



“There were some years when people really doubted that we could pull it off – like it was really cold, or we had minimal snow, and there was one year when we had a rain and ice storm right beforehand – but we went ahead and did it anyway,” she recalls. “So you can have a fun day with a group of people like that, no matter what the conditions are. So that to me is a highlight, that everyone still gets it done.”

Since those formative years when Ann and Pam were first organizing Women on Skis, many brave and hard-working gals have taken over the reigns to ensure this popular event continues.

One of these, Jane McDonald, who organized the event in the late 1990s with Lynn Martin and Kathy Dyer, also remembers the year when the event went on despite rather icy ski conditions.

“We still had it because women see it as their day away,” Jane says. “They want the fashion show and the door prizes and, I think, just the camaraderie of being with other women.”

Last year at Women on Skis, the club’s rental skis were getting a workout from beginners getting a feel for the sport.

“It’s a great way for us to get new members, because a lot of people don’t want that initial outlay for equipment, if they’re not sure whether they want to take up cross country skiing,” she explains. “So Women on Skis gives them instruction, they enjoy the day, and then decide. Usually people get pretty turned on about becoming a member and coming back out to ski. So it’s a win-win for us.”

For Jane, a former organizer who is now employed as a burrow attendant, simply watching everyone involved in the daylong flurry of activity, is always a highlight.

“People are just up,” she says. “It’s a really happy day, and just the fact that every year we sell out and have a waiting list tells you how much people look forward to it.”

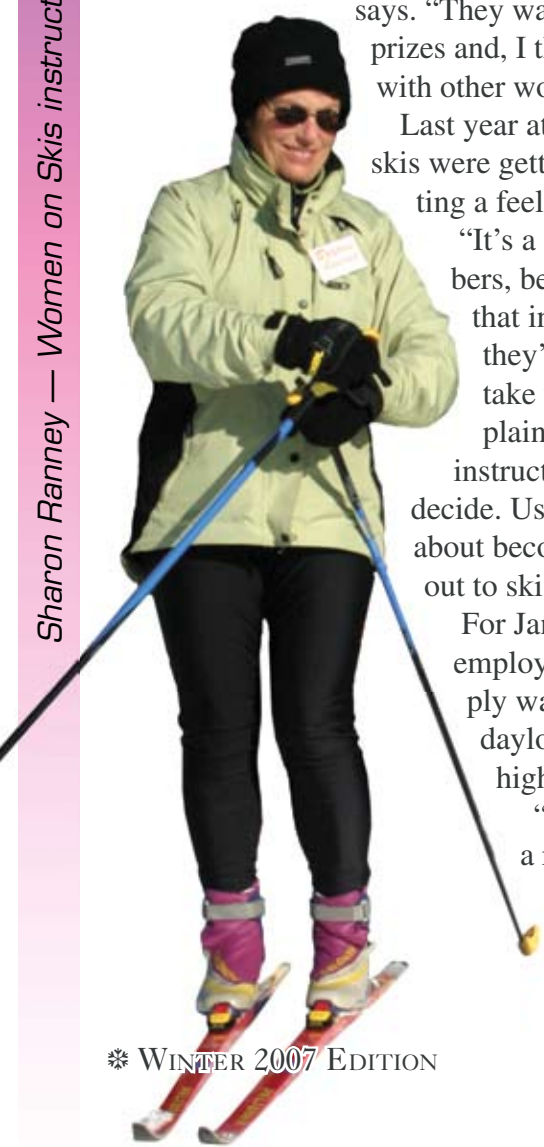
The event is capped at between

45 and 50 participants due to limited space in the burrow. Women on Skis attracts not only club members but their friends, relatives, visitors from other clubs, and area cottagers. While some are beginners breaking in new skis, others are seasoned competitors hoping to pick up a few tips at the advanced level and meet others who share their love for the sport.

Diane Bezdikian, a Horseshoe Lake cottager who lives in Cookstown has attended two Women on Skis days.

“It’s nice to meet people in the community where I live part-time, and it’s nice to have an environment where you can learn new skills

Sharon Ranney — Women on Skis instructor



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