CALEDONIA
NORDIC • SKI • CLUB

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President's Report | 2025–26

Kevin Charlston, President

The 2025/2026 season was another productive and successful year for the Caledonia Nordic Ski Club. We made significant progress in strengthening our governance, improving operational and financial practices, investing in equipment and facilities, and delivering high-quality sporting events. These accomplishments reflect the dedication and collaborative efforts of our Board of Directors, General Manager, staff, volunteers, members, and community partners.

Governance and Organizational Development

A significant milestone this year was the adoption of new Bylaws at the October 2025 Annual General Meeting. These updated Bylaws provide a modern framework for the Club's governance and establish a solid foundation for its continued growth and development.

Building on this work, the Board has continued to develop and refine policies that support the new Bylaws, bringing greater clarity and consistency to the Club's governance, decision-making, and organizational practices. This ongoing work is an important investment in the long-term effectiveness and accountability of the organization.

I am particularly pleased with the strong working relationship and collaborative approach of our Board of Directors. We are fortunate to have an impressive group of individuals who bring a diverse range of experience, expertise, and perspectives to the table. The willingness of Directors to engage constructively, share ideas, and work together in the best interests of the Club is one of our greatest strengths.

I have also valued the opportunity to work closely with our General Manager, gaining a deeper understanding of the Club's day-to-day operations and contributing to the financial oversight and management of the organization. This collaboration has provided valuable insight into the operational and financial considerations involved in maintaining and developing the Otway Nordic Centre.

Facilities, Equipment and Long-Term Planning

One of the year's major investments was the purchase and delivery of a new Prinoth Husky grooming machine. This equipment has enhanced our ability to maintain the trail network and adapt our grooming operations to increasingly challenging low-snow conditions. Reliable and versatile grooming equipment is essential to deliver quality skiing experience for our members and ensuring that we remain capable of hosting major sporting events.

The Board also initiated the development of a Facilities Plan to guide future maintenance, improvements, and capital investment at the Otway Nordic Centre. With a substantial network of trails, buildings, infrastructure, and utilities to maintain, establishing clear priorities and a long-term investment strategy is essential. This plan will help ensure that we make informed decisions and direct our resources toward projects that deliver the greatest benefit to the Club.

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We also made progress in working with neighboring landowners for the continued development of new dog trails on their property. This collaboration is an important step in maintaining and expanding our recreational trail network while accommodating the neighboring landowners' plans for gravel extraction.

In addition, we have been developing improved methodologies for allocating costs associated with snowmaking, grooming, and facility use. These improvements will provide greater transparency and a more accurate understanding of the costs associated with our various programs and services, supporting better financial planning and decision-making.

Events and Competition

The Club continued to demonstrate its capacity to organize and host competitive Nordic sporting events. In January 2026, we hosted a Cross Country BC Cup, with more than 50 Caledonia Nordic Ski Club athletes participating. These events provide valuable competitive opportunities for our athletes while bringing participants, coaches, families, and visitors to Prince George and showcasing the quality of our facilities.

The Club was also selected to host the Nordiq Canada 2026 Olympic Winter Games Trials in Prince George early December of 2025. Unfortunately, adverse weather conditions and insufficient snow resulted in the event being relocated. Although this was a disappointing outcome for our Club and community, the planning and preparation involved demonstrated the organizational capacity, commitment, and community support required to host an event of national significance.

The Club went on to host a major combined biathlon event from March 3–6, 2026, bringing together an International Biathlon Union (IBU) Regional Event, the Western Canadian Biathlon Championships, and the BC Provincial Biathlon Championships. Hosting these competitions was a significant accomplishment, providing an opportunity to showcase the Otway Nordic Centre and reinforce Prince George's reputation as a destination for Nordic sport.

Partnerships and Community Collaboration

Our collaboration with the University of Northern British Columbia's Engineering Department has been another positive development. By working with UNBC engineering students on projects at our facility, we are creating opportunities to apply technical expertise and innovative thinking to practical challenges while providing students with valuable real-world experience. We look forward to building on this relationship and identifying further projects that deliver mutual benefits.

We also continue to strengthen our relationships with local First Nations, community organizations, neighboring landowners, sporting organizations, and other partners. These connections are essential to our long-term vision of maintaining and developing Otway as a sustainable, accessible, and multi-use Nordic recreation facility.

Looking Ahead

The progress made during 2025/2026 has positioned the Club well for the years ahead. Our priorities will continue to focus on strengthening our governance and financial practices,

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maintaining and improving our facilities, investing strategically in equipment and infrastructure, and providing outstanding recreational and competitive opportunities for our members and the broader community.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our Board of Directors, General Manager, staff, coaches, volunteers, athletes, members, sponsors, and community partners for their contributions throughout the year. The strength of the Caledonia Nordic Ski Club lies in the people who generously contribute their time, knowledge, and enthusiasm to its success.

It has been a privilege to serve as President and to work alongside such a committed group of individuals. I look forward to building on this year's accomplishments and continuing our collective efforts to strengthen the Caledonia Nordic Ski Club and ensure the long-term success of the Otway Nordic Centre.

Kevin Charlston
President
Caledonia Nordic Ski Club