

# Nordic Ski club forms in Grey Highlands

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Chris Fell, Courier-Express

A new Nordic skiing club has formed in the Municipality of Grey Highlands.

The club made its first presentation to Grey Highlands council at its regular meeting on Monday December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Cathy Little and Don Churchill made a presentation on behalf of the new Beaver Valley Nordic Ski Club.

“Our vision is to provide an opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy cross-country skiing the beautiful Beaver Valley,” Little explained to council.

She said there are informal Nordic ski trails throughout Grey Highlands – particularly in the Kimberley area on public lands between the Beaver Valley Ski Club and the former Talisman property.

She said their goal is to get a formal organization in place to develop and maintain a trail system in the Kimberley area.

“Surprisingly Grey Highlands doesn’t have formal Nordic ski trails or a ski centre, given we have this amazing natural asset.” Little said.

Churchill explained that there is a strong history and tradition of cross-country skiing and show shoeing in the Beaver Valley area and the municipality. He said there were many trails created in the 1960s.

He said the club is working on getting a plan in place to get a formal trail system that use provincially managed Crown land, land owned and managed by the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority and some private land.

The club is working on a plan to develop ski trails in the Beaver Valley area on top and below the escarpment area. Right now they are concentrating on the trails on top of the Escarpment and have a beginning access point to the system from the overflow parking lot of the Beaver Valley Ski Club. They’re hopeful as more developments happen in the area that more access points will become available.

“The interest we have already is spectacular. It will be quite an addition to the recreational activities here,” Churchill said.

Little said the club hopes to have the extensive trails system in place that would have a link into Kimberley and to establish a formal Nordic centre.

“Having a Nordic centre here would bring people to the municipality,” she said. “Eventually we want to have some sort of connection the Village of Kimberley. It would be good for the village and the skiers.”