



2015 Nomination for CCC Annual Awards

Supporting Information for the Nomination of

Jim Burbee

for the 2015 Cross Country Canada Dave Rees Award

I am incredibly honoured to write this nomination on behalf of the Caledonia Nordic Ski Club in putting forth Jim Burbee as a nominee for the 2015 Dave Reese award in recognizing Jim's outstanding achievement and commitment in the national development of cross-country skiing. Jim's involvement with our club spans well over 30 years and his tireless efforts and contributions toward cross country skiing have been felt throughout our region, our province and our country.

Our club has been in existence since 1957, and has been very active in the cross-country ski community from its inception. Jim Burbee, in particular, has been incredibly instrumental in developing our organization as a full service club, (and one of the largest Nordic clubs in Canada) and has also had an incredible impact in growing our Nordic centre into a world class Nordic facility.

The quality of facilities and trails now available at Otway as a result of volunteer efforts and investment by public and private supporters over the past three years is second-to-none in Canada."(They) would make many World Cup sites envious."

Dave Dyer, Race Director, Cross Country Canada (Feb 17, 2014)

Jim started to put his stamp on organizing our club programs in the early 1980s when he and Wayne Cameron established the Jackrabbits program. While it may have initially been inspired by Jim's kids being of Jackrabbit age, Jim was entirely dedicated to creating a well organized ski program for the youth of our community. This program continued to grow and attract kids to cross country skiing and to this day is a foundational winter physical activity program in our community (involving well over 250 kids annually). As the kids grew, so did their need for more formalized coaching, and in 1987 Jim transitioned from the role of

Jack Rabbit Coordinator to the Head Coach (volunteer) of the Junior Racing program. Jim achieved his level 3 coaching certification in 1995, and though very busy in his role of Chief Forester for Northwood Corp, he was a very dedicated coach for the Junior Racing program and travelled to all the BC Cup races as the head wax technician and was assisted by Keith King, Rhonda Delong and Mel Dery. During this time, we also had the BC Team coach stationed in Prince George at our club (including Sandy McLean, Pete Saar, Alain Parent, Lisa Patterson and a couple of others) and helped the local coaches with the on snow coaching. Jim attended the XC ski Nationals for a number of years supporting local athletes and also the BC Team. During this time (1993-1999) he had built a small program to approximately 40 athletes, many travelling to races in the Okanagan and Central/ Northern BC. He usually had at least a half dozen club skiers go to Nationals. Between 1996 and 1998 Jim and his wife Geraldine chaperoned the BC Ski Team on a 2 week tour in Norway.

Also during this time, Jim applied both his forestry and business knowledge to the benefit of our club. He set up a partnership called Nordic Forest to manage a woodlot on behalf of the club. The revenue generated from this woodlot not only helped to support the development of programs in our club (including the racing program) but was also instrumental in the club's ability to purchase a new Pisten Bully 100 in 2006. He also worked throughout this time to continually develop and improve the trail system at our club (specifically to allow for early season skiing). Jim was able to work through his network to arrange for material to fill and level trouble spots on many of the high use trails. In addition to all this work Jim also was very active on the club's board of directors during the 1990s.

Jim's start to cross country officiating occurred when the club applied for the 2005 Ski Nationals where he took on the role of Chief of Protocol and Hospitality. In addition to this formal role, Jim also assisted in many ways through the Ski Nationals; including manual grooming (which was very important given the snow conditions). After the Ski National, several of the key officials stepped back, and as such the club didn't host provincial BC cup races in 2007. Consistent with Jim's true spirit of dedication to cross country skiing, Jim stepped forward in a big way to start rebuilding the team of officials so that our club could again take on hosting regional, provincial and national competitions. Through Jim's perseverance, and tireless efforts, he almost single-handedly resurrected the ability of our club to host competitions. During this time, Jim completed both the officials training as well as contributed countless hours of his time helping to officiate high profile events to build his experience. In particular, Jim has been the primary Chief of Competition at our club for local, regional, provincial and national level races but has also officiated at NorAms, World Cups and the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games. Through his training and experience he has achieved his level 3 officials certification and has been incredibly active in terms of using his expertise to take on bigger and bigger events, and to train more and more officials to build an incredible depth of

expertise to host and deliver incredible xc ski events. Currently, we have approximately 150 active xc officials, of which the vast majority can be directly attributed to Jim's efforts.

At the same time Jim was volunteering at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, the City of Prince George was putting together their bid for the 2015 Canada Winter Games. Jim, again, stepped up, and in the middle of his volunteer duties, put together information estimates from our club (which would host biathlon, xc and Para Nordic) to support the bid package. With the awarding of the bid in the fall of 2010, the real work then started. Jim spearheaded the initiative to transform our Nordic centre into a world-class facility. This task was made more challenging when it was realized that the funding in the bid was only a fraction of the estimate Jim provided. Undeterred, and perhaps even motivated by this "slight", the team that worked on this with Jim was laser focussed on creating a world-class Nordic facility through an unconventional, but effective approach. Capitalizing on the spotlight of the Games, we engaged the local community and tapped into the social license that our club has accumulated over its history and throughout a vast network that touches all parts of the corporate and political community. This resulted in an unprecedented land swap (where our race trails now exist), hundreds of thousands of dollars of corporate donations to build 10 km of FIS homologated race trails, two purpose-built technical buildings (xc and biathlon), and a large provincial grant to build a new 30 lane biathlon range/stadium complex and an enlarged xc stadium. In essence, these efforts resulted in a value of about \$1.7 million (almost 5 times the funding provided by the CWG bid).

In addition to these efforts to prepare for the Canada Winter Games, Jim also took on the role of Sport Leader for Cross Country Skiing for the 2015 Canada Winter Games. In this role, he led a team of over 125 volunteer officials through training, test events (including being Chief of Competition for the 2013 BC Championships, 2014 Western Canadian Ski Championships, as well as the 2013 - 2015 BC Cup events). All of these preparations and test events resulted in the incredibly smooth running of the XC and Para Nordic events for the 2015 Canada Winter Games. Much of this being attributed to Jim's perseverance, tenacity, conscientiousness, and outstanding organizational skills.

Jim has also been a very active on the strategic front, and has again served on our Club board of directors since about 2010. In this time Jim has spearheaded the development and implementation of the club's strategic plan (very important for developing a future direction for our club prior to the awarding of the 2015 CWG). As Director of Competitions, he has led the bids for all competitions and has functional responsibility for the delivery of these competitions (i.e. preparation of facilities, equipment, training of officials, etc.). He has also been a long standing member of our Club's finance committee. He has been instrumental in the implementation of a paid head coach position at our club

(recruitment, grant applications, etc.). He has also been continually working to consolidate and simplify our land tenure for our facility.

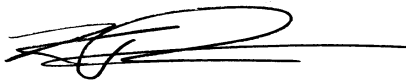
For well over a decade, Jim has also been a long standing and active board member of Cross Country BC. Through this time he has been involved in the strategic planning, governance structuring, LTAD model adoption, sponsorship development, and other various support roles to our highly functioning Provincial Sports Organization.

Jim is also a long-standing board member of Pacific Sports Northern BC. His primary interest in being part of Pacific Sport Northern BC is to understand the potential of an organization to contribute to sport development in the region and the ability to support cross-country ski programs locally and provincially. He has been involved in many strategic initiatives related to the delivery of the Canada Sport for Life/LTAD initiatives within our region. Some of these efforts include the Northern Sports Strategy, the establishment of the Sports School and most recently involvement in the Northern Sports Accessibility Initiative (for Adaptive and Para sports).

The above descriptions of Jim's outstanding contribution and achievements most certainly are the "tip of the iceberg" relative to the reality. Over the past 30+ years, Jim has selflessly dedicated tens of thousands of hours to growing the sport of cross-country skiing in so many ways that have literally shaped the sport from a local level, right through to a national level. Jim is an amazing force and carries incredible energy and has almost literally moved mountains to the benefit of our sport. It is for all the reasons above why I so strongly believe that Jim's outstanding achievement and contributions to cross country skiing from the local level to the national level should be recognized through the Cross Country Canada Dave Rees Award.

Thank you for your kind consideration and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require any further information.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Pettersen', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kevin Pettersen
President, Caledonia Nordic Ski Club
Prince George, BC

(Compiled with valued input from Cal Benson, Sue Bond, Mary Duck, Gillian Recknell)