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## LATEST NEWS



### ONTARIO SKI TEAM SEASON HIGHLIGHTS PODIUMS, PROGRESS, AND NEXT STEPS

The Ontario Ski Team (OST) has wrapped up the **National Championships** in Panorama, BC, with some strong finishes, including a standout performance from **Emma James**, earning her **first U19 NC podium finish**. **Jasper Williams** took **gold in the U19 category** at the accompanying **FIS Panorama Slalom**.

**Alpine Ontario High Performance Director Joey Lavigne** comments, *"I'm encouraged by the **team's overall performance** this year. Both **Coach Dave and Coach Alex** have done incredible work guiding the athletes, resulting in personal bests and a lot of **hard-earned achievements** across the board."*

The season isn't over yet—the teams are currently competing at the **Alberta Spring Series**, with some athletes moving on to **Sun Peaks** for the final races of the 2026 season. Shout out to **Emma James** on a double win in the **Nakiska SGs**, and **Colton Bartholomew** and **Rachel Tiviluk** both finishing 3rd in the SG.

After that, we'll shift our focus to a much-needed **team debrief and planning for next season**. The athletes will be completing a **spring fitness combine** testing that will set the baseline before beginning the **summer fitness program**. 🇨🇦

Thank you to all of our sponsors for a great season!



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## ONTARIO PARA ALPINE SKI TEAM SEASON RECAP 2026

The 2025–2026 season wrapped up with the **Ontario Para-Alpine Ski Team (OPAST)** in good spirits and already looking ahead to 2026–2027.

The winter began with **early schedule adjustments due to snow conditions**, but the team quickly settled into the work required to meet athletes' goals. A continued **challenge for Para athletes in North America is the limited number of high-quality competitions** to prepare for the mental demands of racing.

To help address this, our senior team member, **James Budrow**, entered **several able-bodied races alongside Para events**. The approach proved valuable, highlighted by **podium finishes at the Winter Park Open** and strong performances at the **CAN/USA National Championships** in Kimberley, BC, this past March.

For our newest team member, **Ellen Rowe**, the focus was on development through a full season of learning and technical progression. While competition opportunities were fewer, the season delivered **meaningful gains in skill and understanding**.

OPAST also hosted a successful **10-day Para Coach Interface Program** leading into and during the National Championships. Guest coaches **Jamie Green (Head Coach, Beaver Valley)** and **Colin Kress (OST alum and former VI guide to Logan Leach, CPAST-D)** joined the team, gaining exposure to the high-performance Para-alpine environment and contributing to the camp process.

Following the final competition block, the team launched its annual **"Next Season Starts Today"** project in Kimberley, completing a six-day technical camp that included freeskiing, GS, and slalom training as preparation begins for 2026–2027. - **Nick Kwasniak, OPAST Head Coach**.

**Another special thanks to our AOA sponsors!**



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**TEAM ONTARIO**

It's spring! And time to announce the athletes representing **Team Ontario** at the **Whistler Cup**! **Twelve talented athletes** from **four AOA divisions** have earned their spots qualifying through the U16 Easterns, guided by an exceptional coaching team.

We wish them the very best of luck on the slopes—**Go Team Ontario!**

**TEAM ONTARIO 1**

Heidi Deeks – Craigleith  
Berkeley Stroud – Georgian Peaks  
Chanel Rockliffe – Craigleith  
Reid Jones – TBFast  
Jake Jonasson – Devil's Glen  
Nico Murdoch – Craigleith

**TEAM ONTARIO 2**

Olivia Young – Craigleith  
Gabriella McDowell – Georgian Peaks  
Maelee Lesnick – Searchmont  
Harrison Brett – Devil's Glen  
Liam Gerry – TBFast  
Cooper Scott – Camp Fortune

**Thank you Coaches!**

Lead Coach – **Chris Tepera** - Georgian Peaks

**Ally Dandy** – TSC

**Daniel "Hootie" Gagnon** – Devils Glen

**WATCH LIVE** <https://www.youtube.com/@WhistlerCup/streams>



## **ONTARIO SKI RACING AWARDS NOW RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY!**

– **A New Chapter** 🇨🇦 Alpine Ontario is proud to align with the new **ACA Awards of Excellence** framework — This evolution elevates the recognition of our athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, clubs, and resorts — ensuring that **Ontario excellence is showcased nationally**.

**What's New?**

Provincial award winners will now form the official national nominee pool for the **ACA National Awards**. National recipients will be selected by an independent National Award Selection Committee and announced **September 1**.

**SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS TODAY!**



Alpine Male & Female; Para-Alpine and Ski Cross

[Anthony Pacione Coach of the Year](#)

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[Robert Shore Official of the Year](#)

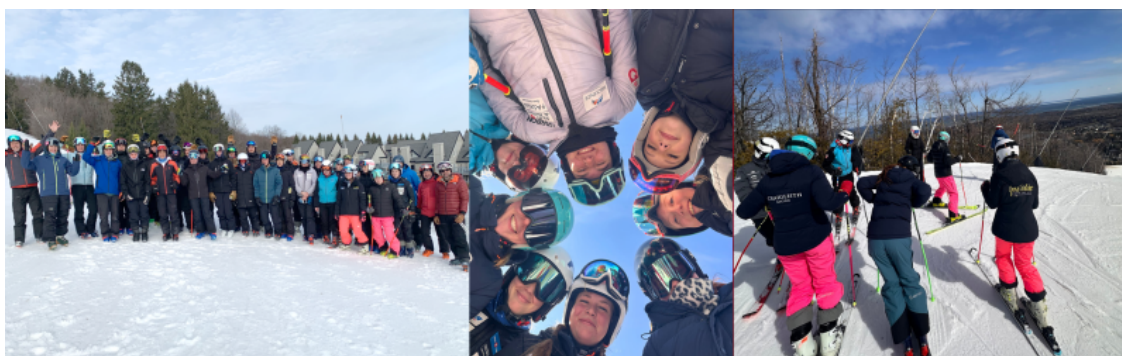
[Karbon Event of the Year](#)

[Spirit of Sandy Proctor Award](#)

[Normerica Builder of the Year](#)

The Awards Committee decides upon award winners – Provincial Nominations Close April 30.

[2025-26 ONTARIO SKI RACING AWARDS NOMINATION CRITERIA](#)



## 2025\_26 COACH EDUCATION SEASON GROWTH, MOMENTUM, and SUCCESS

The 2025–2026 season was a strong and exciting year for coach education across Ontario. **Over 200 coaches** came together at the **sold-out fall Coach Conference**, and a total of **1,060 licensed coaches** were supported throughout the season. **Entry Level course registration reached 290**, delivered through **30 courses**, and supported by **35 Learning Facilitators—including 7 women**. Delivery reached north to **Thunder Bay** and Searchmont, and east to **Sir Sam's** and **Batawa**, increasing access for more coaches.

**Development Level course registration reached 48**, and **Performance Level grew to 19**, both continuing an upward trend from last season. Coach evaluations included **120 EL certifications**, alongside **10 DL** and **6 PL evaluations**.

Courses were delivered by a dedicated team, including newly trained **DL LFs Richard Vendrig, Chris Wiwchar, and Adrienne Keyzer**, while **three new PL coaches achieved certified status**. Additional programming included **28 Coaches completing the Speed Module** and **10 completing the Ski Cross module**.

**Investment in coach growth remained strong**, with female coach subsidies supported by the **Mackenzie Level Up program** and reduced lift ticket costs through AOA. We extend our **sincere thanks to all hosting clubs for their commitment and support**.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue growing **Entry Level recruitment**, **increasing female Learning Facilitator representation**, and building momentum across Development and Performance pathways.





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