

MARATHON CANADIEN DE SKI / CANADIAN SKI MARATHON INCORPORATED ASSEMBLEE ANNUELLE DE MEMBRES 2022 ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Held via Zoom – Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Members Present:

The following Directors were present as Zoom panelists

Real Perriard (President)

Hérve Mallet (Treasurer)

Chris Teron (Secretary)

Ross MacLeod

Sylvain Parent

Justin Braganza

Bruno Carrière

Jean-Raphaël Laberges-Desjardins

Gillian Rick

The following members were present as Zoom panelists

Cynthia Fish

Frédéric Menard (Event Director)

Sereena Trottier

21 other members attended as Zoom attendees.

The meeting started at 7:05pm. Real Perriard presided over the meeting and Chris Teron took minutes. The meeting having been duly called and quorum having been achieved, Real declared that the meeting was duly constituted.

Real welcomed the members. Each of the Directors introduced themselves. Real acknowledged the many people behind the scenes in addition to the Directors, including Frédéric Ménard as Event Director, Marie-Anne Adam and Gaston Picoulet in client services, and many other volunteers. Fred explained the Zoom format. A CSM video was shown.

PowerPoint slides were used and the first two showed the agenda and the list of Directors.

1. Approval of Minutes of 2021 AGM

A motion to approve the minutes of the 2021 AGM was put forth by Chris and seconded by Ross. Using a Zoom poll of membership, the motion was approved unanimously with 30 votes.

2. President's Report

Real started by reading a quote from the 1974 book titled "*Canadian Ski Marathon Coureur de Bois Marathon Canadien de Ski*"; it was used to highlight how far we have travelled but yet many challenges remain the same, after all these years. He reported how the planning for 2022 started with plans for a traditional two-day, in-person event, then moved to Plan B, being a one-day, in person event in Kenauk, then moved to Plan C, being a repeat of last year's virtual event. All of this was due to the ever-changing situation with Covid-19 and the omicron variant that arrived in December. The goal was always the same – keep the CSM organization viable, maintain skier registration, make it appealing to all ages, skills, families and Coureur des Bois skiers, and keep it safe for skiers, volunteers, and communities. Participation in the past virtual event was fabulous. As the plans kept changing, CSM delayed opening registration until January when plans were firm. We budgeted for 1,400 skiers to be cautious and to control expenses. Ultimately 1,711 skiers registered, though the mix of categories was slightly different from last year.

Real thanked the provincial and local governments and Tourisme Outaouais for their generous support, which kept the event viable and affordable. At the same time, skiers were extremely generous, which was very humbling. Pembroke and its owner, Ian Aitken (with 21 CdB Gold awards and a whole family of CSM skiers), continued yet again as a huge supporter, both financially and with advice. The fundraising campaign through Nordic Canada that aimed to raise \$15,000 to repair a bridge in Kenauk that is used by and vital to CSM only, exceeded its goal, which was also very humbling. This will allow the bridge to be fixed this summer and the excess funds will be used for other vital trail repairs.

Finally, we look forward to having a new web site next year, then seeing all our friends and skiers on the trails in Montebello in February.

3. Event Director's Report

Fred exclaimed what a different year it was! After starting with plans for the two-day event, Omicron hit us on short notice and made us return to a virtual event, but it was good to keep the event going. There were certainly challenges to deal with, including the difficulty skiers had uploading results to Zone4. He thanked Marie-Anne Adam and Gaston Picoulet for their great support in dealing with skiers' inquiries. He thanked Morrie Manolson, a CSM skier from the Highlands Trailblazers, for organizing an excellent mini-CSM experience for young skiers and families at their ski centre. One advantage of having a virtual event again was that it allowed Fred to ski in the CSM for the second time and achieve his CdB Silver award. He is confident that we won't have to repeat the virtual event again, so his Gold will have to wait. Next year, we are excited to launch a new Canadian Ski Challenge to allow skiers who can't be in Montebello to continue experiencing the CSM.

Next year will be a crazy ride with lots of work to be done on the trail, and with land owners, volunteers and logistics.

4. Financial Report

Real introduced Hervé Mallet as the CSM Treasurer this last year, as well as Ross MacLeod, who was the past-Treasurer for many years but is leaving the CSM Board today to become the Treasurer of the newly independent Ski at School program.

Hervé reported that the CSM is financially healthy due to the continuing support of our skiers and is ready to launch into a new year. Using a PowerPoint slide, he pointed out the current bank balances of \$29,445 in the operating account and \$119,615 in the "safety fund" account and he explained the types of items that are included in each row of revenue and expenses. He commented that there were higher fixed expenses this year compared to last year, because of the late change to a virtual event. There were also fewer skiers than last year and more Tourers and less CdB skiers, which reduced revenue.

He explained a change in accounting procedures this year. It was decided to report actual cash revenue and not report government subsidies that are expected to be received in the future but can't be guaranteed. Using this method, the year finished with a loss of \$11,701, but members should not be concerned. When the expected subsidies of approximately \$80,000 are received, CSM will be well in the black.

The amazing donations by skiers to the Nordiq Canada campaign raised the planned \$15,000, which has been set aside in the safety fund for the bridge repair, plus an extra \$5,000 for other trail work.

He explained the goal of having \$100,000 set aside in the safety fund to protect against a bad year and he hopes we will reach that goal once the subsidies are received.

He concluded by again thanking the members for their support in registration, merchandise and donations.

Ross delivered the financial report for Ski at School (SaS). He thanked Paul (Boomer) Throop, who is the past-President of CSM that initiated SaS. The program is so large and successful, delivering over 15,000 free skier experiences to students, that it is now time to spin it off into its own not-for-profit organization with a goal to achieve charitable status. So, this is the last year in which it will be reported as part of CSM. It is not core to the

CSM organization and operated self-sufficiently, except for Board involvement and support from Fred. With \$155,250 of revenue, \$212,120 of expenses, it reported a loss of \$56,870. However, this was on the same basis as CSM with government subsidies still to be received and not being reported. Once received, there should be a surplus of approximately \$22,000.

A motion to approve the 2022 financial report was put forth by Hervé and seconded by Ross. Using a Zoom poll of membership, the motion was approved unanimously with 30 votes.

5. Elections of Directors

Real reported that the CSM is permitted to have up to 12 directors and currently has 10. Each serves a two-year term. Two directors are not continuing next year. Ross' term is expiring and he has joined the SaS Board as their Treasurer. Real thanked him for his long service to CSM and acknowledged his 32 CSM events, including 12 gold awards. He and his family have participated in over 60 CSM events as well as ski racing. Bruno has resigned from the Board due to the time pressures of a new-born first child. Real thanked him for his service to CSM and hopes he will return to the Board when time permits. The remaining eight directors include five whose two-year term is finishing today. At the same time, two members have agreed to join the Board and have participated in meetings for the last many months as an introduction.

Chris put forth a motion to nominate the following members as directors to serve until the AGM in two years:

- Re-election - Justin Braganza, Sylvain Parent, Real Perriard, Chris Teron, Paul (Boomer) Throop
- New directors – Cynthia Fish, Sereena Trotter

The motion was seconded by Gillian. Using a Zoom poll of membership, the motion was approved unanimously with 27 votes.

Real stated that there will be a meeting of the new Board immediately following the AGM where it is expected that Real will be appointed as President, Chris as Secretary and Sylvain as Treasurer.

Real reported that the Board is seeking additional members, including someone with financial experience to become Treasurer in one year. Other new members are needed for Board renewal. One member in attendance expressed interest and Real will follow up with her. Fred commented that other volunteers are needed outside the Board for specific tasks such as promotion and social media. A communication to the CSM community will be sent soon.

6. 2023 Vision

Real expressed confidence in having a two-day, in-person event next year and explained the objectives. Of course, there will continue to be a Plan A, Plan B, Plan C, etc. On the first day of the in-person event, we will continue to use the northern trail from near Mont-Tremblant to Montebello and the second day will see a return to the western trail from Montebello to Buckingham, which hasn't been used since 2017. This avoids a current land owner problem on the eastern trail and re-establishes relations with our western land owners.

Building on the excitement by skiers in the past two virtual events, the CSM will launch a new event – the Canadian Ski Challenge / Défi canadien de ski - to permit people who can't come to Montebello to have a CSM experience on a trail of their choice during an extended period from January 1 to March 20. It will continue the tradition of skiing 15km sections or 50km days. There will be new awards, following the bronze/silver/gold pattern, but they will not count toward CSM awards. Skiers will be able to participate in both events.

7. Assembly Wishes

A member asked if the budgeted fees and expenses in 2023 will be similar to the last normal event in 2020. Real and Fred explained that there has been significant inflation since then, especially in the cost of fuel which is used heavily in CSM, and some expenses are expected to rise by 25-30%. Sylvain commented that increase in fees

will be less than that thanks to anticipated government subsidies. The Board will do everything possible to keep the fee increase down.

Another member asked if skiers can earn traditional CdB bronze/silver/gold awards in the new Challenge event and Real repeated that this will not be possible.

Another skier commented that he hoped skiers in the new Challenge event wouldn't experience the same problem uploading results through Zone4. Real assured members that a different and simpler system of reporting results will be used next year and he explained some of the background and difficulties recording results with Zone4.

Real reported to 2022 skiers that medals have been mailed out but that 52 skiers were missed and these will be mailed soon. Also, the unplanned second year of virtual skiing resulted in a very different mix of skier categories than in an in-situ event, so that we ran out of Johannsen Gold medals. Many were mailed to skiers but the others will only receive them when more can be made available to the CSM organization, these are being ordered from our supplier.

8. Other Business

There was a round-table of comments from the Directors. Several directors said how much they look forward to seeing everyone back on the ski trail in Montebello next year. Fred thanked Neil Herber, who was in the audience, and who has been a very valuable lead volunteer for decades. Ross thanked the directors who have worked so closely with him on the promotion committee and as past Treasurer. Real acknowledged two past-Presidents who were in the audience, John Cushing and Dan Quinlan, and thanked them for their on-going support.

9. Adjournment

There being no other business, the 2022 Annual Meeting of Members was adjourned at 8:45pm.

