on a Saturday, cancellation must occur before 8:00am on the Thursday before the trip. Cancellation deadlines for Ski Better Clinics are the same as for day trips. Cancellation for Level 1 Lessons is different and can be found in the document "All About Lessons".

If you must cancel after the cancellation deadline due to the sudden onset of Covid-19 symptoms, you will receive a full refund for the day trip. If you cancel after the deadline for any other reason, you will receive a refund for the Trail Fee portion of the registration, but you will be charged the Bus Fare portion of the registration, unless the Club Manager can fill the spot with someone from the waitlist. If a replacement is found, you will receive a full refund. We trust that our members will be truthful and not take advantage of this situation. It is absolutely imperative that any members who are ill should not board the bus. We do not wish to put any impediment in the way of the decision to do the correct thing.

**No Shows:** Please do not be a "no show". Even if you cancel after the deadline, please notify our Club Manager. In this way your spot can be filled by another member from the waitlist. This is a matter of consideration for fellow club members.

**If the Club cancels a trip you will be refunded in full.** Monitor the website (Bonnie's Bulletins), closely for updates on the trip status and do a final check before leaving your house in the morning. We will not call you if a trip is cancelled. Your credit card will be refunded within a few weeks of a cancelled trip.

**We have a request:** Please do not second-guess the weather and cancel because of the forecast. Here's why: If members cancel because they see poor conditions at home, then our trip numbers may drop to a point where we must cancel because we have too few on the bus. This results in cancelling trips when conditions turned out to be fine, simply because people backed out early. Our Club has a good track record of doing its homework and making the right decisions. Trust us!

## **Destination changes:**

We recognize that many people choose trips based on the published destination, so we change as seldom as possible. However, our priorities are safety and skiing in optimal conditions. If weather, snow conditions or driving conditions dictate, we may go to a different destination than scheduled. Similarly, if we schedule a second bus on any day trips this winter, there is no guarantee that both busses can go to the same resort. Some resorts are limiting the number of bus groups allowed on a given day. In order for our members to ski that day it is possible the two busses may go to different venues. Again, check the website (Bonnie's Bulletins) or the club's recorded phone message for updates and do a final check before leaving home.

## **Departure Information:**

### **Please read the Ski/ Snowshoe Specific Covid-19 Protocols before departing on a winter day trip.**

**Burlington and Oakville:** The bus departs from Burlington at 8:00 a.m. sharp. We do not wait for stragglers and ask that you be at the bus no later than 7:45 to get equipment loaded and everyone settled on board for a prompt departure. Those waiting in Oakville are standing out in the cold anticipating our timely arrival at 8:15. The bus leaves Oakville at 8:15.

**Departures from resorts:** The departure time is 3:30 pm. Please be back at the bus 10 minutes ahead of departure.

### **Directions to pick-up points:**

**Burlington:** The bus departs from Mainway Arena at 4015 Mainway. From the QEW take Walker's Line North. The arena is on the North East corner of Walker's Line and Mainway. Turn right onto Mainway to enter the lot and please park in the far North East corner of the lot, furthest away from the arena building.

**Oakville:** From the QEW take Trafalgar Rd. South. Turn right onto the South Service Rd. Follow it around and park at the very back of the lot behind Hiker's Haven Europe Bound at 166 South Service Rd. E. Do not park in the lot along the side of Europe

Bound. Park only behind the store. Carry your skis over the divider into the Value Village lot where you will see other skiers.

### **Lessons, Clinics, Events**

Saturday, Jan 9, 2021 is a designated lessons day. Space will be available for two groups of Level One Lessons (20 students total). A Level 2 Ski Better Clinic will also take place on January 9. The levels and skills being taught are detailed on the Ski Schedule and they are also on the Events Calendar on the website. You must pre-register and pre-pay for all lessons and clinics. You cannot register on the bus. Please read the document "All About Ski Lessons" for more details.

**Level 1 Ski Lessons:** Level 1 Lessons are for new or inexperienced skiers. Lessons take place over a full day and cover all the basics. There is a Level 1 Lesson Follow Up offered one week after the lesson. There is no extra cost for the Follow Up, but you must register and pay for that day trip.

**Ski Better Clinics:** These are half-day clinics designed to help skiers work on specific skills and improve skiing efficiency. They are primarily for Level 2 and Level 3 skiers. If unsure of your level, you may check the Ski Proficiencies document on the website.

**Skate Ski Clinics:** Skate Ski Clinics will not be offered in 2020/2021. Individual skate ski lessons may be able to be arranged. Please contact our Club Manager for details.

**Guided skiing:** If you are a new member or tentative about skiing alone, you might like to find someone to ski with. Each day trip has a 'bus captain', also called a trip leader. On the bus, bus captains will ask if anyone would like to ski with a buddy. At this time, the bus captain will try to join you up with someone else. If preferred, skiing on your own is also an option. If you would like to lead skiers on any of the day trips, please let the trip leader know.

**Guided snowshoeing:** If you are a new member or tentative about snowshoeing alone, you might like to find someone with whom to snowshoe. Each day trip has a 'bus captain', also called a trip leader. On the bus, bus captains will ask if anyone would like to snowshoe with a buddy. At this time, the bus captain will try to join you up with someone else. This winter we also hope to offer some scheduled "Guided Snowshoe Hikes". Watch the Events Calendar for the dates. Snowshoeing on your own is also an option. If you would like to lead a group of snowshoers on any of the day trips, please let the trip leader know.

**HOC Winterlude** is a new event this season. This day will offer a variety of fun competitions and activities. Chilifest will not take place this winter. We hope to re-introduce Chilifest in 2021/2022.