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LATEST NEWS



PARALYMPIC BRONZE IS BEAUTIFUL 🏅

Michaela Gosselin of **Osler Bluff Ski Club** captured **bronze in the Women's Slalom (standing category)**, and Canada's milestone **200th Winter Paralympic medal!!!** What an impressive Paralympic podium performance for this amazing Ontario athlete from Osler Bluff.

After finishing 4th in Beijing, Michaela was on a mission to bring home a medal from these games. With high expectations of herself and in her final competition of the games, she delivered. She definitely saved the best for last! Michaela recounts, "**This is just amazing - I feel extremely proud to wear the Maple Leaf** and represent Canada and bring a medal home, not just for me, but for the country." Michaela was fortunate to have her **family and friends join her at the Paralympics**, which was not possible during the COVID-affected Beijing Games. Michaela shares in her post-event interview: "It's been so important and just so special for me. They have helped me get to where I am today. Being able to share these moments with them **means the world to me.**"

Growing their medal collection at the Games, **Kalle Eriksson** and **Ottawa guide Sierra Smith** also raced to **bronze** in the **Men's Visually Impaired Super-G!** This brings them to a total count of 2 bronze and 1 silver, and incredible games for this duo.

Thank you for representing Ontario and Canada with pride, and **thank you for inspiring us all** 🇨🇦



ALPINE ONTARIO WELCOMES ALEX LENNOX ONTARIO SKI TEAM MEN'S HEAD COACH

Alex, known by most simply as "**Lenny**," brings a coaching career deeply rooted in **Ontario ski racing**. A former competitive ski racer, Lenny joined the coaching ranks at the **Camp Fortune Ski Club**, then quickly progressed to the regional elite team, **National Capital Outaouais Ski Team**. In 2017-18, he joined the **Ontario Ski Team** as Assistant Coach, gaining direct experience at the provincial high-performance level. He spent seven seasons back at NCO, the final three as Head Coach, before a brief stint with **St. Lawrence University (NCAA skiing)** and eventually stepping into this new role with AOA.

What stands out about Lenny isn't just the resume. Anyone who has spent time around his programs will tell you he has a **rare ability to keep athletes loose and motivated** in a sport that can grind people down. He understands that **results come from culture**, and he builds that culture deliberately with high expectations, a long view on development, and enough humor to make a tough day on the hill feel manageable.

AOA's High Performance Director **Joey Lavigne** shares, "Lenny gets the Canadian development system as well as anyone I know. **He understands where athletes are in their journey, what they need at each stage, and where to focus time and energy to actually move the needle.** And he does it in a way that keeps athletes engaged and wanting to be there. That's not easy in this sport."

"What drew us to Lenny goes beyond his experience," said **Patrick Biggs, Executive Director of Alpine Ontario Alpin**. "He knows the system, athletes, and coaches here in Ontario, and **he knows how to build a strong collaborative culture, and an environment where athletes can develop and excel.** We're excited to welcome him home."

Please join us in welcoming Alex Lennox to the Alpine Ontario family!



WORLD CUP SKI CROSS CRAIGLEITH ONTARIO CHEERS ON CANADIAN PODIUMS

The **World Cup Ski Cross** at **Craigleith Ski Club** was an incredible weekend of racing, community, and celebration for Canadian athletes. Ontario ski racers and fans brought the energy, and electric atmosphere that lifted every competitor. The Canadian racers all remarked ***'When we were in the start gate we could hear the fans cheering us from the community zone!'***

4 Canadians on the podium, 3 from Ontario. The province showed up in a big way.

- **Hannah and Jared Schmidt (Ottawa)** each earned **silver**, showing the power of sibling determination and teamwork.
- **Kris Mahler (Craigleith Ski Club native)** captured **bronze**, achieving a podium finish on the very hill where he grew up skiing and first dreamed of competing in Ski Cross—a truly special homecoming.
- Young talent **Kaleb Barnum**, 21, from BC, with only ten World Cup starts, stunned the field by landing **silver**, proved himself as a rising star that is ready to make his mark on the international stage.

After Craigleith, **Reece Howden (BC)** extends his series lead to over 200 points with two races remaining, securing his status as a **four-time Crystal Globe winner**—next level!

Thanks to the combination of **local support, community zone spirit**, and fan energy made Craigleith a highlight of the World Cup season. Congrats to all the SX athletes — the racing was outstanding and **you represented Ontario and Canada brilliantly. Well done 🇨🇦**



SHE SKIS 2026 SHE SHOWED UP. SHE SKIED. SHE BELIEVED

What happens when you put over **40 young female athletes** in the same room **female coach mentors, World Cup competitors** and an **Olympic medalist**? *Pure magic.*

This past week, Alpine Ontario's **Mackenzie She Skis** program delivered an unforgettable experience for more than **40 - U14 and U16 female racers from across the province**. The event is designed with one powerful goal in mind: to show our young athletes exactly what is possible when a girl straps on a pair of ski boots and **dares to dream big**.

Meeting Their Heroes

The energy in the room was electric when **World Cup Ski Cross athletes Abby McEwen and Courtney Hoffos** arrived. Our young racers didn't just get a photo opportunity — **they got real access**. Girls came prepared with questions, notepads, and plenty of curiosity as they sat down to interview Abby and Courtney one-on-one, asking everything from race day routines to the biggest challenges they've faced on the World Cup circuit.

But the inspiration didn't stop there. The group also had the incredible honour of meeting **Michaela Gosselin, Olympic bronze medalist**, who brought with her a perspective on what it truly takes to

highest level of the sport was a moment they won't soon forget.

Learning from Women Who Lead

Beyond the athlete interactions, She Skis was built around putting our young racers into high-performance training environments led entirely by women coaches and olympians. Our athletes had the opportunity to work with: **Katie Twible, Larisa Yurkiw, Angela Gougeon, Maria Burton, and Pat Biggs**

These accomplished coaches brought **expertise, environments**, and a coaching presence that reinforced a simple but important message: **women belong in every corner of this sport** — on the podium, on the hill, and leading training and race programs.

Why She Skis Matters

Ski racing has traditionally been a space where female athletes can feel underrepresented — whether in **coaching staff, media coverage, or access to role models**. She Skis exists to change that narrative.

When a U14 racer gets to look a World Cup athlete in the eye and ask, "**How did you get here?**" — something shifts. Confidence grows. Goals become more concrete. The mountain feels a little more like theirs.

A heartfelt thank you to Abby McEwen, Courtney Hoffos, and Michaela Gosselin for giving their time and their stories so generously. Thank you to **Coaches Katie Twible, Larissa Yurkiw, and Angela Gougeon** for creating such an empowering training environment. And **thank you to every young racer who showed up** ready to learn, ask questions, and be inspired.

This is what She Skis is all about.

Stay tuned for more She Skis programming. Together, we're building the future of women's racing in Ontario — one gate, one run at a time.



CANADIAN UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

across the country came together for two days of racing and to crown our national champions.

When the dust settled, the **University of Calgary Dinos** claimed the **top spot in all three team categories**, taking home the men's, women's, and overall titles. But it wasn't a runaway. The races were tight throughout the weekend, with **Université de Montréal** and **Université Laval** pushing Calgary every step of the way.

*"These championships showcase student athletes who are **excelling in both athletics and academics**," says **Patrick Biggs, Executive Director of Alpine Ontario Alpin**. "University racing has become an important part of our sport's ecosystem, and we're very proud to host this event here so younger athletes know that a competitive pathway exists beyond club and provincial racing,"*

Giant Slalom at Georgian Peaks Ski Club

Aleksas Valadka of Calgary took the men's GS, with **Jules Collot** of Université de Montréal in second and **Gabriel Devarennes** of Université Laval in third.

Dorothée Faucher of Laval won the women's GS, followed by **Gabby Wall** of Calgary and **Marie Pénélope Robinson** of Université de Montréal.

Slalom at Osler Bluff

Aleksas Valadka continued his dominant weekend by winning the men's slalom as well, with **Taras Dets** of Calgary in second and **Émile Jomohe Ricchi** of Université de Montréal in third.

Mikayla Wunsch of Calgary took the women's slalom, with **Marie Pénélope Robinson** of Université de Montréal in second and **Lauren Wayland** of Calgary in third.

This event continues to grow, and hosting it across **Georgian Peaks** and **Osler Bluff** gave it the setting it deserves. A **big thank you** to both venues, to the **Government of Ontario** for their support, and to **every athlete, coach, and volunteer who made it happen**.

Congratulations to all competitors. **We hope to see you back in Ontario soon.**



MACKENZIE OCUP FINALS A PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP BUILDING ON TRADITION

The **Mackenzie U14 & U16 OCUP Series Finals** wrapped up another exciting season of ski racing, continuing the tradition of provincial competition with the opportunity for races from **compete in all 4 provincial divisions over their 4 year progression through U14 and U16**.

the north and experience a new environment. When Loch Lomond Ski Area made the difficult but necessary decision to shut down their North Chairlift for the remainder of the season, the ripple effects were felt immediately across Ontario's racing community.

Anyone who has ever visited **Loch Lomond knows this is a small, family-run operation that pours everything into their hill**, and pride themselves on welcoming and hosting major events such as OCUP Finals. Their continued efforts to revive the lift weeks/days leading up to the event speaks volumes to this.

The Community Responds

With OCUP Finals suddenly in need of a venue for the SG and GS portion of the event, **Mt. Baldy stepped up to host**. The show went on. This kind of seamless pivot doesn't happen by accident. It happens because of **dedicated clubs, committed coaches, race officials, and volunteers** who love this sport and refuse to let obstacles derail an event the athletes have worked hard to reach. Witnessing such great regional collaboration across clubs, volunteers, and officials is always inspiring and a **reminder of the strong community supporting ski racing across the province**. Alpine Ontario **thanks Mt. Baldy for their extraordinary efforts** in accommodating the extra races.

The **U14 OCUP Finals** took place in **Collingwood**, with races hosted across **Osler Bluff, Georgian Peaks** and **Alpine Ski Club**, providing as always varied terrain and challenging courses. **A sincere thank you to @oslerbluffskiclub @georgianpeaksskiclub @alpineskiclub and their organizing committees** — from hosting, course preparation, logistics, and the many volunteers that make these events possible.

A huge **CONGRATULATIONS** to **EVERY** athlete who competed this season.

CONGRATS!!

OCUP Finals Winners!

U14 - Beckett Booth (Devil's Glen) & **Grace Seguin** (Georgian Peaks)

U16 - Anabelle Ellison (Osler) & **Reid Jones** (TBFAST)

OCUP Top Fitness Green Bib Winners!

U14 - Phoebe Abols (Beaver Valley) & **Reid Tallon** (NAC)

U16 - Anabelle Ellison (Osler) & **Ethan Yeung** (Glacier)

A special mention to **Clara Matthews**, who secured the **U14 Female green bib** as the top fitness athlete, but unfortunately broke her leg and was unable to compete. Best wishes for a speedy recovery!

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



60 Ontario's racers were led by **10 coaches** from around the province, under the leadership of **Tim Buchanan (SOD)** and **Alistair Scott (NCD)**, competing in Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super G, and Dual Parallel events. The Eastern Regionals are part of Alpine Canada's format that splits the National Championships into an eastern and western championship, selecting the **fastest racers** from each to attend **Whistler Cup as the national benchmark**.

Alpine Ontario Alpin (AOA) would like to congratulate all of the 60 alpine ski racers who competed as part of Team Ontario at the Eastern Regional Championships that took place at Stoneham, Quebec March Mar 20-24. A big shoutout to these **incredible athletes who earned notable finishes** — well done!

Super G

Heidi Deeks — 4th
Maya Mikitchook — 6th
Reid Jones — 9th

Giant Slalom

Jake Jonasson — 9th
Anabelle Ellison — 10th

Slalom

Reid Jones — 5th
Heidi Deeks — 7th
Nico Murdoch — 9th

Individual Dual

Maya Mikitchook — 🥈 2nd
Olivia Young – 8
Berkeley Stroud – 9
Nico Murdoch – 4
Finley Hankai – 6
Thomas Claassen – 8

A full list of results can be found here: <https://alpinepoints.ca/results/>

Stay tuned — the full list of Whistler Cup attendees will be announced soon!

Special thanks to all the coaching staff !! LSDA – **Doug Robinson**, NOD – **Mike Lesnick**, NCD – **Alistair Scott**, SOD – **Tim Buchanan**, Hootie Gagnon, Chris Tepera, Mark Noakes, Mark Young, Ally Dandy, Erin Flynn!

And thanks to all of our sponsors

Mackenzie Investments, Skiis & Biikes, Karbon, Fasken, Normerica, White Raven Energy who supported this Team Ontario project.





AOA SKILLS & DRILLS PROGRAM UPDATE

Last week during March Break, some of the best **U12 ski racers** gathered for the **annual Ski Meister events at Devil's Glen (11-year-olds)** and **Beaver Valley Ski Clubs (10-year-olds)** — an event with roots stretching back **more than 20 years**.

This year, **Alpine Ontario Alpin, the SOD Division, and both host clubs collaborated** to introduce a formal skills evaluation component of the Skills & Drills Programme. Identified as a provincial priority, skill & drill proficiency was assessed informally across four race days throughout the season, with each day focusing on a different drill.

At **Ski Meister**, participants were formally evaluated on two drills:

- **Outside Ski Turns** — lifting the inside ski during a turn
- **Braquage** — upper/lower body separation through lower joint rotation

Participants were graded on a 1–6 scale across three stages of skill acquisition

With approximately **10% of participants reaching the Consolidation level**, we have a clear baseline — and an exciting **opportunity to grow**. As coaches, athletes, parents, and administrators, we all have a role to play in **embracing this process** and celebrating those who strive for skill excellence.

Next season, we look forward to **expanding this initiative to additional age groups** as we continue to track our collective progress across Ontario. The journey is just beginning.

UPCOMING EVENTS



AOA MT TREMBLANT ALL GIRLS SPRING CAMP

Presented by Mackenzie Investments



Your Best Spring Skiing Starts Here!
U14 & U16 Female Skiers | April 10-12

Spring skiing at Mont Tremblant. **Three days of training, connection, and inspiration** — surrounded entirely by girls who love to race.

AOA's Women in Coaching (WIC) group is proud to invite **U14 and U16 female athletes** to our **first All-Girls Spring Training Camp** — a unique experience designed to sharpen your skiing, build your confidence, and connect you with a community of athletes and coaches who get it.

What to Expect

On the Snow 🏂

- Free skiing, SL & GS training
- Technical and tactical skill development
- Coached by experienced, inspiring female coaches

Off the Snow 💪

- Yoga, gym sessions, and team building
- Mentorship conversations with female coaches and role models
- A supportive, energizing all-girls environment

Camp Investment

\$450 per athlete

(Based on 20 athletes + 5 coaches)

Includes hill space, coaching, meals, and all program expenses.

Families are responsible for transportation, accommodations, and lift tickets.

Mont Tremblant group discounts available — details provided upon registration.

other costs at own 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**](#)

UPCOMING OFFICIALS COURSES

Level 3 - Apr 25 & 26 2026 Collingwood

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