



**Alpine Canada Masters  
2021 Newsletter Archives**

## 2022 FMC & CMAC are still a GO under current QC COVID protocols

Great news for the **FIS Masters' Cup (FMC)** and **Canadian Masters' Alpine Championships (CMAC)** events in Quebec!

**Did you miss it!** Everything is moving so quickly under COVID that it's impossible to keep up; one day it's right, next day it's left. That is exactly what happened in Quebec over the past 24 hours! COVID protocols are switching directions faster than a World Cup slalom skier! First the QC government announced that all outdoor sport competitions would be limited and the next day outdoor sport competitions are permitted again.

So to be clear, the FMC and CMAC events, being held in February 2022, in Stoneham QC, are a **GO!**

The events have NOT been cancelled despite some of the rumours you may have heard; here is an extract of the message sent out by SQA on 21-Dec-21:

*We learned this morning that competitions will be permitted for outdoor sports, subject to the approval of a strict health protocol, until further notice. We would like to thank everyone for their solidarity in this matter. However, we do not consider this to be a victory, but rather a team effort with the different levels of decision-makers including the office of Minister Delegate Isabelle Charest, Assistant Deputy Minister Réjean Houle and his team at the Sports and Leisure Department.*

These two overlapping premier Masters' events, being held in Stoneham QC for a second time, are only 7 weeks away so it is time to sort out your travel plans and [register](#) today!

**Dave Nighswander | President**

## ON Masters' Newsletter | Dec-21 Issue

Welcome to the 2021/22 season of racing! So far, it looks like things will be open (knock on wood!!). Now we just need to pray to the snow gods for a good season.

Now it is time for the fine print:

Every athlete who is competing in an Ontario or Canadian Masters' *sanctioned event* needs a competitor card; It just took me almost an hour to find all the right links, so to try to ease your pain, here are step-by-step instructions.

**Register [online](#) for AOA fees:** We recommend you register before 25-Dec-21 as AOA updates [Alpinepoints.ca](#) weekly for registrations but come the new year, updates are done on demand.

**Insurance:** For a whopping fee of \$13, you can purchase insurance so that if ski season doesn't happen, or you get Covid, or sick, or anything.... You can get your \$ refunded.

Optional Upgrade -  View Options

**Refundable Registration**

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✓ Covid-19 infection ( <a href="#">see details</a> )	✓ Public transport failure
✓ Private vehicle failure	✓ Home emergency
✓ Immediate relative sickness	✓ Relocation for work
✓ Pre-existing medical conditions	✓ Sickness, Accident, Injury
✓ And many more...	

**Types of cards:** There are three different cards to choose from so how do I know which is the right one for me?

- **Master's FIS (SOD costs \$295.17):** This card is for racers competing worldwide as well as earning FIS points at Canadian FIS races e.g. FIS Masters' Cup in Feb-22, in Stoneham QC. (Note: There is a late fee of \$145 for FIS cards purchased after 25-Dec-21, however, AOA confirmed this late fee is not applicable to Masters.)
- **Master's National (SOD costs \$235.17):** This is for people who are competing in sanctioned races within Ontario and across Canada.
- **Master's Weekend (SOD costs \$176.67):** This is for racers who intend to only compete in one race all season e.g. the Ontario Championships. For the price, it may be worth it to just jump all in and get a Master's National card to allow you the option of skiing in more events.

**Note:** These fees have increased slightly this year as AOA has included a supplemental COVID-19 fee. FIS increased fees for Masters two seasons ago.

See AOA [division fee schedule](#) for SOD, NOD, NCD and LSDA; find your ACA number on [AlpinePoints.ca](#)

**FAQs:** Just getting back into racing and unsure of where to start? Or you've been racing for years, but still have questions about the masters system? Check out the Masters' [FAQ](#) page.

### Mark your calendars for ON races:

FRI, 21-Jan-22, GS & SL, [Mansfield Ski Club Masters' Cup](#)  
FRI, 04-Feb-22, SL x 2, [Mansfield Ski Club Masters' Slalomfest](#)  
FRI, 18-Feb-22, GS & SL, Sir Sam's, FRiday GS & SL Double Header \*  
TUE, 22-Feb-22, SL, Earl Bales Ski Centre, FR Night Slalom \*  
Super G Classic – TBA

ON Masters' Championships – TBA \*

\* Sanctioned event.

The Ottawa Masters' Ski Racing Club holds races Wednesday nights, from early January through to March, with the finals on 19 March 2022; for more information go to [OttawaMasters.ca](http://OttawaMasters.ca) for more information.

Refer to the full Masters' [National calendar](#), for 2021/22, including the [FIS Masters' Cup](#) and [Canadian Masters Alpine Championships](#) being held in Feb-22, in Stoneham QC.

**FIS Masters' Cup:** Ever heard your buddies talk about something after the fact and wished you were there? Stop wishing! Jump in with both skis and be the one to brag to them about how epic it was! For those of you who have never done this before, the FIS Masters Cup (FMC), being held in Stoneham QC for the second time, sounds way more intimidating than it is. Just ask those seasoned racers as LOADS of fun, with some very friendly people! Oh, and there's skiing! LOTS of skiing and good skiing! It's only as competitive as you want it to be! There are some skiers who wax at the top of the course, and then there are others (like me) who wax their skis only once and that's before the trip!

Also read Jaime Hugessen's [report](#) for the 2020 event, as well as [FIS 101 for Masters](#) authored by Mike Robbins, the most seasoned Canadian Master's FIS racer, Crystal Globe recipient and Canadian Alpine Masters' FIS Subcommittee member. The latter will explain how FIS points work, navigating the FIS website for results and rankings, how medals are awarded, etc.

The FMC (4 GS + 2 SL = 6 races) and CMAC (2 SG + GS + SL = 4 races) are being held from 8-13 February 2022. [Registration](#) is open with a deadline of 1-Feb-22 so don't delay! See the [race notice](#) for eligibility, card requirements, costs, event schedule, etc.

**Masters' training camps:**

Location	Schedule	Discipline	Registration	Contact
Mansfield Ski Club Mulmur ON	THU 09:30–12:00 13:00–14:30	GS & SL	<a href="http://www.canadaalpinemasters.org/">http://www.canadaalpinemasters.org/</a> 8 week program or pay as you play Maximum of 16 per day	Dave Walker <a href="mailto:dave@canadaalpinemasters.org">dave@canadaalpinemasters.org</a>
Earl Bales Ski Centre North York, Toronto	TUE & WED 19:00–21:00	SL	<a href="https://snowreq.com/#!/events/fr-2021-2022-earl-bales-sl-training-registration">https://snowreq.com/#!/events/fr-2021-2022-earl-bales-sl-training-registration</a>  6 week program or pay as you play	Victoria Fenninger <a href="http://www.fenningerracing.com/forms/16505-Contact-Us">http://www.fenningerracing.com/forms/16505-Contact-Us</a>
Blue Mountain ON	TUE 09:30-11:30 THU 09:30-11:30 FRI 08:45-15:00	GS SL GS & SL	<a href="https://www.bluemountain.ca/plan-your-trip/lessons/snow-school/race-programs/adult-race-training-ski-programs">https://www.bluemountain.ca/plan-your-trip/lessons/snow-school/race-programs/adult-race-training-ski-programs</a> 9 week program or pay as you play	Buy online or call 877-445-0231 to book
The Ontario Masters' Racing Club	Coming soon .....		Website: <a href="https://onmasrc.com/">https://onmasrc.com/</a> Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ONMASRC">https://www.facebook.com/ONMASRC</a>	Mitch McDermid <a href="mailto:training@onmasrc.com">training@onmasrc.com</a> ONMASRC Whatsapp +1 647-828-8927

**2022 Canadian Masters' Alpine Team & Alpine Ontario Masters' Team:** Due to the pandemic, there was no Masters' National Calendar for the 2021 season and therefore no CMAT or AOMT awarded for 2022. Therefore, I vote for ALL OF US (in our minds!)

Now, bring on the snow!!!!

**Shayna Gaunt | Ontario Masters' Representative**

## 2021/22 National Calendar & Committee

Sitting here in Southern Ontario, we have finally received our first few snowflakes of the season and the temperature has finally dipped enough for the snowmaking to begin. Just one resort open so far, but the rest are close it seems. The past 21 months have been challenging for everyone and I'm sure that, like me, you are all hoping there are no interruptions to the sport we love, during the upcoming season!

The [National Calendar](#) is shaping up nicely with confirmed races in AB, BC, ON and QC but stay tuned as we continue to add more races to the calendar! The [FIS Masters' Cup](#) (FMC) is returning in February 2022, to Stoneham QC, for a second time. This event will be held back-to-back with the FMC at Beaver Creek CO, USA. The [Canadian Masters' Alpine Championships](#) (CMAC) are again being held at the same time as the FMC.

As the incoming President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all past and [current National Committee](#) members for their dedication and commitment over the years, with a special mention to the following:

- **Lloyd Sevack** for serving as President from 2017 to 2020. Lloyd worked tirelessly over the years to promote, enhance and structure the Masters' program so that it is fair, equitable and foremost, fun. Now by design, every season, is a repeat of the prior season for the most part (excluding COVID-19) to give certainty to your race and travel planning. Lloyd continues to lend his knowledge and expertise in his new role as Past President & FIS Masters' Rep, for which I am most grateful.
- **Eric Giroux** for creating and maintaining our website from 2017 to 2021. A big THANK YOU for designing and structuring one of our most important sources of communication.
- **Wendy Furse, Patty Edgar** and **Jaime Hugessen** for developing the "Governance, Policies & Procedures" document which is in the final stages of proofing and soon to be published on our website. This was a huge undertaking and the final document will be a great resource for years to come.
- **Sharon Chadwick** was not challenged enough with her many roles on the Committee so she took on the responsibility of coordinating and prioritizing updates to our website and administering Constant Contact, our communication application. Sharon initiated a change in our hosting provider so our website is running a lot faster; obviously Sharon is working very closely with our new hosting provider for support and maintenance of our website. Besides publishing our newsletters through our website, Sharon is also doing minor edits e.g. loading race notices and results.
- **Pierre Bégin** for his dedication to detail in turning around translations so promptly.

And lastly, I would also like to extend a big welcome to **Shayna Gaunt** as the new Ontario Masters' Representative. Shayna and Sharon will share the role for this season, while Shayna learns the ropes, and then go it alone next season.

Let it snow! Let us go (racing)! And to COVID just say NO!

**Dave Nighswander | President**

## Early Bird Deadlines to Purchase 2021/22 National or FIS cards

### Calling all QC Masters:

The winter and ski races will soon be at our door and it's time to think about signing up for your Master's National card or Master's FIS card for the upcoming 2021/22 season.

**National Card | \$165 before 1-Dec-21 | \$172 on or after 1-Dec-21**

**FIS Card | \$214 before 1-Jan-22 | \$265 on or after 1-Jan-22**

In order to purchase either of these two cards, you will have to create an athlete's profile on the [SQA website](#). However, you do need to join a club (see below) before you can complete your profile.

Starting this season, in order to purchase a Master's National card or a Master's FIS card, you will first have to join one of the ski clubs in Quebec which have created a Masters' program approved by SQA.

At this time, only the Owl's Head Ski Club has received approval from SQA. You will be notified each time an additional ski club receives approval from SQA.

The [Owl's Head Ski Club](#) (OHSC) website has been updated with all the information on their two new Masters' programs being "Complete" and "Affiliated". The Masters' Affiliated program is aimed at Masters who live too far from Owl's Head to take advantage of any of the in-club training programs designed for Masters. Refer to [details](#) of both programs.

From the "**Programme**" drop down menu select "**U8 à U21 & Maitres**" and then expand the "**Maîtres Affiliés**" section. Masters applying for membership should then select the option at the bottom of the page "**Joindre le club**"; on the next page there are two places where you can select the option "**Étapes à suivre**". A new page will open showing the steps to follow in order to obtain approval to join the club. After you have been notified of your approval, you can then navigate back to this same page and choose the "**paiement des frais de pré-inscription ou inscription**" (cost \$175). Note: On most of the pages of the OHSC site, there is a specific section for the Masters' Affiliate program and for the Masters' Complete program.

Only after you have been confirmed as a member to the [Owl's Head Ski Club](#), can you then indicate in your SQA profile that you are now affiliated with OHSC. SQA will notify you by email that the process is complete and that you can proceed with the online purchase of your Master's National or FIS card, using the SQA website.

Note: The purchase of the Master's FIS card requires you to download the FIS Athlete Declaration Form and the optional, but strongly recommended, Medical Evaluation Form, from the [SQA website](#). After downloading, you can fill in, scan and upload these document(s) into your profile.

The approval of ski club membership and purchase of SQA race card, plus uploads to the ACA and FIS websites all take time, so you are encouraged to act quickly so that you will be able to register for your chosen races on time.

Not required as a condition for a Master's card purchase, but still highly recommended, is the purchase of ski racing accident insurance (including repatriation) for times when the athlete is racing OUTSIDE of Quebec. Masters can purchase insurance, such as the PAAS (SAIP) class 3 policy (Canada only) at a price of \$77.39 through [SQA](#).

For any questions concerning the SQA website, contact Anna Prchal on 514-252-3089, extension 3715, or at [sqa@skiquebec.qc.ca](mailto:sqa@skiquebec.qc.ca) (attention: Anna Prchal).

Please note that the Canadian Masters' Alpine Championships (CMAC) as well as six FIS Masters' Cup (FMC) races will be held from 8-13 February 2022, in Stoneham QC, and that a Master's National or Master's FIS or Master's Weekend card (sold by Stoneham race organization), is required to participate. Racers who do not care about FIS points can still enter any Stoneham race with only a Master's National or Weekend card. However, when you purchase your racer's card, we recommend you opt for a Master's FIS card over a Master's National card for the following reasons:

- For every Master's FIS card purchased, the Canadian Alpine Masters receive \$10 from ACA, but for every Master's National card purchased, only \$5 is received.
- At Stoneham, racers with a Master's FIS card start in each FIS race, in their age category, before racers holding a Master's National or Master's Weekend card.
- You will receive a certificate from FIS attesting to your world ranking in your age category after completing a minimum of six FIS Masters' calendar races during the season.

Ages 18-30: You must be 30 years or older on 31 December 2021 to obtain a Master's FIS card but only 18 to obtain a Master's National or Master's weekend card.

Racers who wish to participate in any Masters' FIS races outside of Canada require a FIS Masters card.

### **Lewis Heilig | Québec Masters' Representative**

## Outgoing President & Incoming President

### My Presidency:

Hope you and yours are all well and that you're all getting the jabs; hopefully that will allow this country and planet to slowly return to the normal we all yearn for!

As many of you know, I've been President since the 2017/18 season, so four years (if we include this last almost "non-year"), as well as having held various other Committee positions going back to 2005; first as Webmaster, then WC points, QC Rep and Eastern Canada Rep. Like everything, time moves on and I feel so must I.

I am proud of what I have accomplished, together with some very keen and effective Committee members, but I must pass the torch. I will obviously remain on the Committee as Past-President and if the Committee wishes, I will also take on the role of Canadian Alpine Masters' FIS Rep.

Your Masters' National Committee discussed my replacement, and fully endorsed the interest and experience of our Treasurer, Dave Nighswander. Dave served as President in 2012 and became Treasurer in 2017. Dave was on the AOA Board for two years and has been on the Southern Ontario Division Committee for the last two years. Dave is also a coach at Devil's Glen, where he has helped develop its adult race program, interest in it and adult racing in general. Dave is also CSCF Performance Level trained and CSIA level II certified.

Dave's experience on the Committee is also deep so we should all feel confident and excited as Dave steps into this new role, effective 1 July 2021.

### Open Committee Positions:

**Treasurer:** Dave becoming President obviously opens up the Committee position of Treasurer.

**PR Director:** The Committee has long sought a qualified and interested racer to take on this role. This is a great opportunity to have a positive impact on Masters' racing in Canada, from reaching out to media, organizations, clubs, etc, looking for opportunities to promote Masters' racing in Canada, and working closely with the Communications Director to help publicize same.

**Webmaster:** Eric Giroux has been on the Committee, in this position, since 2017 and would like to step down. We are therefore seeking an interested and qualified person to take this on. Ideally looking for a web developer, or at least someone with experience with web design and support using WordPress and PHP at times.

If anyone has an interest in joining the Committee to take on any of these roles or wants to know more detail about them, then please reach out to Dave at [david.nighswander@sympatico.ca](mailto:david.nighswander@sympatico.ca).

### Rules of Governance:

I hope you agree with me when I say that it is amazing what your Committee accomplishes, from organizing Masters' events across the country, (with the national calendar often consisting of more than 40 races), to influencing Masters' racing in Canada and the world, through FIS and rule change proposals, etc. It may (or may not be) surprising that we accomplish all this through nothing other than a balanced sense of responsibilities and common sense approach. Though these bases will continue, I am happy to report that a sub-committee was formed, over the winter, consisting of Wendy Fursey (current Past-President), Patty Edgar (Western Canada Director) and Jaime Hugessen (Eastern Canada Director), to create the first Masters' "Governance Policies & Procedures" document. This has been reviewed and revised several times with the input of the National Committee, which will find its home on our website, and Dave will share in an upcoming newsletter. Thank you Wendy, Patty & Jaime for all the work you have put into this!



### **FIS Masters in 2022:**

Due to Canada successfully hosting FMC races at Stoneham, QC, in 2020, CAN has again been awarded FMC races in 2022, to be held Feb 10-13. As was done in 2020, the Canadian Masters' Alpine Championships will be held at the same time, as well as coinciding with the 2022 Quebec Winter Carnival.

Also for the first time, these races will be held back-to-back with the US FMC races, being held the weekend before from Feb 4-6, 2022.

Current locations are:

CAN: Stoneham, QC

USA: Beaver Creek, CO

Being the first time both North American events are being held back-to-back, we expect this to bolster overseas participation, during which 10 races can be achieved in as many days, so mark your calendars!

### **Uniforms:**

You likely received several emails and/or seen the Canadian Alpine Masters' Facebook posts regarding new Masters' uniforms, with an order deadline of May 9th. You snooze, you lose...except for the 23 Masters that placed their orders in time. Watch for them sporting their new swag towards the end of the year. Thank you Victoria & Marianne Fenninger for all your hard work designing, sourcing, announcing, receiving orders and fulfilling to these Masters!

Enjoy your summer, stay safe, stay active and looking forward to seeing many of you on the hills at the end of this tunnel and the coming winter!

**Lloyd Sevack** | President

## **Masters 2022 uniforms order by 9 May – no extensions!**

**Masters' uniforms available for 2022 with order deadline of Sunday midnight, 9 May 2021!  
NO extensions!**

We are pleased to offer a new **race suit, soft shell jacket, outer jacket** and **full zip pants** for the 2022 season; ladies sizing is available for both jackets and pants.

All items are produced by BeyondX, in the same factory as Spyder, being the same company that produced the WWMG soft shells and previous Masters' race suits. BeyondX makes custom uniforms for a number of National teams and everything I have seen is of excellent quality. Some of you may recall the long jackets they donated for the silent auction at Nationals a few years ago; they are beautifully made with attention to detail and made from durable fabrics.

Moving forward we will only be placing orders every 3 seasons and that means our next uniform order will be in 2024, for the 2024/2025 season, so don't delay in ordering!

All items are produced with high quality fabrics and excellent durability; click [here](#) to place your order.

To ensure you receive your uniform by December 2021, you **MUST** place your order by midnight Sunday, 9 May 2021, with no exceptions!

If you have any questions about ordering, please contact Marianne Fenninger on [marianne.fenninger@gmail.com](mailto:marianne.fenninger@gmail.com)

**Victoria Fenninger | Promotions & Fundraising Director**

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If you have any questions about ordering, please contact Marianne Fenninger on [marianne.fenninger@gmail.com](mailto:marianne.fenninger@gmail.com)

**Victoria Fenninger | Promotions & Fundraising Director**

## Welcome to Alberta Masters' Ski Club 2021 Online Auction

The [Online Auction](#) ends 27 March 2021 at 8 pm Mountain Daylight Time / 10 pm Eastern Daylight Time

**Dedicated to promoting, supporting and participating in the lifelong sport of ski racing.**

The Alberta Masters' Ski Club is a group of passionate skiers who ski in a semi-structured environment with goals of improving ski technique and racing skills using a combination of technical free skiing and gate training sessions. The foundation of the group is a social and supportive environment where encouragement and active participation rule. Many members compete in various race competitions designed for or open to Masters' athletes.

Please look at the silent auction items or donation options available to help us raise funds for team equipment for our amazing athletes and our vibrant sport!

How to bid and donate:

- Use the top-left menu to view [Silent Auction Items](#) access My Bids or [Make a Donation](#)
- To bid, select an item, enter your amount and then click 'Place Bid'. Use the 'Max Bid' function and the system will bid for you up to the amount entered.
- Register your details and then 'Confirm Your Bid'.
- Receive outbid text notifications and bid again!

Winning bidders may pick up their items on Monday, 29- Mar-21 at Winsport/Canada Olympic Park from 4 – 6 pm or Saturday, 3-Apr-21 at Nakiska from 3 – 4 pm. Look for us at Nakiska near the base of the Olympic Chair under the Alberta Masters' tent.

Please note that for physical items requiring shipment, the bid winner will incur a shipping fee.

If you have any questions please refer to the [FAQs](#).

**For any issues, contact Irene Collins on [irenecollins@telus.net](mailto:irenecollins@telus.net)**

A huge thanks to all donors who contributed to this auction!

**Andrew Dawson**

**Alberta Masters' Ski Club**

## Tribute to Grace Oaks (8-Apr-1934 to 23-Jan-2021)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of “Amazing Grace” Oaks on Saturday, 23 January 2021, in Vancouver, after a short battle with cancer. Grace was a force to be reckoned with when it came to Masters’ racing that she took up later in life, when a member at Toronto Ski Club located on the north end of Blue Mountain. Grace was “Champion of Champions” in 2004 being the inauguration year of this award. Grace attained CMAT in 2005, 2006 and 2015. Grace often competed in the US with impressive [results](#) at the US Nationals. Grace also appeared in the documentary film “Ski Legends” produced in 2019 that is available on Amazon Prime.

### **Danielle Oaks (daughter) | ON**

My mom, Elsie Grace Oaks, died yesterday, peacefully in her sleep at the North Shore Hospice in Vancouver. She was 86. She was an inspiration to many, a great athlete and competitor. She was even a movie star!

A sister, sister-in-law, aunt, cousin, mother-in-law and Grandma, she was a wonderful mother and for all of us, a generous friend.

Mom wants a Celebration of Life in the West and one in the East when we can all gather again.

I am grateful to the Lions Gate Hospital and North Shore Hospice, in Vancouver, where mom received her final care. They were so respectful, compassionate and professional.

For those of you who knew about mom’s sudden hospitalization and sent messages, please know that she received them all, including the one about a certain Blue Jays acquisition and a fly-by over Whistler!

If you ski – have a run in her honour, and go fast.

If you bike – do a leg-burner like she did six times last summer on the Scenic Caves Road.

If you golf – hit a drive straight and true, she’ll be envious!

I know you will think of her and will never forget her. How could you?

She was Amazing Grace.

### **Mike Robbins | Osler Bluff Ski Club ON**

Grace showed us all how to stay active (and healthy) right until the end. She will be sorely missed in the alpine Masters’ community.

### **Judi Sheppard | Osler Bluff Ski Club ON**

*“I don’t believe in age*

*I believe in energy*

*Don’t let age dictate what you can do and cannot do.”*

Toa Porchon-Lymch

This could have been written by Grace. She was the poster child for “age is just a number.” I first met Grace in the 1980s, clad in a downhill suit, when most Masters’ racers were racing in sweaters and Schneider Hosen. From our first meeting, she was a huge inspiration for me and all Masters’ ski racers.

Little did I know that our friendship would last for over 35 years and we would go on many memorable journeys together. She made every day count...every hour count. She lived life to the fullest. She had boundless energy and determination. I never saw her tired or heard her complain.

We all know about her passion for skiing and ski racing, golf and cycling. But, she never stopped trying new sports. This past summer, she was starting to play pickle ball and had taken up stand-up paddle board.

She did a monthly ride up the Scenic Caves Road. In September, – instead of heading home – she cycled into Town to tell me she had “done September.” Wow! Most of us would have gone home and taken a hot bath!

She was a wonderful hostess and loved to cook. During Covid, she managed to hold a scaled down version of her annual BBQ; a hot event on the Collingwood social calendar.

As we were both on our own during Covid, we spent a lot of time together this past summer in our gardens (social distancing) moving plants around and pruning shrubs. Grace had a chain saw, which she wielded with great vigor and enthusiasm.

She was an avid reader and kept a journal of the books she had read. For several years, she read books only in French to keep up her French. I suggested she read “Alias Grace” but before I could send her a copy, she announced she had found a copy and had read it.

She was charitable by nature and very generous to her family and friends. She was a volunteer for many events, including theatre and other special events and, weekly, at the hospital in Collingwood.

Grace inspired me to push my limits: rollerblading, training slalom on asphalt; the Peak to Valley race; Canadian Masters’ Champs, USA Masters’ Champs and International Masters’ Champs. We did the Ride to Conquer Cancer together and shared a tent on a soggy football field. Wonderful memories!

Thank you, Grace. We “believe in energy”. Age is, after all, just a number.

Grace was a legend in her own time and we celebrate the life of this remarkable woman. She truly was Amazing Grace.

### **Lou Fenninger | Fenninger Racing ON**

Our great friend “Amazing Grace” Oaks passed away on Saturday, 23 January 2021, at 4 pm PST, in Vancouver, with her daughter at her side. She left us with lots of love and great memories. We think of her friendship enthusiasm and generosity. Her love of skiing and competition was epic. We will miss you dearly but remember all the great times we had. Thank you Gracie RIP.

Grace was a great friend to all. Always ready to help her friends at races, no matter whether they were her competition or not. She was kind and not boastful. Grace would ski anything!

She loved to put people (mainly men) in their place by skiing Peak to Creek non-stop...and fast! She won more races than anyone I know, by a lot!! Male or female. She has her name on the Whistler Peak to Valley trophy more than anyone else! She also tuned her own skis better than most! She trained hard and constantly. Always looking to get better.

In her 80s she won the hula hoop contest at Dusty’s; not an easy feat for anyone, at any age!!

At my first national race at Whistler, I didn’t know anyone; I was sitting alone and she came over to where I was and introduced me to the gang of local racers. It made my day!

### **Denyse Houde | International Masters Academy ON**

In 1984, Grace joined the Toronto Ski Club to learn to race; the 50 year old ski instructor quickly became “Amazing Grace, the strong Master’s Racer”.

Grace and I met during house league training and raced on the TSC Interclub team for many years. Being 10 years her junior, I was impressed with her performance and wanted to be just like her when I grew up.

We became long-term traveling partners with our first out-of-province competition being the Canadian Masters’ Championships (Whistler 1986). Then we added international racing to our itinerary (US Nationals: Mammoth Mountain 1987) and moved up to the FIS Masters’ Cup level (Sun Valley ID 1988 and Val Zoldana ITA 1989). Like the Energizer Bunny, Grace kept on going... and going... and winning podiums on the Grey Circuit. She earned her last FIS Masters’ Cup gold medals at Big Sky MT in March 2018.

Grace was a natural athlete who continued to exude self-confidence, discipline and energy to do her best in every sport she undertook. Many skiers, cyclists and golfers will miss her.

### **Jules Lajoie | BC Masters’ Rep**

Our dear Grace Oaks, known to many Canadian Masters, passed away around 4 pm PST, January 23, after a short battle with cancer. Her daughter Danielle was with her. Grace had started the ski season in Whistler but soon came down with symptoms that were diagnosed around mid-December. Grace was an icon in Whistler and loved by everyone. It won’t be the same at our races not seeing her first out of the start gate, always pushing as hard as she could. I was very impressed how she always strived to improve her technique in our training sessions and she was achieving that. Grace will be sorely missed.

### **Randall Carpenter | Whistler BC**

I first met Grace in the eighties. I was learning to ski and she decided I could do it faster by racing. We fit together well – our dynamics driven by this amazing woman’s encouragement and enthusiasm for just about everything!

We raced the local hills in Ontario together and I loved meeting all the Masters’ skiers Grace introduced me to – she was already a local legend. Grace thought we needed longer runs so why not start with the US Nationals in Breckenridge? Travel was simpler then but we complicated it as much as possible with 5 pairs of skis each and our Canadian style – we both liked to dress up and dance. Grace was known to have climbed up on a few bar tables after some beers, never missing a step or a turn as she conquered a slalom, never showing any fear on a downhill run and just enjoyed getting older as long as it meant a better start number!

Park City, Mammoth, Jackson Hole, Big Sky, we loved the venues and of course US Masters’ enthusiasm. Along the way I had a few knees go but Grace was never injured and usually won her age category. We travelled well, looked out for one another and formed a team for Whistler’s famous 200 gate Peak to Valley, defying logic by fielding a team of 3 women. Grace and I anchored but with Bonnie Weigele or Sandy Hogan as the 3rd woman (the lone male always added with much discussion about what fast guy could we get that wouldn’t screw up) – sometimes being fast and finishing doesn’t always connect with them – we were “Babes with Age” and for some years the oldest, fastest team on the mountain! At least the only team anchored by three fast older women!

I will never forget Grace, her black and white outfits matched her attitude – you won or you lost, always reminding me, winning isn’t everything, but losing sure sucks. We have lost one of the great ones.

### **[Photo Gallery](#)**