

CanoeSki Winter News 06/07 November 17, 2006

The TALK of the TOWN (here in Saskatoon) is the massive amount of snow that has blanketed the City in the last week or so. We may have a set a record with such fabulous skiing conditions prior to Remembrance Day!

I had to attend a skiing meeting at city hall on the day of our first big snowfall, which seemed so apropos. It was impossible to ride my bike and it looked like pure foolishness to drive in a foot or so of heavy snow, so I watched (with amusement) lots of spinning, slithering and stuck vehicles as I walked downtown. Ironically, my musings about the fine skiing awaiting me as I kicked my way through unplowed sidewalks were quite opposite the sentiments of many frustrated drivers!

As inspiring as an early start to the ski season is, it will be touch & go for a while to hang onto what we've got. It's been a long time since we've had sufficient snow to be able to schedule ski classes prior to the New Year. [CanoeSki courses](#) are still scheduled to start in January this winter, but if the snow gods continue their benevolence, we might have to try adding some earlier sessions. Best to [contact Cliff](#) to find out what's on the go at any time.

There's never been a problem with snow at New Year's in the Porcupine Forest of northeast Saskatchewan. That's where we hold our annual Ski Party at Sawyer Lake Ecolodge. Ski party might be a slight misnomer because there's more going on in addition to skiing and a New Year's Eve celebration. It's hard to imagine a better way to inject some excitement and novelty into the holiday routine. Follow the link to [Tales of Discovery](#) for stories from past year's revellers!

It's hard to stop talking about the novelty of so much early season snow, but it did curtail the extended fall weather for hiking & biking that we've enjoyed for the past several years. When fall puts an end to canoeing, I get involved in the Nordic Ski Club hiking program. I volunteered to lead a couple of hikes on the last two Sundays in October this fall, taking members to explore a 1790's era Northwest Co. fur trade fort and then into the rolling hill country near St. Louis. I dubbed the latter as the ghost trail hike due to it's proximity to the track where the legendary St. Louis ghost train phantom light is reputed to appear. On my trail reconnaissance, that evening I tried to encounter the phantom, but the train must have been on another schedule, because I did not see *the light*.

The Club's Sunday hikes sort of slide into ski tours when there's sufficient snow. Ski touring is a whole lot of fun, but can be even more fun when you take the time to brush up on skiing technique. Here's where lessons come into play and I will again be teaching the [Nordic Club's adult ski courses](#). This provides another instruction option in addition to the CanoeSki programs. Another option for older adults is a new program initiated by

the Saskatoon Council on Aging called [Ski for Life](#). I taught the course last year and it was oversubscribed. Based on last year's success, it will be offered again in January 2007.

Treat yourself to all the opportunities on the skiing front, and if I can assist in the process, give me a shout or an email. We might be in for a long skiing winter. Wouldn't that be a welcome change!

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