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## LATEST NEWS



### MAC MARCOUX BIDS FAREWELL AFTER AN INSPIRING AND IMPRESSIVE CAREER

Last Wednesday marked a bittersweet moment for the world of Paralympic alpine skiing as Mac Marcoux, the 26-year-old sensation from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, officially announced his retirement. Over the years, Marcoux etched his name in Canadian sporting history, having won six Paralympic medals, including three gold, and five world titles in the visually impaired classification of alpine skiing. He finished his career with 52 World Cup podiums.

As a visually impaired athlete, Marcoux navigated the slopes with the guidance of accomplished guides, including his brother Billie Joe, Robin Remy, Jack Leitch, and Tristan Rodgers. The pinnacle of Marcoux's career saw him claim gold in four out of five races at the 2017 World Championship. In the 2019-20 season, he demonstrated unparalleled dominance by securing victory in all eight World Cup races he entered.

Throughout his career, Marcoux exhibited extraordinary resilience as he dealt with

despite contending with the challenges of knee surgery and a back injury.

Mac's story and journey are captured in a short film, "Blind Faith," which can be viewed [here](#)—a truly inspirational story.

Mac's passion for speed and skiing have also taken him to the backcountry where he aims to educate outdoor companies and guides on accessibility for the visually impaired, for people using sit skis, and for people with other disabilities.

Please join us in wishing Mac the best of success in all his future endeavors.



## ONTARIO PARA ALPINE SKI TEAM (OPAST)

Tuning up for success with OPAST!

As we all know, precision is paramount, and tuning is a crucial component of success. Thanks to the support of Skis & Bikes and Speed Shop, OPAST athletes have access top-notch tuning facilities to ensure peak performance on the slopes.

The OPAST team and AOA would like to recognize all of the support from the Ontario clubs that invited them to train over the past several weeks. What an amazing ski community we have!

OPAST (Ontario Para Alpine Ski Team) is dedicated to promoting and training para-alpine ski racing in Ontario. As proud members of AOA, the athletes train together to showcase para-alpine ski racing on local, provincial, national, and international stages.





## ONTARIO SKI TEAM WOMEN



It's been a busy couple of weeks for the Ontario Ski Team Women. The team wrapped up a great European training and race block in Italy at Cinque Torre which is a part of the Cortina D' Ampezzo Ski area with some fabulous DH and SG races. The team then travelled home for a much deserved rest and relaxation.

The team had started preparing locally for our upcoming NORAM race block which will include SG at Whiteface/ Lake Placid in New York, SL at Devil's Glen and GS at Georgian Peaks. It's been a fast start

to 2024 and looks to only be picking up pace. - OSTW Head Coach Cam Stephen

## ONTARIO DEVELOPMENT SKI TEAM MEN

The ODSST Men's team has recently wrapped up a bustling month of racing, with the group being split up the last little bit. We had return to sport programming happening in Collingwood, while others ventured to races in the east (Super Series and O-Cups) and out west in Kimberly/Panorama for some downhill and Super G events. Recently it's been nice to have the entire group reunited for a mid-winter training block, with sessions held both at home and traveling to Mont Ste Marie for a mini GS camp. Our athletes have been dedicated to improving their technical skills and strategic approaches during this period, and they're eager to hit the start gate next week for our local O-Cup FIS series here in Collingwood. - ODSTM Head Coach Henry Yeigh



## ONTARIO MASTERS @ 2024 WORLD WINTER MASTERS GAMES

**Contributor: David Star | Ontario Masters' Representative**

Ontario Masters were well represented with 19 athletes, of the 34 Canadians, that attended the 2024 WWMG in Lombardy, Italy. Ponte di Legno (translation “Wooden Bridge” or as I liked to refer to it as “Woodbridge”) is a pretty village that was established in 1729; this is where Canada House (Hotel Mignon) was located and where many Canadians stayed.

The Alpine races were split between two venues being Ponte di Legno (PDL) for the giant slalom and slalom races, and Aprica (45-minute bus ride away) for the Super-G races. PDL skiing was exceptional in that it offers lots of piste skiing with 3000 metres elevation, many runs, and chairlifts to move skiers around. The snow conditions in PDL were very good with two racecourses: one for the Men's A and another for the Men's B & Women's C. The SG course was very good, and it was almost a straight course with no major directional changes or mid-course steep pitches, with blind gates, and the end of the course was almost flat for a tuck finish. Unfortunately, the Super-G race was cancelled for Men's B.

Ontario Masters brought home one gold (Mike Robbins) and two silvers (Mike Robbins & Tiana Koffler-Boyman) and many were in the top 10 rankings. [Full results available here.](#)

Overall, the 2024 WWMG was a wonderful experience. PDL is beautiful, the weather was almost perfect, and the village is small enough to walk from Canada House to the ski lifts and gondola for the GS and SL races, and to the stage where medals were awarded to the athletes

# UPCOMING EVENTS







**SOUTHERN ONTARIO &  
ONTARIO DEVELOPMENT  
SKI TEAM**

## **OPEN HOUSE**

**MAR 2 '24 4-6PM  
OSLER BLUFF SKI CLUB  
ORCHARD LODGE**



### **SAVE THE DATE! CALLING ALL U16s!**

**You're Invited to Our AOA Ontario Development & Southern Ontario Ski Team**

#### **OPEN HOUSE**

**Hosted at Osler Bluff Ski Club - Orchard Lodge -**

**Date: March 2nd**

**Time: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

Join us for an exclusive opportunity to delve into the exciting world of competitive ski racing! The Ontario Development Ski Team invites YOU!

If you're an aspiring U16 ski athlete, a seasoned racer looking for the next steps, or simply curious about the Ontario athlete development pathway, this event promises insights, inspiration, and a chance to connect with like-minded athletes, parents, and coaches!

#### **Meet the Team**

Get to know our dedicated ODST athletes and coaches.

#### **Learn About Our Programs**

Discover the training development pathways and opportunities available for ski racers in Ontario

**Join us for an evening of camaraderie, information, and passion for ski racing.**

**SAVE THE DATE**, and let's embark on this journey together!



# WOMEN'S NOR-AM CUP

**NOR-AMs ARE COMING NEXT WEEK!  
FEB 24-27, 2024**

**SO MANY WAYS TO EXPERIENCE THE NORAMS!**

## VIP Nor-Am Experience

### Features

- Food & Drink in VIP zone
- Nor-am merch piece
- Lift Pass
- **Date Feb 24 and 25th Devils Glen**
- Cost \$150/day\* \*Limited number of tickets will available [Contact:pbiggs@alpineontario.ca](mailto:pbiggs@alpineontario.ca)



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## FREE Public Race Viewing

### Features

- Up Front viewing area
- Autograph signing Saturday after awards
- Detailed scheduled to be posted on [www.alpineontario.ca/noram](http://www.alpineontario.ca/noram)
- **Date Feb 23 & 24 - Devil's Glen Country Club**

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**TAKE YOUR TEAM to the Peaks! Ski, GET INSPIRED!**

### Features

- Access to free ski at Georgian Peaks



**Club**

- Cost - [LIFT TICKET \\$30](#) - AOA NORAMS Teams Discount

**SEE YOU THERE!**

## COACHES' CORDUROY





# CAM STEPHEN

**HEAD COACH** **ONTARIO  
SKI TEAM WOMENS**

Cam is a Performance Level Coach, Level 3 Official, NCCP mentor, evaluator and course facilitator. In addition to 13 years of coaching on the FIS Circuit Cam was in the Canadian Armed Forces and has his Bachelor of Physical Health and Education Honours from Laurentian University and his Masters of Education from the University of Victoria.

**ONTARIO SKI TEAM WOMENS**

### GET TO KNOW CAM STEPHEN COACH Q&A

**Q - Original Home Club?**

CAM - Snow Valley, Barrie

**Q - What are you most proud of as a coach?**

CAM - The network of past and present relationships I've been fortunate to make with athletes coaches administrators and families around the world.

**Q - What type of coaching legacy do you believe you are creating today?**

CAM - I love working the individual person to help them achieve their potential.

**Q - What are the aspirations/goals for this team this year?**

CAM - Go fast, have fun, and learn to believe they are good enough to compete and win on the world stage.

**Q - What is something that is little known but that you deeply admire about this**

quiet but don't let that be mistaken... they are super intense and super driven to be the best!

**Q- What is the best advice (life, coach, ski, any) you've ever received?**

CAM - Never stop learning.

**Q - What is your essential (don't go anywhere without) piece of ski/coaching equipment?**

CAM - My Slippers!!! You have to be able to be comfy in your hotel on the road.

## DONATION OPPORTUNITIES



### DONATE - A - GATE - FUNDRAISER

**AOA is thrilled to introduce our latest campaign, "Donate a Gate to Ontario Racers."** We recognize the crucial role that ski gates play in honing the skills of our Ontario Ski Team, Ontario Development Ski Team, and Para Alpine Ski Team. Collectively these teams require 150+ new training gates each year, and at \$75 per gate, it's a significant cost to these teams. By contributing to this campaign, not only do you support our athletes' training needs, but you also become an integral part of their journey.

For every gate you donate, we'll proudly inscribe your name along with a personalized good luck message to the team, ensuring that your generosity leaves an indelible mark on the slopes. Join us in shaping the future of Ontario skiing and empowering our athletes to reach new heights! Donate a gate and be a part of their success story. [Your legacy starts HERE!](#)



## CHEERS & BEERS FOR A GOOD CAUSE AOA Coach Education!



**EACH and EVERY can purchased directly impacts AOA COACH EDUCATION! \$0.10 from every Light Lager can sold in LCBO in February AND \$0.10 from their Taproom/Online sales anytime before April 1, 2024, will be DONATED to Alpine Ontario to support increased coaching programs, including development and training opportunities.**

You can find Side Launch Light at the LCBO, or you can stop by their Collingwood Taproom for a pint or to grab a case!

Cheers to developing great coaches! 🍷

*Please remember to drink responsibly*



## AOA STRATEGIC PLAN SPOTLIGHT



### U16 - National Competition Strategy and Benchmarking

Over the summer of 2023 Alpine Canada along with the PSO's completed a U16 national championship review and developed a new strategy for competition structure and national benchmarking at U16.

The process involved sending surveys to all PSOs to gather feedback on the perceived relevance of the U16 National Championships and to explore alternative competition structures for this age group. As a result of the findings, ACA has decided to change the championship structure for U16s, starting in 2024.

The new championship structure will transition to an ACA Eastern and Western Regional Championship. The primary rationale for change in championship structure

The core event elements will remain consistent both in the east and the west. Events to include SL/GS/SG/ + ACA national skills combine, with optional events including team parallel and/or ski cross. Eastern and Western regionals should ideally occur within a 2-week window, considering school breaks. All events should conclude by the end of March to finalize logistics for the Whistler Cup.

To continue enabling ACA and PSOs to conduct national benchmarking at the U16 level, ACA has chosen to use the Whistler Cup as the national/international benchmark for this age group. ACA will field 2 Team Canada teams at the Whistler Cup for the Nations top U16's. Selection criteria will equally consider Eastern and Western Regional U16 Championships and will be made available shortly on the ACA criteria and publications page. AOA will also field two teams for the Whistler cup. Selection criteria for Whistler Cup Team Ontario can be found within AOA's Provincial Competition Rules document available [here](#).

Alpine Ontario is excited to host the Eastern Regional Championships from March 20th to 24th at Osler Bluff and Georgian Peaks. Qualification for the 60 Ontario quota spots (30 M, 30 W) will be determined from the results of the U16 OCUP Finals in NCD.



#### PREMIER PARTNERS



#### PLATINUM PARTNERS



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Alpine Ontario Alpin  
39A Stewart Road  
Collingwood, Ontario,  
L9Y 4M7

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