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LATEST NEWS



As the Olympic spotlight shines, we want to send our strongest support and best wishes to the **Alpine & Ski Cross Ontario athletes representing Canada on the Olympic stage.**

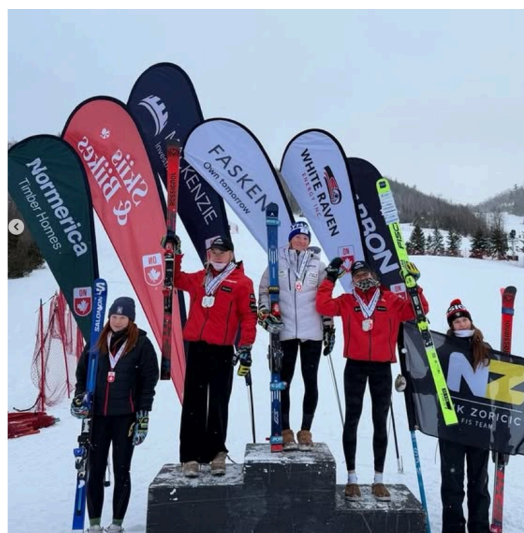
Be sure to follow and send wishes to each and all on social!

[@lisa_brunga](#) (representing Albania), [@james_a_crawford](#), [@drury.kc](#), [@valeriegrenier](#), [@emmagatcliffe](#) (representing Trinidad & Tobago), [@alinullmeyer](#), [@hannaheschmidt](#), [@jschmidty18](#)

So proud of them, the hard work, and perseverance—these athletes and their journey continue to inspire ski racers across the province.

Good luck, ski fast, and enjoy every moment. Ontario is cheering for you!

Help build the next generation of Olympians. Your donation builds better coaches, stronger athletes, and a pipeline to the podium. [Donate Today](#)



WOMEN'S ONTARIO SKI TEAM

Making a Statement

The **Ontario Women's Ski Team** delivered an impressive performance over four days of FIS provincial competitions, showing depth, confidence, and momentum as the season heats up.

Momentum carried into **Giant Slalom at Georgian Peaks**, where **Rachel Tiviluk** followed suit with **two consecutive GS wins**, showcasing consistency and strength in technical skiing.

The girls are clearly fired up and building confidence at the right time.

Up next on the schedule is the NorAm Cup in the Eastern Townships, with races at Owls Head and Bromont, followed by two weeks of training and racing in Sweden. This international block will provide valuable experience on new terrain and in a different racing environment.

The men's team will also be joining the women in Sweden, making it an exciting next chapter for the Ontario program. - **David McNeil - Head Coach - Women's Ontario Ski Team**

Thunder Bay

Thunder Bay is one of **Canada's great ski towns**, with a proud history of producing top athletes and coaches in **both Nordic and Alpine** disciplines. Members of the legendary **Crazy Canucks**, including **World Cup winner Dave Irwin** and respected **coach John Ritchie**, developed within the Lake Superior Division Alpine (LSDA) community—proof of the region's long-standing impact on Canadian ski racing.

Many will recall that Thunder Bay hosted the **1995 World Nordic Ski Championships**. Although ski jumping ended after those championships with the closure of Big Thunder, the cross-country community continues to thrive. Active clubs and the **National Team Development Centre** regularly host major national and international FIS events and continue to develop **World Junior** and **World Cup-level athletes**.

Thunder Bay's alpine scene is equally passionate and very fortunate to have two outstanding **FIS-homologated race hills: the Giant at Loch Lomond** and the **Hornet at Mount Baldy**. Together, they offer varied and challenging terrain. The Giant is widely regarded as one of the best race hills in Ontario and across the U.S. Midwest, attracting athletes from both sides of the border.

For many years, **both GS and SL were held on the Giant**, making Thunder Bay a favourite stop on the Midwest circuit. A popular **Can-Am FIS Series between LSDA and USSA Central** created an exciting cross-border rivalry, and teams could maximize travel value with two GS and two SL starts in one trip. About 15 years ago, however, **FIS cancelled worldwide homologation exemptions, leaving Thunder Bay with SL-only venues**. Without GS, it became harder to draw teams seeking full cost-effective blocks of race starts.

In 2016, organizers launched a **creative model: two SL starts per day over two days**, paired with the **Lutsen Spring Series offering two SL and two GS races**. Athletes could access six SL and two GS starts in a single regional trip, and participation surged. By 2019, the events welcomed competitors from **Ontario, the National Ski Academy, Vermont, New Hampshire, Colorado, California, USSA Central, and LSDA**. Local athletes benefitted enormously from the deeper fields—until COVID-19 cancelled the 2020 event.

Recently, **FIS relaxed its exemption policy**, allowing the return of GS racing on the Giant. During the **summer and fall of 2025, the hill was re-homologated under National FIS Director Doug Campbell**. The LSDA-led project involved widening the piste, relocating light poles, and significant earthworks, supported by local partners including **Halfway Motors Nissan, Synergy North, Gridlink, Taranis, and Loch Lomond Ski Area**.

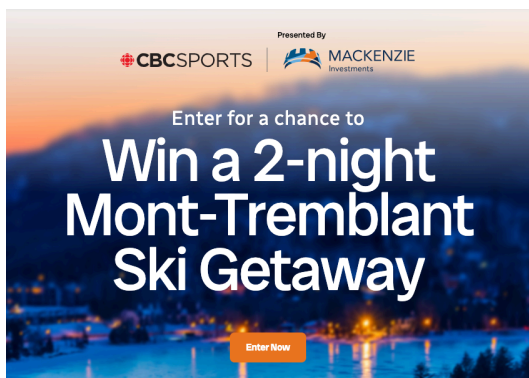
With few GS venues in the U.S. Midwest and Central Canada, the addition of **Loch Lomond alongside Lutsen Resort and Searchmont Ski Area strengthens the region's development ecosystem**. More Ontario-accessible starts will help athletes facing limited quota access in Quebec, and renewed collaboration among USSA Central, AOA, NOD and LSDA is building momentum—including discussion of reviving the historic CAN-AM FIS Series.

Rebuilding participation will take time, but Thunder Bay races have always produced excellent results—often with favourable, smaller fields that help athletes ski to their potential with better start numbers. And with Thunder Bay International Airport just minutes from both hills, **Thunder Bay remains one of the most convenient race destinations** in Canada—where finishing a second run and arriving at airport check-in still wearing ski boots is all part of the tradition!

- **Dave Bradley - LSDA**



- **PICS TOP L TO R :** Olser Bluff's Joey Young TCRA wins FIS gold Loch Lomond 2016 - AOA's Nick Kwasniak, Event Chair Dave Bradley presenting
- 2016 Women's podium, Chief of Race Darren Henderson
- **PICS BOTTOM L TO R :** Local Thunder Bay athlete Sophie Robinson claims gold at Mount Baldy!
- 2026 FIS Series Chief of Race - Loch Lomond Ski Area owner Jason Gerry with LSDA FIS+Lakehead U Ski Team North Johnston - Mighty Giant FIS race -Mar 2017
- Lakehead University + LSDA Ski Team Kyle Yates - FIS podium at Mount Baldy 2019





**CBC
SPORTS**



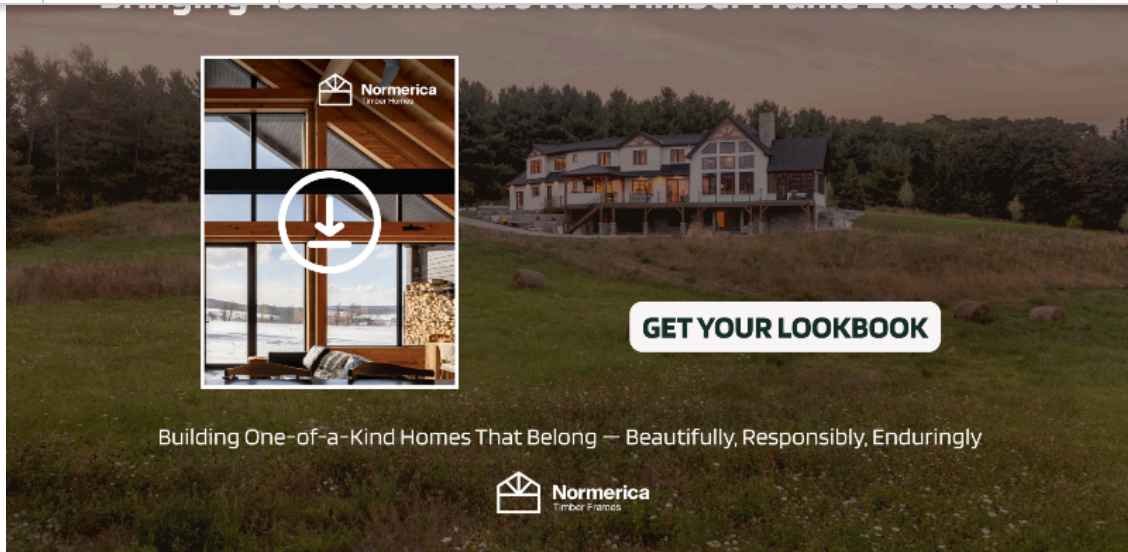
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NORMERICA'S NEW TIMBER FRAME LOOKBOOK

Inspiration for Your Mountain Dream Homes

At Alpine Ontario Alpin (AOA), we're excited to share news from our valued sponsor **Normerica**, whose **commitment to exceptional timber frame craftsmanship** aligns perfectly with our community's **appreciation for quality mountain living**.

Normerica has just released their brand-new **Timber Frame Lookbook** — and if you've ever dreamed of a custom mountain retreat, ski chalet, or year-round cottage, this is your invitation to see what's possible.

19 Real Projects, Endless Inspiration

Inside, you'll **discover 19 stunning projects — from contemporary lakeside cottages to luxury wilderness estates and modern chalets** — each one showcasing the remarkable versatility of timber frame construction.

What makes this Lookbook special? Most of the featured projects started as a Normerica design, then evolved into something entirely unique. Each project includes project details, beautiful photography, and direct links to explore more details — giving you real-world examples of what timber frame living actually looks like.

Built for Mountain Living

Many AOA members understand that mountain properties require **thoughtful design: soaring spaces that capture views, efficient systems for ski season comfort**, durable materials for harsh winters, and smart layouts for multi-generational gatherings.

Projects like "**Contemporary Chalet**" showcase clean lines and cathedral ceilings perfect for mountain settings, while "**Private Luxury Wilderness Estate**" demonstrates how timber frame construction creates spaces that feel both grand and intimately connected to the landscape.

More Than Beautiful - Built to Last

Throughout the Lookbook, you'll find **authentic testimonials from families** who've experienced the Normerica difference. As **President Chris McFarlane shares**: *"My father taught me that building homes is about more than assembling materials — it's about creating spaces where families build their lives and memories."*

Whether you're envisioning a **ski-in/ski-out chalet**, a **four-season cottage**, or a **luxury mountain estate**, this Lookbook will inspire your planning process.

[Download your free Lookbook today](#) to discover the warmth, strength, and timeless elegance that only authentic timber-frame construction can deliver.

Normerica - Fall in love with craftsmanship



MEALEY SPEED CAMP & MEALEY CLASSIC RACES - SEARCHMONT

Last week, **over 130 ski racers from across Ontario** gathered at **Searchmont Resort**, just north of Sault Ste. Marie, for the **Mealey Speed Camp and Races**, which together make up the **Mealey Classic**.

The event is designed primarily for **U14 athletes** looking to develop and refine their speed skills, but also welcomes **U12 and U16 racers**. The week kicked off with **three days of training**, followed by an **official Super-G (SG) training day, an SG race day, and then GS and SL races** to round out an outstanding event.

The Mealey Classic is named after **Brian Mealey**, who made an incredible impact on ski racers from Searchmont, Northern Ontario, and truly across the province over many years. Brian was—and still is—deeply passionate about helping athletes improve their speed and skiing skills, period.

Brian Mealey's motto was: **“Work Hard, Be Humble, Ski Fast.”** Words to live by for any ski racer.

The three-day speed camp before the official ROC events saw coaches from across Ontario collaborating to ensure participants had a safe, challenging environment that promoted meaningful speed skill development. Athletes focused on key areas such as managing terrain changes, gaining comfort in the air, skiing and training at higher speeds, and improving tuck position.

We were also proud to **train 11 additional parents and coaches by delivering the on-snow Speed Module**, where candidates learned proper safety protocols and how to support a positive learning environment for speed events.

A big thank you goes to the **Searchmont Ski Runners parents and volunteers** for fully netting two runs for athletes to use throughout the week, and once again organizing another successful Mealey Classic event.

Another huge thank you to **Searchmont Resort** for its support in preparing the runs and terrain needed. The Race Run was in the best shape I have ever seen—snow was plentiful and consistent from top to bottom and side to side. These excellent conditions reflect the resort's recent investments in snowmaking and grooming, along with their

Mealey Classic events in the future.
- Jacques Reid - AOA Manager, Coach Development

UPCOMING EVENTS



**WORLD CUP
Ski Cross Races**
March 21 & 22 @ Craigleith Ski Club

[More Event Information HERE](#)

[Please Volunteer HERE](#)

COACHES' CORDUROY



NEW AOA PARA COACH INTERFACE

[AOA Para Coach Interface - Fill out form](#)

We are targeting the growth and development of an **Ontario coach** wishing to enter the **para coaching stream**, or support para programming at their home club.

Coach Interface with OPAST and CPAST during National Championship

When: March 20-27 (dates can be Flexible)

Where: Kimberly, BC

Who: Ontario Coach (DL, or experience warranting consideration)

All costs covered, and per diem provided.

ACA Para Module completion is required before interface.



Top Lessons from Marie Ève Boulliand

1. **"You don't need to be a former elite athlete to be a high-performance coach."**
Passion, curiosity, and commitment matter more than medals.
2. **"If coaching were easy, everyone would do it."**
Leadership is about navigating constant complexity, not eliminating it.
3. **"We're not just developing athletes — we're developing good humans."**
Maturity, ownership, and perspective are core performance outcomes.

On February 5, coaches from across Canada joined a national **Women in Coaching webinar, featuring Marie Ève, Head Coach of Alpine Canada's Women's Development (CAST D) Team**, in conversation with **Ally Dandy, Head Coach of the TSC U16 OCup Program**.

Marie Ève shared insights into the CAST D Women's Program, which **bridges the gap between provincial teams and the national pathway** by supporting late-junior (U21) athletes through exposure to **NorAm, Europa Cup, and European** racing environments. The program focuses on long-term development, readiness, and **reducing athlete drop-off** during a critical transition phase.

The discussion also **highlighted leadership beyond results**, emphasizing athlete maturity, ownership, and resilience as key measures of success. Marie Ève reflected on the importance of **self-awareness, mentorship, and management skills in coaching**, reinforcing the value of women-focused coaching spaces for connection and growth.

Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to a meaningful and engaging conversation.

[**LEARN MORE - WATCH THE FULL WIC WEBINAR**](#)





MACKENZIE
Investments
WOMEN IN COACHING
ON-SNOW SESSION RECAP
ACA | CSIA Collab

We had an amazing morning session with **Katie Twible, Ski Racing Media, High-Performance Ski Coach**, as part of the **Women in Coaching** program day.

Coaches explored **coach development** with creative training environments that accelerate skill development—without needing more drills, more feedback, or more talking. The session focused on:

- **Why creativity accelerates skill acquisition**
- **Practical tools to design more effective and engaging practices**
- **Adapting ideas to your athletes, setting, and constraints**

Katie reminded us that creativity isn't chaos—it's intentional variation with purpose. Coaches engaged in interactive discussions, shared experiences, and worked on snow through real training scenarios.

The afternoon, in **collaboration with CSIA and Alpine Canada (ACA)** featured personalized **professional ski development** on snow with Level 4 female course conductors, giving coaches hands-on experience and mentorship tailored to their current needs.

👏 **Huge thanks to Katie and all the CSIA Level 4 female course conductors and Laura Berry, Head Coach, Snow Valley**, for an inspiring professional development day!

#WomenInCoaching #AlpineCanada #CoachDevelopment #OnSnowLearning #SkiCanada
#FemaleLeadersInSport

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@whiteravenenergy

SPRING COACH COURSES

AOA Coaching Course Schedule and Registration - [HERE](#)

Entry Level Coach Course Schedule

Osler	Mar 13/14/15	1
Craigeleith	Mar 14/15/16	2
Alpine	Mar 20/21/22	8
Devils Glen	Mar 20/21/22	4
TSC/ Blue Mountain	Mar 27/28/29	7
Mansfield	Mar 27/28/29	1
Beaver Valley	Mar 20/21/22	9
Georgian Peaks	April 10/11/12	

Development Level Coach Courses

Georgian Peaks – March 14/15/20/21/22 - 1 registered

MSLM/ Glacier - March 20/21/22/28/29 - 6 registered

Performance Level Coach Course

- Mont Tremblant - April 6/7/8/9/10 - collaboration with SQA – 5 registered



The **Ottawa - Gatineau** region welcomes **10 new level three officials** 🙌 into its ranks. AOA would like to graciously thank **FIS TDs Julie Klotz, Mark Somers, and Sean Gilmore** for sharing their wisdom and experience through a wonderful facilitation of this course.

UPCOMING OFFICIALS COURSES

<https://alpinepoints.ca/officials/courses/#>

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Our mailing address is:

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

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