

Winnipeg - CANSI opportunities a plenty

From time to time stories of remarkable accomplishments, stellar volunteer work and fantastic coaching stories cross my desk. From Ski Trax, to CANSI XCitation, to Cross Country Skier, all have or will have stories of remarkable skiers dedicating their time and efforts to promote the sport we love so much.



Let's face it - when you're talking cross-country skiing, Winnipeg is not the initial destination generally talked about. Can Winnipeg ever stack up to the likes of Silver Star, Canmore, Harwood hills, Gatineau Park... ??? Well, ok maybe not ... but with one such person, a lot of patience, a lot of time and dedication is quickly employing many instructors and promoting the sport as a life time sport for the thousands of young students who have attended the program to date.

The newly named Chris McCubbins Inner City Ski Program was formed in 2003 and continues today and well into the future. As the New program co-coordinator, (man, do I have massive shoes to fill) I am continuing on where Chris left off. The Program works on and dedicates a lot of time to raising self esteem, building group social skills, and building team dynamics through the sport of cross country skiing. Held every winter, inner city and at-risk youths (from 8 schools in the past and will be expanded to include up to 11 schools or more this year) are geared up and pushed out the doors (and yes we still ski at -30+ temps).

Students from grades 3 - 5 will continue the skill development and outdoor education developed by Chris and for these particular students, the program is amazing. They would never have the ability to participate in this great sport without Chris' great work. With a lot of help from sponsors and volunteers the classes are ever growing and taking on a life of their own.



My biggest question was what to do now... ??? I've worked with Chris and his program for 3 years now, but I was just an instructor/coach... ?? What's a fella to do when the programs on-snow activities rely on my expertise? After a lot of soul searching and research... talking with old friends and making new ones along the way (if you are reading this, thanks Karla W and Kjerstin B)... BIGGER, BETTER, STRONGER... FASTER... I mean is there any other way... ??



Now that you guys have the basics of the program, stay tuned for updates, sponsors and other cool stuff I plan to implement this year. Included are some photos of Chris and the kids on snow...

This series of articles are dedicated to the life of Chris McCubbins. See http://www.ccski.mb.ca/news_ChrisMcCubbins.htm for more bio info on Chris and <http://www.getoffyourbuttandski.com/> for the corporate event and fundraiser.

Peace, love and flowers ...
Jeff Hampshire
Program coordinator for the Chris McCubbins Inner City Ski Program
CANSI Central Representative

P.S. See next addition of XCitation article "from 0 to over 60,000 kids in one ski program" ... skiing big in Winnipeg ...