

## New club plans Nordic ski trails

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NEC approval still needed

The Beaver Valley is home to a new cross-country ski club, which organizers expect will be operating this winter.

Trails have been laid out and membership forms have been printed.

All that's needed is approval from the Niagara Escarpment Commission, which is meeting later this month, said Cathy Little, the president of the Beaver Valley Nordic Ski Club.

The club has long-term plans to develop trail networks on the west side of the Beaver Valley between the Beaver Valley Ski Club and the former Talisman Resort, a distance of about five kilometres.

The first leg of a three stage trail system opening this year will incorporate existing multiuse trails starting from the overflow parking lot at the top of Beaver Valley Ski Club and travelling north to property belonging to Grey Sauble Conservation Authority.

The trails will cross some private property and a large tract of Crown land managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources. The trails are designed for beginner level skiers.

Little told Grey Highlands council Monday the next phase calls for a second set of trails located part way down the slope of the escarpment, with a greater degree of difficulty. They also run north, almost entirely through MNR land, to property recently acquired by the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

A third set of trails is planned for the bottom of the escarpment along the valley floor running parallel to Grey County Road 13.

"It's just the ideal location for Nordic trails. There's something for everybody and it's making a contribution to the community," said Little, who expects the trail systems will provide some economic benefit from visitors to the area.

"I guess that we could be looking at 20 to 40 kilometres of trails once it's fully developed," said Don Churchill, the club's vicepresident, who accompanied Little during a presentation to council.

Little said she's just waiting for the go ahead from the NEC, which she hopes will come in time for the Christmas holiday season.

Deputy-mayor Paul McQueen, who sits on the Niagara Escarpment board, urged Little and Churchill to make their presentation to the NEC directors at a board meeting this month.

Little said the new club is getting plenty of support from the Beaver Valley Ski Club, which has promised to pack the cross-country trails with a snowmobile.

In the meantime, a used groomer and track set machine has been located at a cost of \$1,000.

“That was kind of an unexpected bonus and we’re partnering with the Beaver Valley Ski Club. They are paying for half and we’re paying for half,” Little said.

Prospective members can contact Little at 519- 986- 4369 for information about the club and membership details.

The cost to join the club is \$30 for individuals and \$60 for a family. Non-members can pay a dayuse fee of \$6 per adult or \$12 a family.

More information is available at [www.beavervalley nordicski club.blogspot.ca](http://www.beavervalley nordicski club.blogspot.ca) or by e-mail [kippawa@cablerocket.com](mailto:kippawa@cablerocket.com).