

# Your Impact

## Second Tracks Program

### Highlights from the inaugural season!

Encouraging kids to stay active can be challenging, especially during the winter months. One of the biggest barriers to getting children involved in winter sports is the cost. The **Second Tracks** program made skiing and snowboarding accessible to kids while giving them the opportunity to stay active, learn new skills, and connect with others in the community.

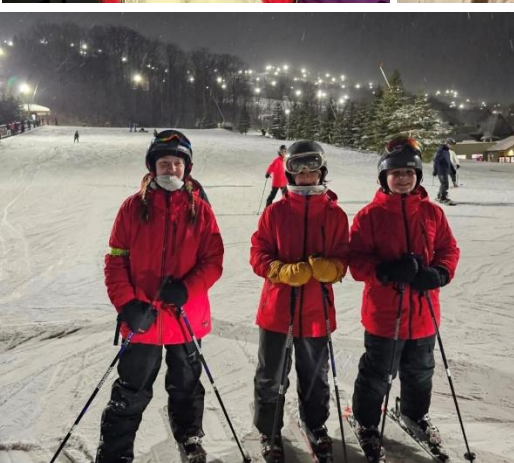
Thanks to the generosity of our community, this program has thrived. Donations poured in, including essential winter gear like ski jackets, snow pants, mitts, ski boots, skis, and snowboards. The **Collingwood Blues** provided a bus to transport the kids to the slopes, while **Swany Canada** contributed 100 pairs of gloves, and **Sunice Canada** donated winter snowsuits. **Twoseven Social Media** also played a key role by creating outstanding content to showcase the program and its impact.



96  
participants  
over 8 weeks

Over 40  
volunteers

## Thank you!



We received **\$34,375**  
from **16 donors**

We received ski equipment  
worth over **\$8,125**

Blue Mountain contributed  
**\$34,800** worth of lift tickets  
and rentals

### Thank you to our amazing partners!

- North Shore Ltd.
- Blue Mountain Resort
- Rossignol Group
- Later Pizza
- Swany Canada
- Twoseven Social Media
- Sunice Canada
- Landmark Busses
- Skis & Bikes
- Collingwood Blues Bus

# Ben's Story

Ben recently celebrated his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. He is currently attending 10<sup>th</sup> grade in Collingwood, and this winter he was one of the participants in our Second Tracks Program.

"I've previously had a gym membership at the Y but I haven't had much experience with it beyond that," said Ben. "A counsellor at my school posted about this program and my mom then sent it to me; it was just what I was looking for."

This was Ben's first-time skiing or taking part in any winter sport. "Once you figure it out and start to go on the hills, it's thrilling. Even though it can be pretty scary at times, it's thrilling and exciting. After every time you go down, you just want to go back up and go again."

"Everyone who was part of Second Tracks was really friendly; I also had a few friends who were in the program. Overall, it was an inviting and welcoming experience, and all the volunteers were so nice. The instructor I got placed with for the sessions was really good and he was great at teaching us; he wasn't afraid of pushing us out of our comfort zone. It was a good way of encouraging us and to get us to be more comfortable."

Ben's dad, Adam said, "I felt very fortunate for us to have this opportunity." "I was very touched during the kickoff meeting when I learned that the whole program is volunteer and donation based, from the bus, to the food, to people giving up their time on a Sunday in the cold. It was very touching. We are a family that without the Second Tracks program don't have the capacity to expose ourselves to winter sports."



Adam then said, "Ben has gone up there with his friends now a couple of times and he really enjoys it. This program was a gateway to something we probably wouldn't have been able to afford. We wouldn't have the opportunity to try this if it wasn't for Second Tracks. We really really appreciate it."

Second Tracks exposed Ben to a new and exciting sport towards which he now feels passionate. It gave him the opportunity to explore an activity which was previously inaccessible. "This program made me really interested in skiing and next year I'm going to get a pass and go up," said Ben.

"Thanks to this program, I'm also motivated to train and tryout for the Collingwood ski team next year."



Thank you so much for helping me learn how to ski. I had so much fun

Thank you so much for the opportunity! I have learned so much, and I have had a lot of fun! Thank you for the pizza and the bus. Thank you for the equipment and coaching.

To: Blue Mountain

Thank you so much for the opportunity to go snowboarding. I had a lot of fun and really hope I can do this again next year.

Thank you for this opportunity to snowboard

Thank you everyone, for letting me experience a new sport I've never tried and teaching me how to do it. Snowboarding is probably my favourite winter sport now. I'll hopefully get more confident with the steepest learning new tricks.

Thank you bus driver for getting us to and from blue mountain

Thank you very much for opportunity to learn how to ski.

Thank you all for your help and kindness teaching each of us how to ski and snowboard. Your help will be thanked & remembered for years to come! See you next year on the hill.

To all the Volunteers instructors Staff, drivers and People who Provided Food!

Thank you so much! This has been an amazing experience. I am really excited to continue with this sport, I probably wouldn't have been able to do this without this program!

Thank you to everyone who helped. Skiing was very fun. Also thank you to John for helping me learn how to ski and get back up when I fell!

Dear Volunteers,

Thank you so much for helping us learn and get better at skiing/snowboarding. This has been an amazing experience!

# Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped us learn to Snowboard! What a great help everyone was. This was a fantastic opportunity for the youth in our community. Cheers!

Thanks to the staff and members for this chance



THANK YOU FOR DRIVING US SAFELY TO BLUE ☺

To: John Mealey

Thank you so much for the opportunity to snowboard. I had a lot of fun and hope to do it again next year.

Thank you to all volunteers for this amazing program.



Thank you so much Second Tracks!

Ever since I moved to Canada about 4 years and a half ago, it has been a dream to go skiing. For me, but my family wasn't able to afford it. Thank you Second Tracks for all the donations, good helpers and most importantly, making my dream come true!

Thank you blue mountain instructors for giving us your time. We are extremely grateful you guys helped to make this possible

Thank you for the best 4 weeks!

Thank you for helping us improve at skiing and for giving us this opportunity. I am very thankful

Thank you for your generosity and kindness all give us the amazing opportunity to explore a new sport. So thank you!

To the Blue Mountain crew,

Thank you for taking the time for teaching me (as cool as many others) how to ski. I look forward to take what I've learnt and applying them to future ski trips! Thank you for this amazing experience!

See you on the slopes!!!

To: The Volunteers

Thank you for helping us out! I learnt how to properly snowboard and I will continue snowboarding for as long as I can. Thanks again.

Thank you John

Thank you So Much Everyone for helping us! I really appreciate it!

Thank you all for everything!

This was a lovely opportunity for all of us and we could not have done it without you guys!

It's really been a fun time, and a really good experience. Thank you so much for everything!

you're the best!

Thank you for teaching me a skill I will have for the rest of my life. Very grateful, couldn't have been accomplished without any of you!

Thank you, everyone!

It's a great programme, and I finally learnt to ski! Thanks to you all.

I hope to come on Blue often see that beautiful view, and improve more.

Have a great day and good skiing! ☺

Dear, Interpizza

I want to thank you guys for the pizza! Without you the program wouldn't be as great! I loved the pizza especially the pepperoni! Thank you so much making the program better!

Thank you for helping me with snowboard

Dear volunteers, and bus driver,

Thank you for volunteering! I'm really grateful for you guys volunteering and giving me the chance to experience skiing. So thank you so much! I think this program was amazing and I hope it continues.

Thank you for the great time I had teaching me how to snowboard.

Thank you so much for all of this the lessons and the equipment I will definitely be back on the hill.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity again. I never thought I would get to ski!