

Grant Hall was one of those volunteers who every club needs and wants. Grant started volunteering at Lappe Nordic Ski Club in the early 2000s. Grant's wife Judy was a Jackrabbit Leader and their 2 daughters Katherine and Jennifer skied in the Jackrabbit program at the club. Grant jumped in when his older daughter started becoming more serious about racing. The club coach told Grant "the club needs help with organizing". Grant jumped in with both feet in all aspects of helping the club. From brushing and clearing the trails in the summer and fall; putting down sawdust; setting up stadium; and developing courses, design and set up; building storage sheds; setting up wax trailers and more. Grant was a regular on the start line joking with young kids and masters alike. He has started multiple generations of kids at Lappe. During this time, Grant completed his Level 1 & 2 Officials. In 2005, the Hall Family was awarded the Diehard Award, given to a volunteer who embodies the penultimate volunteer in all areas of cross country skiing. That was also the year that Lappe Nordic Ski Club was awarded the hosting of the 2006 Ski Nationals. Grant immediately volunteered to be Assistant Chief of Competition, and started assembling some of the best race organizers in the country. The Lappe Standard, a term coined by the ski community about racing at Lappe, became Grant's mantra with respect to every race at the Lappe Ski Centre. In 2009, Grant completed his Level 3 Officials course. Grant has been involved in every race at Lappe since the early 2000s. He occasionally would miss a club race in the fall when he would go to camp instead.

Grant was one of a kind. He would work the hardest and longest of anyone at a race, pitching in wherever he was needed. In 2009, Lappe was hosting an Ontario Cup. Snow in mid-December is almost a given at that time of year. Unfortunately, that year, Lappe was short on snow. Just enough to hold a race if everyone pitched in. Grant and many other volunteers shoveled every flake of snow they could find to ensure Lappe could host a race. That effort was again displayed in 2013 when the club hosted the World Jr/U23 Trials in January. A herculean community effort farmed snow from all trails not in use for the race. He had a unique way of working with people that made everyone around him want to work harder. His respect was earned by showing up and working hard to make the best experience for the athlete.

Grant also gave back to the ski community in Thunder Bay. In 2020, the City of Thunder Bay hosted the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games. Cross country skiing was a sport and Grant once again assembled a crew to showcase cross country skiing in Thunder Bay at the host venue Kamview Nordic Centre.

While Grant volunteered at Lappe, he also volunteered to help support the Lappe Nordic race team. He would often drive the team to races; provide wax support; and cook team meals at multiple Ontario Cups and National Championships. In addition, he regularly supported fundraisers generously and quietly.

Grant also loved skiing. He was a regular on the Lappe KM Board where club members log their KMs skied at Lappe.

Sadly, Grant passed away in Dec of 2021 while skiing the trails at Lappe, the place he loved so much.