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ONTARIO'S SIERRA SMITH GUIDES BC'S KALLE ERIKSSON TWO PARALYMPIC PODIUMS MICHAELA GOSSELIN CHARGES TO THE TOP 5!

Ontario's **Sierra Smith** Guides **Kalle Eriksson** to Paralympic Podiums, and **Michaela Gosselin** is in the mix!

Canadian Para-Alpine skiing has delivered incredible moments at the **2026 Winter Paralympics** in Cortina, Italy, as Kalle Eriksson from BC and Ontario guide Sierra Smith raced to the podium in their **Paralympic debut**.

In the **Men's Visually Impaired Downhill**, the Canadian duo **captured silver**, earning Canada's first alpine medal of the Games. Eriksson posted a time of 1:18.33, finishing just behind Austria's gold medalist and narrowly ahead of Italy to secure the podium spot.

For **Smith**, who hails from **Ottawa, Ontario**, the achievement highlights the **critical role of guides** in Para-Alpine skiing. Guides ski ahead of the athlete, providing real-time direction and communication as the pair navigate the course at high speed — a partnership built entirely on trust and precision.

A Second Medal for the Duo

Strong Performance from Michaela Gosselin

Ontario's **Michaela Gosselin** also delivered a strong performance, finishing a **respectable 5th place in the Downhill**. With additional disciplines still to come, she remains **firmly in the hunt** as the competition continues in Cortina.

Sending our **CONGRATULATIONS** for inspiring us all!



OST & ODSWEDEN TRIP RECAP

What a fantastic ski trip for our **Ontario women's and men's teams!** They wrapped up a fantastic training and race trip through **Sweden**, gaining valuable international experience and competing on challenging tracks.

The trip began in **Lycksele**, where the team trained for **three days on an injected surface** that delivered tough, high-quality conditions and set the tone for the week. **Two slalom race days** followed on a demanding hill that challenged our athletes and offered a valuable learning opportunity. A highlight from Lycksele was **Emma James**, who delivered her **best result of the season on Day 2**.

strong GS skiing, though they were only able to race once after one event was cancelled.

The team returns home with great memories and **valuable international experience**. After a few days to reset, racing resumes in Ontario in mid-March. Let's keep the grind going! 🇨🇦 - **David McNeil - OST Women's Head Coach**



CANADIAN UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS March 12-13

Alpine Ontario Alpin is proud to host the **Canadian University Championships** @oslerbluffskiclubofficial and @georgianpeaks! Outstanding student-athletes from across the country will compete, showcasing great speed, skill, and excitement on Ontario's best hills.

This **event is proudly funded** in part by the **Government of Ontario**. Their support makes this championship possible!

SKI CROSS
WORLD CUP

ALPINE ONTARIO PRESENTS

ON

FREE
COMMUNITY
ZONE

MAR 21-22
CRAIGLEITH SKI CLUB

**300 RESERVED SPOTS
EXCLUSIVE FOR AOA ATHLETES**

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED
COACHES WELCOME

GRAB YOUR SPOT!



**ONTARIO WINTER GAMES
SHOWCASE U14 TALENT
MOUNT ST LOUIS MOONSTONE**

upcoming OCup Finals.

Over two demanding days of **GS and SL competition**, athletes demonstrated impressive skill, determination, and competitive spirit on the hill. The competition wrapped up with an exciting **dual race on Friday**, bringing renewed energy and intensity to the final day.

A **sincere thank you to Mount St. Louis Moonstone and Glacier Ski Club** for their commitment and support in hosting a successful event. Congratulations to all athletes who competed, and special recognition to those who earned podium finishes.

Thanks to all of our sponsors for their support! **@mackenzieinvestments @skiisandbiikes @karbonsports @fasken @normerica.homes @whiteravenenergy**



2026 AOA SKILL UP DAYS BUILD SKILLS AND PASSION

This past season, **Alpine Ontario**, with **support from the SOD Division**, delivered **three SKILL UP Days** across **Southern Ontario** for skiers aged 8–13. These sessions were **designed to complement** club programs by providing a fun, challenging environment that builds fundamental skills and fuels athletes' passion for ski racing.

Each session welcomed around **100 athletes**, thanks to the incredible support of **Caledon, Craigleith, and Joze Weider Ski Clubs**, who provided the terrain, coaches, and infrastructure to make these development days possible.

The focus was on building skills in three key areas:

- **Slalom Fundamentals**
- **Ski Cross Fundamentals**
- **Slalom Tactical Awareness**

At **Caledon**, a **surprise snowstorm** turned the day into an unforgettable **powder experience**, giving athletes a rare opportunity in Southern Ontario to **develop balance and adaptability** in changing conditions.

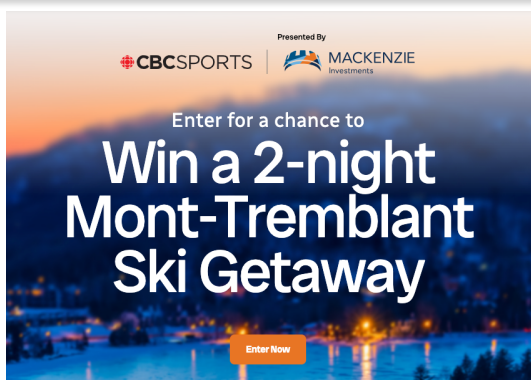
At **Craigleith**, athletes trained across multiple environments, including the **Ski Cross track**, helping build confidence with **terrain changes, speed, and airtime**.

Finally, **Joze Weider at Blue Mountain** opened the **Calamity Race and Training Center**, where athletes rotated through **multiple slalom training courses** designed to improve **tactical awareness and adaptability**.

Across these unique environments, **SKILL UP Days** provides valuable opportunities for athletes to build **all-around skiing skills** while connecting with new peers and coaches.

A huge **thank you to the clubs, coaches, and families** who supported these days and helped make them such a success.

We look forward to bringing **SKILL UP Days back next season** — watch for dates and locations in November–December!



SMALL HILL, BIG HEART THE SPIRIT OF BATAWA RACING CLUB

Batawa may not be the biggest hill in Ontario. Its vertical is modest, its facilities simple. But for **generations of racers and families**, it has been something much bigger — **a place where athletes grow, and community thrives.**

At the heart of Batawa Ski Racing Club is **volunteerism**. Parents, grandparents, former racers, and local supporters step forward each winter as coaches, organizers, and mentors. It's not about scale — it's about commitment.

Jarrold Hewton knows that well. A former Batawa racer turned long-time coach, he continues to give back to the club that shaped him. ***"I have the skills, I have the time, and I enjoy it — so I keep showing up"***. That dedication echoes across families who build their winters around the hill.

For **Jarrold's daughter Lauren**, a second-generation racer who has skied at Batawa since she was two, the draw goes far beyond the terrain. ***"At Batawa, everyone knows each other. Everyone's friends, and everyone supports each other."*** If she ever stopped racing, she says she would **miss the community the most.**

On a small hill, **progress is personal**. Names are known, and **effort is noticed**. Improvement is measured not only in seconds, but in **confidence and resilience**. ***"Batawa always had that team spirit,"*** Jarrold says. ***"Kids cheer for each other here — they're not just out for themselves."***

The terrain plays its role in shaping that toughness. ***"Our kids learn on a short, steep, icy hill. If you can ski that, it transfers everywhere."*** Without the scale or budgets of larger clubs, Batawa makes the most of what it has — and builds grit along the way.

Head Coach Bernie Loeffler, a fixture at the club for **36 years**, has watched generations come into full circle. ***"Batawa may be small, but it has a huge heart. When former athletes return to help the next group, it reminds me this club is about more than runs or results — it's about people and the community we build together."***

PARENTS' PISTE



AOA SKILLS & DRILLS PROGRAM

BUILDING STRONGER RACERS
ONE SKILL AT A TIME



INTRODUCING THE AOA SKILLS & DRILLS PROGRAM

Alpine Ontario Alpin is excited to launch the **Skills & Drills Initiative**, a focused program to help young athletes **develop the core skills** that lead to stronger performance on the hill. These foundational skills **build confidence, technical ability**, and set the stage for racing success.

Coaches will guide athletes through **structured, planned training and track skill progress** throughout the season. As an added incentive, athletes can **earn reward patches** for mastering specific skills — a fun way to celebrate achievements and keep motivation high.

By focusing on skill development, **every athlete gains a stronger foundation for competitions**, while parents can see clear progress through coaching feedback and earned patches.

Strong skills today = confident, capable racers tomorrow! — AOA Skill / Drill Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS





U14-U16 OCUP SKI CROSS DEVELOPMENT DAY

When: March 27, 2026

Where: Craigleith Ski Club

Craigleith Ski Club and Alpine Ontario are teaming up for a **Ski Cross (SX) Athlete Development Camp!**

- **Who:** U14 & U16 **OCup athletes + coaches**
- **What:** Train on parts of the World Cup course and Craigleith's permanent SX track
- **Coaches:** On-snow Ski Cross module included

This is a great chance for athletes to **explore new SX skills** and for coaches to **enhance their training toolkit**.

Registration & Payment: Sign up like a regular OCup event. Details coming soon — stay tuned!

SKI MEISTER EXTENDED REGISTRATION!

.Registration U12 Ski Meister races at Beaver Valley and Devils Glen

New deadline for Beaver Valley is now **Sunday, March 15th!**

This event will take place **March 18–19 at Beaver Valley** and includes:

- **GS (2 single runs) on Wednesday**
- **Parallel event on Thursday**
- **Lift tickets and lunch included for both days**

If you were still planning to sign up but hadn't registered yet, you have a few extra days to do so!! Please make sure your [registration](#) is completed before the new **Sunday, March 15th deadline**.



MT TREMBLANT ALL GIRLS SPRING CAMP

Presented by Mackenzie Investments



Sharpen Your Ski Skills at Our All-Girls Tremblant Camp
U14 & U16 Female Skiers | April 10-12 | Mont Tremblant

AOA's Women in Coaching (WIC) group invites female athletes to a **3-day spring training camp** designed to build skills, confidence, and community — on and off the snow.

Camp Highlights

- Free skiing, SL & GS training (weather dependent)
- Off-snow sessions: yoga, gym, team building
- Mentorship and inspiration from experienced female coaches and role models

Why Join?

- Train with top female coaches who are leaders and mentors
- Sharpen technical and tactical skills in unique on-hill environments
- Build confidence and community with peers in a supportive all-girls setting
- Learn off-snow skills through yoga, gym, and team-building activities
- Meet role models who inspire the next steps in ski racing

Cost & Logistics

- \$450 per athlete (based on 20 athletes + 5 coaches)
- Covers hill space, coaching, meals, and program expenses
- Families cover transportation, accommodations, and lift tickets
- Tremblant group discounts available

Women in Coaching Mentorship Program

Women coaches who want to learn from experienced mentors can join as mentees. Lift tickets covered; other costs at your expense.

✓ [Email Jacques Reid to Register Now](#)



ONTARIO SKI RACING AWARDS NEWLY ALIGNED WITH ALPINE CANADA NATIONAL AWARDS

– **A New Chapter** 🇨🇦 Alpine Ontario is proud to align with the new **ACA Awards of Excellence** framework — strengthening the **connection between our Provincial Awards and the National Stage**. 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**.

AWARD CATEGORIES

[Mackenzie Investments Race Ski Club of the Year](#)

[Skiis & Biikes Athlete of the Year](#) Alpine Male & Female; Para-Alpine and Ski Cross

[Anthony Pacione Coach of the Year](#)

[Fasken Volunteer of the Year](#)

[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](#)



INEOS GRENADIER TEST DRIVE EXPERIENCE AT CRAIGLEITH SKI CLUB

INEOS Grenadier will be at **Craigleith Ski Club** for the **Ski Cross World Cup** from **March 20th - 22nd**, bringing our rugged, capable and functional go-anywhere vehicles to the slopes.

To kickoff the occasion, we invite you to take part in the exclusive **INEOS Grenadier Test Drive Experience on Friday March 20th!**

Discover the performance, capability, and precision engineering of INEOS vehicles in a setting that truly reflects their spirit — built tough and adventure-ready for every landscape.

[Click here to book a Test Drive!](#)

Official Partner of the Ski Cross World Cup



**WORLD CUP
Ski Cross Races**
@Craigleith Ski Club

[More Event Information - VIP and TICKETS HERE](#)

[Please Volunteer HERE](#)



**LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!
SPRING COACH COURSES**

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

Entry Level Coach Course Schedule

Brimacomb	Mar 6/7/8
Chicopee	Mar 13/14/15
Caledon	Mar 13/14/15
Osler	Mar 13/14/15
Craigleith	Mar 14/15/16
Alpine	Mar 20/21/22
Devils Glen	Mar 20/21/22
TSC/ Blue Mountain	Mar 27/28/29
Mansfield	Mar 27/28/29
Beaver Valley	Mar 20/21/22
Georgian Peaks	April 10/11/12

Development Level Coach Courses

Georgian Peaks - March 14/15/20/21/22

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

Performance Level Coach Course

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

UPCOMING OFFICIALS COURSES

Level 3 - Apr 25 & 26 2026 Collingwood

[REGISTER NOW](#)

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

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