



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
2015/16 Annual Report

June 6, 2016

## President's Report

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### John Stephenson, President

The winter of 2015/16 was one of the mildest winters on record with good snowfalls. The conditions provided for good skiing that began early and lasted well into April. The new trail lights installed by Northlands Utilities provide dependable lighting all night with no maintenance for volunteers. The lights are essential for training programs and evening recreational skiing. A big thanks to Northlands and to past president Tim Mercer for initiating this relationship several years ago.

The Yellowknife Ski Club provided continued high level programs for Bunnyrabbits, Jackrabbits, Track Attack, High Performance, Go Ski and Biathlon programs. Programs for children are the heart and future of any sport and the Yellowknife Ski Club continues to serve its membership well with high quality programs. The success of our programs is the result of the calibre of coaches. Coaches train for, certify and upgrade their coaching certification, prepare lesson plans, train and provide skill development to athletes, assist with trips, fundraising, equipment selection and waxing. Coaches mentor athletes and each other to help build strong athlete development through the various levels.

Our events provide an opportunity for competition, socializing and introduction to the sport. We provided a full calendar of events starting with the November Snow Show until the end of year Ski Duathlon and BBQ in April. We continued our cooperative relationship with the Multisport Club to offer the Frostbite 50 (formerly Frostbite 45). The Northwest Yellowknife Ski Loppet is our longest running event and was delivered once again this past April. We added a series of family ski potlucks organized by Kerry Wheler and continued our cooperative relationship with the City of Yk and other organizations to offer once again the World Snow Day on January 17. Thanks to loaner equipment from Ecole JH Sissons we provide an introduction to skiing and snowshoeing each year. Other World Snow Day activities at other locations include fat tire bike rides, quincy building and snowmobile rides

Canada Winter Games 2023 was a potential opportunity for the NWT. As President and in other capacities, I participated in numerous forums to provide advice and assistance to the Yellowknife Ski Club, the NWT Ski Division and the City of Yellowknife on this opportunity. After significant review and deliberation, the Yellowknife City Council decided not to host the Games in 2023. Arctic Winter Games 2018 will be held in the South Slave. It will likely be decades before Yellowknife is host to a multisport winter games event.

Our trails and chalet are well used by school groups. Each year hundreds of students get a chance to experience the outdoors and activities through programs such as the long standing Camp de Neige at Ecole JH Sissons.

Our chalet provides an excellent venue for meetings, parties and weddings. Thanks to the City for providing the booking service for the chalet.

Recognition of our athletes and volunteers is appreciated including the annual Blachford Lake Lodge Spirit Award for Jackrabbits, Ron Seale Award for a Jackrabbit Coach, annual volunteer and corporate awards, Sport North Awards and the new Athletes Hall of Fame at Ecole Sir John Franklin High School.

The board of directors meet monthly to coordinate the activities and responsibilities for managing our facility. Collectively we manage the largest volunteer based recreation facility in Northern Canada. Directors work with teams of volunteers to coordinate their specific responsibilities. I serve as a director on the NWT Ski Division which is a Territorial Sport Organization and member of Cross Country Canada. In addition to our core responsibilities we are often faced with land use considerations with the City, requests from other organizations for use of our site and a myriad of other issues.

Under our bylaws, the terms of presidents are limited to three consecutive terms. This past year is my third year in this role. I have appreciated the opportunity to provide this service and greatly appreciate the support of the Board, program coordinators, volunteers and coaches. Thanks especially to all the people that keep coming to ski on our trails.

## **Trails Report**

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**Chris Joseph, Director of Trails**

### **Pre-Season Trail Maintenance**

Over the summer, Brian Latham (Summer Trail Maintenance Coordinator) and fellow volunteers Danny Enright, Bob Gamble and Brian Render carried out numerous trail maintenance and improvement tasks, including replacing trail and chalet signs, working in the biathlon area and repaired/maintained equipment. Overall, they contributed over 120 hours of labour to help ensure a safe and enjoyable facility for our members. Their time and effort is greatly appreciated!

In the fall, about 15 volunteers contributed about 100 person-hours to complete brush cutting work on all the ski trails. This crucial work prepares the trails for grooming and skiing. Thanks to all who worked shifts! A special thanks to Jill Vaydik who worked by far the greatest number of shifts this past fall.

### **Lights**

Northland Utilities has now completed the third of three planned phases of the trail light installation. Construction crews were at the club several times this past summer to install the last six poles and lights. They had a bit of a struggle due to some permafrost, but were ultimately successful. The lights use LEDs rather than traditional bulbs and are on the same schedule as streetlights in Yellowknife (dusk until dawn) for the winter months. Northland Utilities' donation of labour and materials has been a tremendous asset to the club.

### **Winter Trail Grooming**

2015/16 snow accumulation was about average this past year. However, a good series of early snow falls provided a good foundation right from the start of the season. Volunteer groomers worked over 300 person-hours this winter to groom and trackset the trails, and to maintain and repair the snowmobiles. The trail grooming team included Geoff Furniss (Grooming Coordinator), John Buckland, Pual Guy, Trena Heseltine, Ed Hoeve, Greg Littlefair, Don Morrision, Dave Speakman and Robert Tumchewics.

The new grooming equipment purchased last year has performed very well. Moving forward, the focus will now be on repair and maintenance of the snow mobiles, particularly the older machines, to ensure a fully-functional fleet is available to groom the full season.

### **Grooming Garage**

The new grooming garage experienced significant delays last year but is now back on track for completion later this summer. The availability of a heated garage will provide a much more comfortable work environment for volunteers and help support efforts to address mechanical issues with some of the older snowmobiles.

### **Banting Lake Tent Frame**

Tent bookings were again coordinated again by Doug Townson and Julie Ward. A special thanks for their continued support. With greater focus on trails, new equipment and the construction of a new garage, Banting did not receive sufficient attention this past season. Moving forward, it is a priority of the Board to get a new tent ordered and setup as this facility is a important asset of the club.

## **Events & Programs Report**

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### **Damian Panayi, Director of Events & Programs**

Thanks to all the participants and volunteers who made this another great year. Here's a summary of the events that were held during the winter of 2015/2016, and some considerations for next year.

November 7 2015 Snow Show  
November 19 Wax and Wine Soiree  
November 21 Sports Day in Canada  
December 6 Trail Grooming Clinic  
December 13 Potluck Dinner & Ski  
January 10 Potluck Dinner & Ski  
January 17 World Snow Day  
January 20 – 24 Community Ski Coach Workshops  
February 14 Potluck Dinner & Ski / NWT Ski Day  
February 20 Yellowknife Ski Races  
March 13 Potluck Dinner & Ski  
March 19 Frostbite 50  
April 3 NorthwesTel Ski Loppet  
April 9 & 10 Biathlon Polar Cup  
April 24 Ski Duathlon & Volunteer Appreciation BBQ  
June 6 Annual General Meeting

### **Snow Show**

The Snow Show is the day to learn about Club programs, buy memberships and visit the ski swap and Overlander Sports. There is also fundraising through a silent auction. Approximately 1/3 of our registrations were made at the Snow Show, indicating how important this event is for the Club.

## **Wax and Wine Soiree**

The 7th annual Wax and Wine is a fundraising event for the High Performance team, where club members and non-members can have their skis waxed while enjoying a glass of wine.

## **World Snow Day**

World Snow Day is part of the global campaign by the International Ski Federation to bring children to the snow. The YSC participated in a partnership with the City of Yellowknife. Free use of skis and snowshoes were provided on site with no trail fees. Skis and snowshoes were provided by the Sissons and William McDonald schools.

## **Yellowknife Ski Races**

The Yellowknife Ski Club hosted an open event for skiers of all ages and abilities in February. Unfortunately, due to temperatures below -20, the event was postponed the first weekend, then cancelled the following weekend. Skiers were encouraged to still come to the club and enjoy snacks (most notably, the smores by the fire) and specialty coffee. It was a sunny day, so many people still enjoyed a leisurely ski and a good slice of community served with the best coffee in the north. The recommendation for next year is to host the "event" regardless of whether or not it is warm enough to race. One of the objectives of the event is to gather various programs and people together at the club, and we most certainly accomplished this. Postponing the event required a lot of extra effort. Overlapping with the regular jackrabbit program worked well to encourage newcomer skiers and their families to participate.

## **Frostbite 50**

In partnership with the Yellowknife Multisport Club, the Frostbite 50 was another huge success. This 50 km ski and snowshoe event (increased from 45 km in past years because everyone said it was too short) follows snow machine trails from the Ski Club to Walsh Lake and Prosperous Lake in five stages. It was a very well attended one day event with just under 100 skiers and runners. Thanks to Tim Ensom, Tom and Elaine Girroir who were the main organizers behind this unique event.

## **Northwestel Ski Loppet**

The 38th annual Northwestel Yellowknife Ski Loppet was well attended this year with approximately 280 participants. This was the second year where the apres-ski chili lunch was hosted at the Chalet. Turnout for the lunch was much better this year than last, likely due to improved communication and no conflict with Easter. For the third year, registration was entirely on-line through Zone4. The Loppet would not have been possible without the sponsorship of Northwestel, logistical and financial support from Terrax Minerals, and of course the many volunteers.

## **Biathlon Polar Cup Races**

Paul Green and Ted Kimmins of the Yellowknife Biathlon Club organized this event on behalf of the NWT Biathlon Division. Many of our young Ski Club members participated. Racers from Hay River and Fort Smith also joined our skiers for a great weekend of racing.

## **Programs Report, 2015/2016**

### **Jackrabbits and Bunnyrabbits**

Jackrabbits had 49 registrants this year and Bunnyrabbits had 19. Lessons took place Saturday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:00pm from November 28 to April 9. Each class had a coach and every class except Bunnyrabbits had an assistant (15 coaches/assistants), Bunnyrabbits were each accompanied by a parent. This year there were 16 lessons, including 1 Becky Scott Ski, 1 hot dog ski. There were no cancellations due to weather. On the few days when it was really cold, there were more indoor activities & reduced time outside. Canteen happened every week as usual.

There were five classes, one of each level (bunnies, 1, 2, 3 & 4). The Blachford Lake Lodge Spirit Award were given this year to:

Bunnyrabbits – Ryan Norman

Level 1 – Chloe Favre

Level 2 – Kym Kanatsiak

Level 3 – Bryson Webb

Level 4 – Léa Schwarz

Ron Seale coaching award went to David Mahon. This year's coordinators were Joanna Wilson, Kara Cherland, Monique Robitaille.

### **High Performance**

The High Performance had 13 registrants this year, and the program kicked off at the end of May meeting three times a week: Tuesdays and Thursdays in front of the Racquet Club for cardio, strength training and soccer or ultimate and on Saturdays at the Legislative Assembly for roller skiing.

During the summer and fall months four short training camps were held in addition to regular practices. Highlights included a visit to the Yellowknife Climbing Club and a recovery run around Prospector Trail in Fred Henne Park ending with a swim and make your own Sundays. Roller skiing was also a highlight. Yellowknife Multisport Club events also served as a great way to do some fun racing throughout the summer. In the fall practices shifted back out to the ski club and a fourth practice was added on Sundays.

HP skiers has the chance to race at an Alberta Cup in Canmore, the Western Canadian Championships again at Silver Star near Vernon, the Eastern Canadian Championships in Ottawa, the Nationals in Whitehorse, and of course Arctic Winter Games in Greenland.

The second last practice of the year saw skiers participate in the annual scavenger hunt highlighted by the skiers attempting ski ballet. The final practice of the season had the skiers make their way from the Boake residence at Prelude Lake to the Ski Club, after a

huge breakfast. While weather was a factor the year before, a perfect day was had with all skiers making the full journey in 4-5 hours.

Congrats on a great year skiers! High Performance Coaches:  
Mike Argue, Sheena Tremblay, Thompsen D'Hont, Lisa McVicar.

### **Track Attack**

Track Attack has had another successful season, with 35 skiers and 7 coaches . Our season started with drylands training on Saturdays in September, and we moved onto snow and added Tuesday and Thursday nights in November. The skiers ranged in age and ability, and activities were tailored to meet the needs of skiers.

To facilitate this with the large number of skiers, we instituted a squad system, the Blue squad for the youngest and most inexperienced, Yellow squad for intermediate, and White squad for our oldest and most advanced skiers. All squads would warm up together and then break into their assigned workouts.

White squad attended the Alberta Cup 1 & 2 in Canmore last December, and was also well represented on the Arctic Winter Games team in Nuuk Greenland. Other events included Alberta Youth Championships, the annual PTUB races in Hay River, and the NWT Ski Championships in Fort Smith. The season wrapped up in April with our annual Winter Olympics.

A big thank you to all our coaches: Miriam Green, Lara Mountain, Tim Ensom, Jeremy Armitage, Colin Morris, Julie Ward, and guest coaches Tamika Mulders and Alicia Tumchewics. We also had great support from all the parents who once again made sure all skiers had Saturday lunches.

Stephen Dunbar, Head Coach

## **Registrar Report**

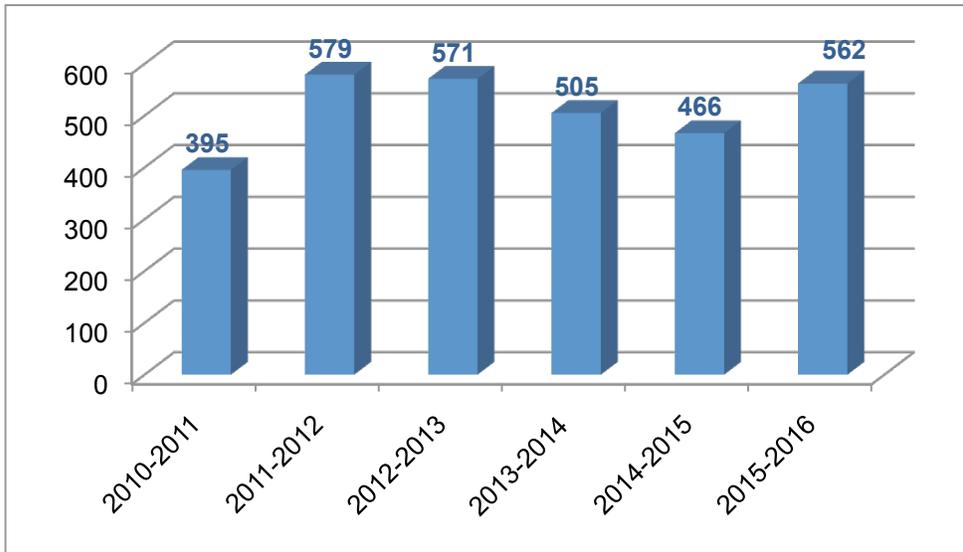
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### **Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Director of Registrations**

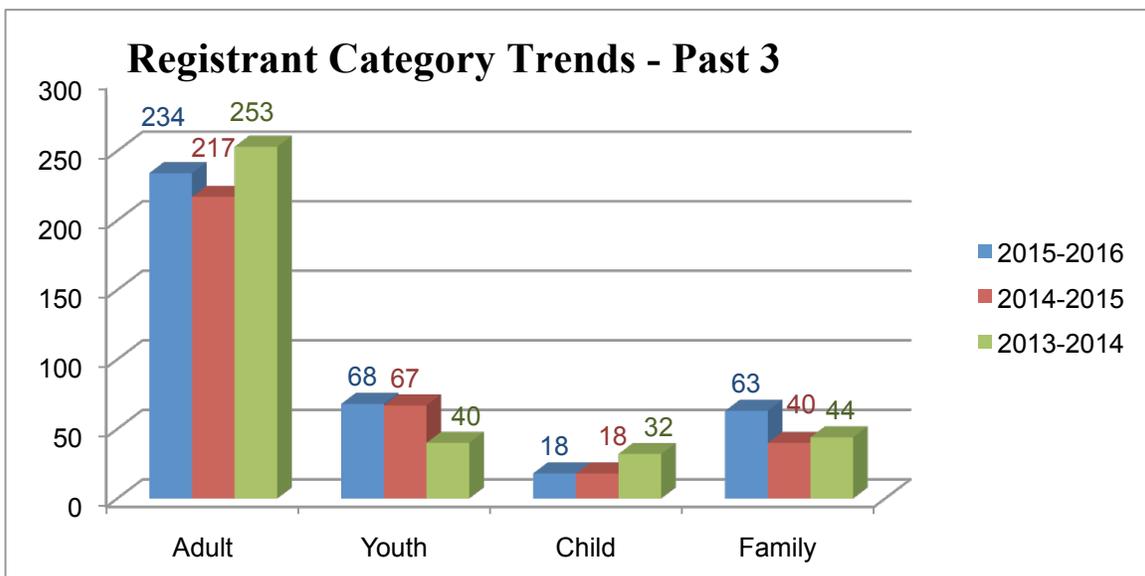
#### **Registrar Report – Mark Cliffe-Phillips**

This year saw over 390 members take advantage of the early-bird pricing, many using the in person registration available at the annual Snow Show. Unlike last year's early season cold snap freezing registration numbers, warmer early season weather this ski season kept registration steady well into the season. The Ski Club saw a total of 562 members register this year, which is an increase of nearly 100 over 2014-2015. Total membership was near to the club record membership of 579 in 2011-2012 (See figure below).

## Total Memberships – Past 6 Years



The club had 63 family memberships with an average of approximately 4 members per family, along with 234 adult, 68 youth, and 18 children individual registrants (see Figure below). Of those, 65 individuals identified themselves as new members to the club.



## Communications Report

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### Richard McIntosh, Director of Communications

The Communications team in 2015 / 2016 included volunteers Alicia Tumchewics and Jennifer Luckay.

The goals this season were to continue the distribution of a weekly newsletter and a bi-weekly column in the Yellowknifer, assist in promoting events, maintain the Club's website and promote the Ski Club, its membership and facilities.

The newsletter currently is distributed to 663 recipients. On average 33 - 35% of subscribers opened their email this past season with a high of 47% opening the December 9 "Info for Members" e-blast.

Alecia continues to do a marvelous job of promoting the Club's events, active membership and the enjoyment and benefits of cross-country skiing in the Yellowknifer column.

The committee was active in promoting all of the Club's events, including organizing the set up and bake sale during the Snow Show. The event was tremendously successful in terms of membership renewal and fundraising.

"Yellowknife Ski Club" can be found on Facebook and Twitter. Our Facebook account has 164 followers, up from 100 the same time last year.

The Twitter account is maintained by the Trails Committee and is used for the purpose of sending out trail updates. There has been an increase of approximately 136 followers in the past year (over 100% growth).

With the assistance of graphic design artist, Jennifer Luckay, an updated trails map / club brochure was completed and printed this year. An organized membership drive using online advertising is planned for the beginning of 2016/17 season.

Overlander Sports continues to promote the Ski Club. We have a partnership offering free day use passes with ski rentals from Overlander. Overlander has indicated that they are willing to continue advertising Ski Club facilities and also offering the ability for people to register online from their store.

The Ski Club's email has been changed to: [info@skiyellowknife.com](mailto:info@skiyellowknife.com) in order to reduce spam and due to changes in Mail Chimp's programming. Mail Chimp is the software used to send out Ski Club newsletters.

## Grants & Fundraising Report

### Tania Hurncun

The focus of the fundraising team this year was to apply for government and business grants to gather more funds to complete the construction of the new grooming shed and build funds to renovate the chalet. Five grant applications were completed and were as follows: CanNor Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program (CIP) Grant, City of Yellowknife Community Grant, Arctic Energy Alliance (AEA) LED Lights Retrofit Grant, Mountain Equipment Coop (MEC) Community Contributors Grant and Arctic Energy Alliance Alternative Energy Program Grant.

The Ski Club has not received feedback from all the grants, but at the time of this report they have received a multi-year grant from the City of Yellowknife in the amount of \$70,000 over three years, AEA LED Lights Retrofit in the amount of \$1,374.25 (project was completed in March), and MEC declined our application. We are hopefully that we will receive funding from the CanNor Canada 150 CIP program and the AEA Energy Program. The AEA Energy Grant would allow us to potentially install a biomass boiler to heat the chalet and the new grooming shed, ultimately reducing our annual heating costs. In addition to our grant application initiatives we have received support from many local businesses, agencies and individuals. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors for their continuous support. Listed below are our 2015-16 sponsors.

<b>2015-16 Yellowknife Ski Club Sponsors</b>	
<b>Gold +\$10,000</b>	
AGC Construction	City of Yellowknife
Corothers Home Building Centre	National Trails Coalition
Stantec Engineering	Konge Construction Ltd.
<b>Silver +\$1,000</b>	
Andrew Kotaska	Arctic Energy Alliance
Clayton Boake	Overlander
CR Contracting	Gene Hugo
Konge Construction Ltd.	Northwest Tel
NWT Construction	Paul Guy
Robert Tumchewics	Weatherby Trucking
RTL	TerraX
<b>Bronze +\$100</b>	
Brian Bodnaruk	DTE Electrical
Golder & Associates	Kerry Wheler
Vicky Johnson	Yellowknife Rotary Club

## **Facilities Report**

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**Greg Littlefair, Director of Facilities**

### **Yellowknife Ski Club and Elks' Youth Centre**

#### **Marketing and Booking**

Revenue remained consistent this year. May 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015 revenue was \$25,600, however lower than budgeted. Total operating cost for the building per year is approximately \$40,000.

#### **Ski Club Facilities Improvements and Maintenance**

Work on the Grooming Shed was placed on hold over the winter to save temporary heating costs. Next on the schedule will be to complete the electrical / mechanical work then complete the exterior and interior finishes. DT Electric has been contracted to supply and install the electrical, and the siding has been purchased to clad the building. To date we have spent \$40,363 and have received \$91,297 of in-kind donations. We are currently working on a biomass boiler to heat the club and the shed. Several grants have been applied for and if we are successful it should be installed this fiscal year.

The biathlon building improvements of 2013 have again been providing the forecasted savings; Pellet stove repairs were made in Dec 2015 and we burnt one skid of pellets. The typical propane bill was \$4,000, the heating bill is now down to \$440 for pellets!

A committee was formed early 2015 to explore options to make the Ski Club Chalet a more welcoming club to members. The committee suggested that the club undertake a series of small projects that will enhance the ambiance as well as upgrade some elements of the building. This work has been mostly put on hold while the shed is being completed.

For the years 2016-2019, the Building Committee recommends improvements as noted in the table below.

## YK Ski Club Structures O&M Budget

Improvement	Comments	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Eaves trough	Purchase and install above deck on the Ski Club Chalet		\$2,500	
Chalet ground floor renovation. Member change room & locker storage  Members lounge	-Equipment storage lockers installed along walls and available to members. Change room in race office and adjacent open space to post. -Renaissance Services preliminary design	←	\$ 70,000 - \$120,000	→
Chalet exterior staining	Touch up sheds and under decks	\$600		
Main Floor Lockers	Member seasonal storage		\$5,000	
Building Advertising Expense	Increase our rental exposure	\$1000		
Overhead power feed to timing shed	Raise electrical cable off the ground			\$5,000
Non-slip surface for ground floor	320 yd. Carpet	\$6,280		
Replace Tables (20)	96" rectangular folding table plastic oyster top	\$1,428	\$1,428	
Refurbish timing shed	Purchase and install ranch board on timing shed.			\$2,500
Propane Barbecue	Large cooking area 6 burner <i>Quote Home Building Centre</i>		\$1,000	
Wrap around deck on Chalet	Add 20 ft of deck west side			\$34,820
Grooming Shed	36' x 24' stand alone or attached to Chalet	Up to \$175,000		

## Financial Report

**Kevin Hodgins, Treasurer**

See attached documents.