Sunday January 15, 2017, FIS’s World Snow Day saw the Snow Gods smiling down on Swift Current. The Swift Current Nordic Ski Club, along with the SouthWest Newcomers Centre presented “Embrace Winter”, our first World Snow Day event. We had spent the previous weeks crossing fingers hoping we’d have enough snow to ski on. The week before we received a lovely dump of snow and club members were able to get out and set the trails, just in time for the temperature to drop to -35’C, with a strong wind causing whiteout conditions all over the area. We then found ourselves wondering if the temperature would rise to a comfortable level and people would join us.

January 15th came and the sun was shining, and the temperature warmed up to about -5’C, as members of the Swift Current Nordic Ski Club organized equipment from 4 organizations; Cross Country Saskatchewan, Maverick and Hodgeville Schools, of Chinook School Division #211, as well as equipment the SCNSC owns.

Excitement for *Embrace Winter* was evident as our guests starting to arrive before our scheduled start time, before the ski gear was fully organized, or even waxed, but we had folks out on the trails while we continued the get ready. It was a busy afternoon, and only a few members were able to get out for much of a ski, checking in with our newcomers and other visitors, who all had huge smiles on their faces. Some of the younger skiers didn’t want to stop, they would ski to the golf clubhouse, have a snack and head back out on the trails.

With so many people, ranging in all ages from toddlers to seniors, we quickly ran out of ski gear, snowshoes. While people waited for equipment they sat by the fire, had hot chocolate and, while supplies lasted, hot dogs, which we had to resupply twice.

As the sun started to go down, and the last guests left, we estimated about 120 people came out to enjoy a lovely ski around parts of the Chinook golf course.

It was great working with the Southwest Newcomers Welcome Centre and we are looking forward to World Snow Day 2018.