

Hello Sarah,

The Glenelg Nordic Ski Club (GNSC) has enjoyed the use of the County Forest for over 20 years. From our perspective it has been an advantageous relationship where we have the opportunity to provide a cross-country ski experience on groomed ski trails for the local community and, increasingly, for visitors from the GTA, Grimsby, London, Kitchener, Guelph, Collingwood. The past season we had 204 members. We believe that we have been good stewards of the property during our use. Apart from one roadside sign identifying our Club, all signage is installed with cord and removed at the end of season. We clear brush and fallen debris from the trails and work with the County on issues such as drainage and trespass. In return, we enjoy the rugged landscape and sheltered forest trails. Together, we offer an incentive that is proven to bring visitors and residents to Grey.

We are in the process of exploring options in finding a new location to store our grooming equipment, which consists of three snowmobiles, three grooming implements, a roller and signage. Our storage requirement is in the order of a smallish garage, approximately 16' x 28'. A private landowner has stored this equipment on a voluntary basis for many years and would now like us to consider moving.

I understand that you have worked with Lera Ryan, our recent president, on our current agreement of use between the County and GNSC.

Here is our question: Is there any way the County could allow us to build an equipment storage on the Klondike property? We are a non-profit club. We are not looking to buy a lot because we do not operate with that magnitude of capital for such an investment. Any arrangement would have to be granted to us as a courtesy by the County where we would have a sort of leasing arrangement. As for the type of structure, a traditional 2x4 construction, walled with board and batten, and roofed with coloured sheet steel might be appropriate for our needs and community acceptance.

As for location: It would seem best to consider a site that would have some public scrutiny, a minimum of surface preparation, and centrality of location for our grooming operations. Potentially, there is a site about 0.5 km west of the Hamilton Lane and Conc. 8 intersection that might suit.

This is a trial balloon. However, we must find a new location for our equipment storage. If you think there is potential in such a request, we would be pleased to meet with you to further discuss the proposal. If you think such an initiative would not be possible, then we would appreciate your answer and we will attempt to seek another willing host. We hope to resolve our dilemma in time for next season, so timing will quickly become an issue for us.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Blain Horsley (519-986-4839)

GNSC Relocation Committee:

Dan Dugard (GNSC President)

Blain Horsley (former GNSC Past President, currently trails groomer)

Michael Finlay (GNSC Board Member)