

SOD is proud to honour Dwayne Barber with the XCSO 2024 “Volunteer of the Year” Award.

Dwayne Barber is being honored for his long-term commitment to promoting cross country skiing in Ontario. Dwayne started his cross country ski volunteering with Team Hardwood where his analytical experience quickly saw him take on the role of head wax technician. While Dwayne initially volunteered to help support his children in their racing careers he also volunteered to help wax at races where his children were not racing, such as the Ontario Youth Championships in 2019. This is just one of many good examples of his selfless approach to volunteering.

Dwayne's strong leadership skills led him to being asked to join the Board at SOD where he assumed the role of Chairperson in 2018. Dwayne led SOD through the challenging COVID years which saw a dramatic rise in ski membership coupled with countless challenges in race organization. After spending 4 years leading SOD Dwayne moved on to become chair of XCSO. Recently, Dwayne has also participated in Officials training to broaden his knowledge and experience while also giving even more to support skiing.

On a personal level, I've known Dwayne since around 2015. I've waxed countless skis with Dwayne, I've skied with him, and participated in numerous board meetings with him. I've always found him to be a very positive person; enthusiastic, quick with a joke or to laugh, and a tireless supporter of skiing at all levels. His music playlists in the wax room were always as high-quality as the skis that he would put out for the racers. His enthusiasm for the sport coupled with his leadership has had a positive impact on skiing in Ontario and we are grateful for his contribution.

Shawn Marshall
Chair - SOD