

# THE FALL LINE



# 2026

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## CAROLINA LAPTEV ADDS MEMBER OF THE YEAR

I am 24 years old, originally from Toronto, and currently reside in Etobicoke with my parents. My educational background includes graduating from Michael Power Secondary School followed by completing the two-year Community Integration through Continuing Education (CICE) program at Mohawk College. Presently, I dedicate my time to volunteering at Global Medic and The Regent, a community theatre located near our cottage in Picton. During the summer, I also contribute as a volunteer at the Bath Canada Day festival.

In addition to volunteering, I benefit from the support of my peer mentor, Maria Turano, with whom I participate in various activities such as walks, dining

out, attending concerts and movies, and social gatherings including girls' weekends and parties. I also work with my autism coach, Taryn, engaging in sports like pickleball and ping pong. I am an active member of the Special Olympics basketball team, the Etobicoke Stingers, and participate in Bust a Move Dance on weekends.

I began skiing at the age of ten, initially under the guidance of my parents. My father would assist me while skiing behind me, and I later benefited from individual ski lessons during my youth. Subsequently, my parents enrolled me in the Evolve ski program for children with autism, where I skied at Mt Saint Louis and found the experience



very enriching. I continued to develop my skills with Track3 over three years at Craighleith in Collingwood every Sunday until the onset of the pandemic. Last year marked my first season with ADDS, and I thoroughly enjoyed skiing at Caledon. I am now looking forward to my second year with ADDS at Mansfield.

Due to challenges with balance and turning, I require additional assistance to

understand and execute the movements necessary for skiing. Anxiety surrounding falls and using the chair lift can also be a concern, so encouragement is greatly appreciated.

During my time with ADDS last year, I had the privilege of working with outstanding instructors, including Ross, Jhann, Mankit, Angie, Thomas, and Cierra. Their support was invaluable, and I really

appreciated the opportunity to connect with fellow participants and learn about their experiences. Sharing lunch and conversations in the lodge fostered a sense of community.

With the collective support of the ADDS team, I made significant progress in my skiing abilities. I am proud of achievements such as mastering the chair lift, maintaining early morning discipline, managing equipment patiently, and skiing in inclement weather. These accomplishments have reinforced my self-confidence and resilience. Furthermore, I value the camaraderie experienced through post-ski gatherings over hot chocolate and treats.

I wish to express my gratitude to ADDS for their warm welcome and for rekindling my passion for skiing.

## A Message from the President

With much of the sun-soaked Autumn in the rear view mirror it's time once again to look forward to another winter on the slopes. The 2026 ski season will take place on Sundays from January to March at Mansfield Ski Club. I want to take this opportunity to express my endless gratitude to the management, staff and members at MSC for giving us the opportunity to continue our decades long relationship with the club. We look forward to working, and growing with you. My sincere thanks to your commitment and support of adaptive snowsports.

With the new season there are a couple of changes to the ADDS Board of Directors. Effective immediately I will be stepping away from my role as President, handing over the reins to Julien Laveau. Julien began his journey with ADDS in 1997 as a high school student seeking community

service hours. Throughout the years he has taken on many key roles with our organization including being a senior member and advisor to our sit-ski crew, building solid relationships with our host ski hills and our membership, fundraising, and taking on leadership roles on both the operational and strategic sides of ADDS. I'm confident that our club will continue to grow and prosper under Julien's leadership. I will continue to support the Board as VP of Operations. Please join me in congratulating Julien on his new role.

As many of you know, we are the first and only adaptive ski club in Canada that caters uniquely to disabled participants nineteen years of age and older; a demographic that all too often falls through the cracks as it pertains to adaptive sport and organized opportunities for physical and

social recreation. For many, this will be the only such opportunity in the coming months. My sincere thanks to our supporters both on and off the hill.

As we are an organization solely comprised of volunteer staff and individual donors, if you or someone you know is interested in helping out in a financial or volunteer capacity, please visit our Canada Helps page at [canadahelps.org/en/dn/18660](https://canadahelps.org/en/dn/18660) or contact me directly at [ski.adds@cadstontario.ca](mailto:ski.adds@cadstontario.ca)

Best wishes to you and yours. See you on the slopes!

Gabor Takacs  
VP of Operations,  
Adult Disabled Downhill Skiing (ADDS)