



Yellowknife Ski Club Annual General Meeting
2018/2019 Annual Report

June 13, 2019

President's report

Heather Scott, President

We came, we skied, we conquered! Another great season has come and gone at the Yellowknife Ski Club (YKSC) with a variety of successes and forward-looking initiatives.

The renovation of the chalet reached completion before the start of this season and our club most definitely reaped the benefits. In contrast to previous years, warm weekend days were often hopping with individuals and families both on the trails and in the chalet. I encourage you all to spread the word about our fancy new digs!

With our improved home, we've already experienced increased interest from other user groups who want to host different sporting events and establish partnerships with the club. The board of directors took this year to review our Fees and Charges Policy in order to fairly reflect the value of our club and the effort it takes to maintain our building and trails. The new rates include reduced fees for schools, not-for-profit groups and youth-programs. It will also allow the board to spend less time fielding requests and proposals for special rental rates and more time focusing on our programs, events and other exciting items identified in our strategic plan.

Board members have also implemented some exciting new signage projects that help to rebrand our facility as a comprehensive "Nordic Centre." This started with erecting that flashy new sign by our entrance off the highway. Keep a look for other flashy signs near the chalet and beyond!

Our club continues to deliver opportunities to all ages and levels of Nordic enthusiasts. This year, the club witnessed new families join our Bunny and Jackrabbits programming, and Track Attack and High Performance skiers continued to train, fundraise and travel to several races. Riding on the success of the adult lessons in 2017/18, the club once again offered adult programming in both skate and classic techniques, and we even added some well-attended ski waxing clinics to our complement of offerings.

Following the 2018/19 season, the executive members of the YKSC board will start to develop our next strategic plan. With a renovated chalet, a rebranded "Nordic Centre," and a clear policy on how we rent and share our valued club, I am keen to envision how the next plan can continue to prioritize the advancement of cross country skiing in

Yellowknife and the N.W.T., furthering partnerships that best value and utilize our network of trails year-round, ensuring that our programming and membership is inclusive, and improving outreach in our community.

The YKSC continues to be one of the most significant sports and recreation organizations in the city of Yellowknife. I had the pleasure of attending the City of Yellowknife's Volunteer Recognition Breakfast in April where I took the opportunity to recognize our club's collective efforts to maintain the largest volunteer-run sports organization in the North. I polled the audience and asked who had ever volunteered with the club and about 20 per cent of the attendees raised their hands. This was a heart-warming indication of both how community-fuelled we are and just how many people help our engine run. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you -- coaches, groomers, organizers, timers, chaperones, parents/guardians, wall-tent keepers, event-volunteers, lunch and snack-makers, cookie-bakers, board members, and I could go on. You know who you are, and we see you. Thank you!

Trails report

Chris Hotson, Trails Director

The 2018-2019 ski season went well for all the volunteers that make up the trails team. Early season snow got us off to a good start and was consistent through the first half of the winter. With less snow later in the season it was challenging to maintain trails, however small amounts always seemed to come just in time.

A new trail is in development parallel to Sah Cho Hill coming up from Fault lake. The P.G.C. Trail is being developed by Paul Guy, Greg Littlefair, and Clair Littlefair (hence the P.G.C. name). This new route was operational for the last part of the winter as a classic lane only and provides a less steep route than Sah Cho Hill. More work is needed to widen and level the trail, which will be completed as time allows.

Equipment

Our grooming equipment is in good shape. Our heavy duty Alpina machines are aging but well-maintained and fully functional. Our older Alpine II Skidoo's, which have not been manufactured since 1995, are becoming a challenge to maintain, and are struggling to be able to do the job. To augment this part of the grooming fleet, we purchased two DEW 900 skidoos this year through the military surplus programme. Created as an experimental project for the military, these are single-track utility machines that use a turbo-charged diesel engine. The military did not find them

especially useful due to their cold start requirement and heavy weight. However, our heated shop is a perfect fit and they have turned out to be an excellent investment, able to pull the majority of our grooming/tracksetting implements.

Robert Tumchewics and Bruce Look continue to conduct the majority of the mechanical work on our grooming equipment. Their combined skills and efforts led to another largely trouble-free grooming season with only minor issues.

A new roller purchased late in the 2017-2018 season, and used for the first time this season, has an electric lift with a finishing mat. That means it can roll and pack snow on its own in the early season, and also roll and finish with the mat, putting that lovely corduroy on the entire skating lane in one pass. It's a huge improvement over the old metal roller.

Summer Trail work

Brian Latham again led the summer volunteer crew. Here is his report:

General - Propped up fences near road and in main stadium to hold them vertical (annual task) - Cleaned equipment shed area.

Chalet Area - Finished painting brown race equipment sheds - Worked on grey storage shed door - rebuilt edges to strengthen locking hardware, re-attached outside panelling with screws, painted door - Chipped remaining trees from construction of Canada 150 Hill and other brush - Located 11 steel pipes in main and biathlon stadia used for banners at previous ski events, 8 being a problem. Removed 5 and cut another below ground level in main stadium.

Trails - Work and access hampered by persistent rain - much flooding - Refurbished 30 sign posts from Zoom to 1) bottom of Sah Cho hill, and 2) Lynx Loop entrance. Repaired mild vandalism at Old Tow Hill - straightened, repositioned, tightened base bolts, painted, replaced sign backings - Painted/replaced 79 trail sign backings - Repainted 5 trail name signs - Moved "Lynx Loop" sign to beginning of loop - Moved wood chips to end of Lynx Loop to cover rocks - done by wheelbarrow - trails too wet for a vehicle - Redirected Snowflake and Bunny trails away from Canada 150 Hill crossing - Built soil/rock bases to raise signs at stadium south end and T-junction of main trails and end of Lynx Loop - Installed 4 missing trail signs - 3 just east of the main stadium, 1 at end of section after Martin Climb

Other - Obtained materials as needed - Recruited/managed volunteers

Many thanks to Robert Tumchewics for removing the hardest steel pipes and providing a chipper to chip the trees.

Total volunteer time 157 hours. Volunteers - Brian Latham, Brian Render, Robert Reid, and David Speakman.

Fall Trail Brushing

The annual fall brushing blitz proceeded as in previous years. A callout for volunteers is made to the general membership through the newsletter. This is followed by phone calls to club members who have expressed interest in helping. Small groups of two or more volunteers head out on their own schedule and operate Stihl brush trimmers for a day, or half day, as they are able. This process starts in early September and usually finishes after the first snowfall.

Thank you to all the volunteers who were able to help out with brushing and a special thanks to John McCullum and Julie Ross for their efforts in calling and scheduling volunteers.

Winter Grooming

A heavy dump of dense snow allowed groomers to get out and pack base early this season. This early snow allows for groomers to start building the base needed to cover rocks, roots, dips and holes.

The grooming schedule remained the same with Thursday and Friday crews each doing half the trails in preparation for the weekends. A Monday crew (which sometimes grooms Sundays depending on snow and weather conditions) then heads out after the heavy traffic from weekend lessons, Jackrabbits, and higher skier volumes, to regroom and trackset where needed so the trails are in good condition for the week.

In January, we held our annual grooming workshop and had a record eight new groomers receive training. Several of those have joined the rotation as regular groomers. It is great to see new volunteers gaining experience under the watchful tutelage of our very experienced regulars.

A special thank you to the groomers that head out into the cold and dark to make our trails so terrific: John Buckland, Ed Hoeve, David Speakman, Adam Bembridge, Bruce Look, Colin Morris, Sean Marshall, Nigel Bocking, Paul Guy, Greg Littlefair, Ariel Greenblat, Tom Money, Ekaterina and Nikita Lysenko, Greg Hartel, and Tamlin Daniel. A special thanks to Rob Reid who makes numerous trips throughout the winter to ensure the machines always have enough fuel.

Banting Tent

Julie Ward and Doug Townson continue to manage the Banting Tent. The tent frame is in good condition and with the tent and stove being replaced recently this club facility will not require any major work in the near future. A major task undertaken this year was a 22 km round-trip hike to Banting tent in the off-season to relocate the outhouse.

A big thank you to the crew that undertook this task. It was badly needed, and a long walk was required to get it done.

The Banting facility continues to be funded by donations from those who use it. A recent club policy review on fees by the board of directors has maintained this funding strategy.

Events report

Kerry Wheler, Director of Events

Thanks to all the participants and volunteers for another great season! Here are all the events the Ski Club hosted during 2018/19 season:

- Nov 2 - Ski swap drop off 6-8 pm
- Nov 3 - 10 am-1 pm Snow Show
- Nov 15 - Wax & Wine 7-10 pm
- Nov 23 - Jackrabbits Family Dance season kickoff 6-7:30 pm
- Nov 17 & 18 - Community Coach workshop (CC)
- Dec 16 - Trail grooming workshop
- Dec 9 - "Get Active" Potluck dinner 5:30 pm with Christmas carols
- Jan 20 - "Get Active" World Snow Day
- Feb 10 - "Get Active" NWT ski day
- Feb 23/24 - Yellowknife Ski Races
- Mar 16 - Frostbite 50 in conjunction with the Multisport Club
- April 7 - Yellowknife Gold Loppet, sponsored by TerraX
- April 14 - Nordic Cross Race
- June 13 - AGM, volunteer appreciation BBQ & awards

Snow Show

The Snow Show is the day to learn about club programs, buy memberships, and visit the ski swap and the Overlander Sports booth. The silent auction is a significant fundraiser for the High Performance team and our club. Track Attack sets up a canteen with chili and treats to raise money for their program, and there is a bake table for general club revenue.

Wax & Wine Soiree

The Wax & Wine kicks off the ski season with wine, good food, and good company for members while the High Performance team waxes skis for a fee. We hosted the event downstairs for the first time and members were thrilled to use the lounge in this way.

Jackrabbits Family Dance

This event was cancelled this season.

ICC (Introduction to Community Coaching) and CC (Community Coaching) Courses

These courses are part of CCC (Cross Country Canada) to provide training to people who are interested in coaching the Bunnies & Jackrabbits Programs (approx. ages 4-10). People of all ages are encouraged to share their enthusiasm for outdoor activity by taking these courses and joining the coaching team to help get kids outside. ICC is now being offered online and is a prerequisite to the CC course.

Trail Grooming Clinic

Trail Grooming Clinics are held early each season to train new and returning groomers. New groomers are always welcome.

“Get Active” Christmas Potluck Dinner & Carols

Potlucks provide a nice opportunity to share food and company before or after a ski on the trails. Families with children often shared child-minding while adults would alternate on longer ski loops. Caroling downstairs in the members lounge was a hit.

Sunday Lunches

We renewed our Commercial Kitchen Licence, which allows vendors to come and use our facility to sell food. We hosted “Sunday Lunches” each week in January & February from 11:30-2 pm with a few interested vendors (Saffron, One-of a Thai, Zing!). This was generally well received by our members, the public, and the vendors. We hope to continue this next season and we are looking for someone who would be interested in taking the lead on this project. “Sunday lunches” could also become a fundraising endeavor for ski club programs or other non-profit organizations.

World Snow Day

The international celebration of “World Snow Day” has become one of our most inclusive events of the season. The YKSC partnered with the Recreation & Parks Association’s “Get Active” program and YK Co-op to provide a pancake breakfast from 10-2 and free trail fees for the day. JH Sissons School (thanks to John Stephenson) and Overlander Sports provided complimentary ski and snowshoe rentals. About 300

people came out to this event, which provided a wonderful opportunity for new skiers to try out the sport. Karen Johnson from NWT Literacy council's "Community Connections Program for Newcomers" arranged for new immigrants to attend and offered on snow instruction to many.

Yellowknife Ski Races

The Yellowknife Ski Club hosts an annual weekend of both classic and free events for skiers of all ages and abilities in February. This event gathers various programs and people together at the club in a fun, celebratory way. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate this year and the races were cancelled due to cold. A ski-athon event was made available in the place of the Saturday race to still provide an opportunity for skiers to gather and enjoy the trails.

Frostbite 50

In partnership with the Yellowknife Multisport Club, the Frostbite 50 was another huge success this year, with warm weather and good conditions. This 50 km ski and snowshoe event follows snow machine trails from the ski club to Walsh Lake and Prosperous Lake in five stages. It is always very well attended with around 113 skiers and runners this year. A committed crew of volunteers led by Bob Hermanutz did a great job again this year.

Yellowknife Gold Loppet Sponsored by TerraX

The 41th annual loppet had a record number of 366 participants! The Yellowknife Ski Club, with support from TerraX, continues to offer a unique loppet experience of groomed trails in the wilderness route starting at Vee Lake. Our dedicated ski club grooming team and equipment, with the addition of Niels Konge's PistenBully, created a nice route despite the early melt conditions. Apres-ski chili and hot drinks took place at the chalet with chili catered by K'alemi Dene School and served by a dedicated crew of Rotary volunteers. Kathi Woodward made her classic 100 dozen cookies for the checkpoints. Sarah Beattie organized hot soup, beverages and energy bars for skiers at Banting Lake. Thanks to Alyssa Titus for taking on the momentous task of organizing this complex, important event, for the many volunteers that make it possible, and for TerraX for providing ongoing sponsorship.

"Get Active" events

The NWT Recreation & Parks Association provides funding to offer free events to promote recreational activities. Trail fees were waived on "Get Active" days and refreshments and draw prizes were available in the chalet. These events included the Dec. 9 potluck, World Snow Day and NWT Ski Day.

Volunteer Appreciation BBQ

The YKSC hosts an annual volunteer appreciation event to celebrate the success of the season and the people who make it happen. This year's event takes place June 13 at the chalet.

How to get more involved

The Events Director is looking to have a team/committee to make events happen! If you are interested in helping out, that would be wonderful! Please contact Kerry at ykskiclubevents@gmail.com.

Programs report

Steve Reitsma, Director of Programs

In 2018/2019, programming continued at the ski club with a similar offer to previous years, with registration numbers for various programs differing slightly. High Performance registrations were down due to athletes graduating and moving on. Track Attack numbers were up due younger athletes moving up into program. Jackrabbits enjoyed a busy year with a record number of kids enrolled.

Our Go Ski program was once again shelved this year due to a lack of interest. (Zero emails received requesting info on it; zero registrations.)

Adult lessons enjoyed a fantastic kick-off event prior to Christmas with over 35 participants showing up on Dec. 9 for a Sunday afternoon of \$5 lessons from Rob Matthews and Kevin Durkee. Our adult lessons running from January to March this year were a little quieter than last year with fewer registrations, possibly tied to the colder weather in January. Rob Matthews demonstrated his dedication to the adult lessons by instructing all classes all three months (with Karen Johnson stepping in to cover one weekend when Rob was out of town). Thank you to Rob for his commitment to this program!

Chix on Sticks saw a solid turn-out of ladies on several nights for some enjoyable evening skiing. The Thursday night men's group met fairly regularly, alternating ski loops at the club and loops in the Burwash. These skis were followed with socials making great use of the renovated downstairs ski club. A slight rivalry between the two

groups started to develop late in the season, which could perhaps be further explored in coming years. Both groups finished off the group ski season with an easy loop around Latham Island together, followed by evening refreshments at a local establishment known for providing that service.

In the absence of a dedicated biathlon coach, Bob Reid maintained this year's biathlon programming by continuing to work with the older athletes who had been in the program in previous years in a strictly shooting capacity. We now have interest from several people in coaching biathlon down the road, which leads us to believe we may be able to open up registrations again next year, if we can obtain the appropriate certifications.

Overall, another solid year, with good momentum. Looks like it should lead to another year of growing the club, and hopefully expanding our program offerings next year.

Brief reports from our program leads follow.

Ski Parents

Ski Parents is a chance for parents of young children (roughly 0 to 5) to share child-minding in the chalet so they can get on the trails, or get young children on the trails.

This winter, ski parents again used a Facebook group to make plans, instead of a regular set weekly time. For many, this provided the flexibility needed when with little people. We made use of the downstairs lounge for our meet-ups, getting good use out of the new kitchenette and seating areas. The size of the group ebbed and flowed over the winter, some days hitting 10-15 people. It's a great way to get out with small kids during the cold months, and future Bunnyrabbits got lots of skiing in as well.

— Amanda Johnson Dunbar

Jackrabbits and Bunnyrabbits

We had 65 Jackrabbits and 12 Bunnyrabbits registered this year. Lessons took place Saturday afternoons from 1:30-3:00 pm from November 24 to April 6. Each class had two or three coaches and Bunnyrabbits were each accompanied by a parent. This year our 14 lessons included a ski-athon, our second annual excursion to the Snow Castle, and a destination ski to the fire pit on Marten Hill. All Jackrabbits and bunnies were also encouraged to participate in the YK races, however the races were cancelled this season due to CCC restrictions on temperatures for racing. Lessons were not

cancelled due to weather, but rather, a “cold weather routine” was implemented to reduce time outside on cold days. Parents took turns volunteering to prepare the canteen each week, which offered hot chocolate and various healthy snacks.

The Blachford Lake Lodge Spirit Awards were given this year to:

Bunnies – Hailey Stephenson, Coco Otsuka

Level 1 – Thelo Vaughn, Viviana Scott

Level 2 (2 groups) – Mayah Favre, Leah Wood, Aliana Lothian, Kael Enns

Level 3 – Luken Bjorgan

Level 4 – Elias Enns, Matias Gannon

Mixed Ages – Winnie Naphan

Coaches included: Lisa McShane, Jakob Hotson, Leah Kanzler, Kirk Tastad, Trena Heseltine, Jeremy Sears, Mike Mitchell, Vincent Favre, Wendy Lahey, Gerald Enns, Meghan Beveridge, Ella Kokejl, Alex Lothian, Sarah Beattie, Jack Panayi, Julie Ross, Shauna Morgan, Eva Walker. Thanks to all those who substituted!

The Ron Seale coaching award went to Meghan Beveridge for her several years of coaching with high spirits. This year’s coordinators were Kerry Wheler, Alex Lothian & Jen Chiasson.

— Kerry Wheler

Track Attack

This year was another banner year for Track Attack, with 33 skiers in the program.

Skiers were put into one of three squads depending on skill level, to keep everyone of comparable ability together. The season started with Saturday morning dryland training in September. When snow arrived, we added in weeknight practices on Tuesday and Thursdays.

Our annual sleepover at the chalet kicked off the start of winter in November.

Once again, skiers were divided into four teams in order to compete in our year-long Olympic competition. Teams Alaska, Greenland, Sapmi and Yamal (the four international teams of the Arctic Winter Games) competed in a variety of events throughout the year. The final competition came during the Track Attack Olympics, our year end, weeklong event, which involves a series of events based on other sports,

including bobsleigh, snowboarding, curling, speedskating, mushing, marathon and tug of war, all on skis. In the end, Greenland won.

Seven skiers attended the Alberta Cup races in November: Abigail Nevitt, Leah Mcshane, Shannon Mercer, Aksel Reed, Joe Curran, Kaspar Reed and Anya Smillie. Joe Curran, Aksel Reed and Shannon Mercer returned to Canmore in January for parts three and four of the Alberta Cup.

Ten skiers attended the Alberta Youth Championships in Bragg Creek, Alberta: Aksel and Kasper Reed, Anna and Joe Curran, Adam Clinton, Kiran Ray, Anya Smillie, Malachi Morin and Jillian and Lacey Furniss.

A big thank you to our coaches this year: Eric Reed, Julie Ward, Steve Reitsma, Geoff Ray, Alex Lothian and Julian Kanigan. On the coldest practice days, we ran indoor sessions, including fitness dodgeball, strength intervals and beep tests.

Thanks are also due to Diep Duong for handling finances, Joanna Wilson for coordinating hot lunches and Judy Williams for coordinating our fundraiser canteen at the Snow Show. A special thank you to all the parents who came out to help when needed, including our Saturday lunches.

— Stephen Dunbar, Head Coach

High Performance

The HP skiers started their season at the end of May, building fitness and strength for the race season six long months away! June to September dryland practices were held three days a week and involved running, roller skiing and strength training. Short training camps were also held in July, August and September with some longer workouts, bike rides and more roller skiing :)

In early September, a fourth weekly practice was added and the focus on speed and intensity was increased as we moved closer to racing. Taking on the challenge of the Stanton Foundation's Mud Run as a team was a definite highlight.

Our first on-snow practice was held in early November at Fred Henne campground. Unlike recent years, our time at Fred Henne was short lived with only one practice before we were able to meet at the club on an on-going basis. It was awesome to enjoy our first full winter in the upgraded day lodge!

The first races of the season saw eight HP skiers head to Canmore for Alberta Cup races in early December. Track Attack also had a significant contingent attending so Yellowknife Ski Club programs were well represented.

A small group of skiers were scheduled to race in Whistler in mid-December, but due to warm temperatures these races were moved and back to Canmore we went. The final race included Jack Panayi's first 30 km event and the whole team got in on the action of feeding and helping Jack to maintain energy levels.

Practices continued over Christmas and included a visit to the climbing wall and sessions on the Field House track due to cooler weather.

Racing continued in January for a small group who attended the Western Canadian Championships in Kelowna. These are now home trails for Yellowknife skiers Clair Littlefair and Donny Boake and it was great to see their winter base.

For many of our skiers and coaches, the highlight of the season was the Canada Winter Games in February. All Team NT skiers raced exceptionally well throughout the week in Red Deer and enthusiastically cheered on their Team NT teammates.

In early March, four skiers headed to Ottawa for the National Championships. With the central location, categories included more than 100 racers and nearly 1,000 athletes raced throughout the week. As they have all season, Yellowknife skiers continued to race strongly against these deep fields.

HP continued to meet as a team to enjoy the warmer weather and sunny days in late March and April. The Yellowknife Loppet and HP Scavenger Hunt were late season highlights.

Due to the early season melt, we were unable to enjoy our usual ski back from Prelude for our final practice. Instead, a long ski on the Dettah ice road followed by a bbq was a solid replacement.

Thanks to all of the many club volunteers, parents, and the HP skiers themselves — Rae Panayi, Ruby Pigott, Kea Furniss, Gillian Furniss, Ella Kokelj, Jack Panayi, Morgan Young, Makoa Kokelj, Spencer Littlefair and Jack Kotaska — for another great year!

— Mike Argue, Sheena Tremblay, Kevin Durkee, Janelle Greer

Biathlon

The biathlon program started on October 28 with the first shooting practice. Over the season we were out ten times with an average of two shooters per session. Cold weather in January and February limited our opportunities to once each month as temperatures hovered below the -20 C cutoff specified by Biathlon Canada. March was busy despite spring break and out-of-town competitions. There was one opportunity for three air cadets kids to shoot in March and we had two days of adult biathlon with four people participating.

Two of our club's biathletes travelled to competitions: Spencer Littlefair skied on the N.W.T. team at the Canada Winter Games in Red Deer in February and went to a cadet national competition in Vancouver in March. Effie Lockhart went to cadet competitions in Whitehorse in February and in P.E.I. in March.

The warm weather in early April truncated our season, but we will start summer training in May when the biathlon stadium dries out.

Upgrades to the biathlon facilities at the start of the season included replacing the target reset ropes and the shooting mats. Doug and Carol Lockhart and I also did a major cleanup and reorganization of the biathlon shack.

Thanks to Catherine Pigott for arranging service of the pellet stove and to Greg Littlefair and Konge Construction for providing pellets. And a BIG thanks to the trail groomers for excellent trails all winter!

— Bob Reid

Grants & Fundraising report

Diep Duong, Director of Grants & Fundraising

This year, the Yellowknife Ski Club focused on accessing core funding for its operations since our renovation project has been completed. An application was submitted to the City of Yellowknife Community Grant and we received three-year funding support in the amount of \$20,000 per year from the City of Yellowknife.

TerraX Minerals was once again our corporate sponsor for the loppet.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our many sponsors for their continued generous support.

2018-19 Yellowknife Ski Club Sponsors (as of April 30, 2019)

Sponsor	Amount
Gold Sponsor \$10,000 or More	
City of Yellowknife	\$20,000
Silver Sponsor + \$1000 or More	
TerraX Minerals	\$6000
Andrew Kotaska	\$3000
Robert Tumchewics	\$1587
Blachford Lake Lodge	\$2000
Silver Sponsor + \$100 or More	
Robert Gamble	\$100
Anna Soininen	\$100
Debbie DeLancey	\$100
Jonny Covello	\$100
Ed Hoeve	\$200
Mark Ishack	\$130
David Gilday	\$200
NWT Recreation & Parks Association	\$750
Overlander Sports	\$500

This coming year, we will focus on finding sponsorship for new racing suits and warm up suits for the youth programs and for building our Yellowknife Ski Club brand. In addition, an application to the Government of the Northwest Territories Regional Youth Sports Events Contribution Program was submitted in May 2019 to help support a regional skiing event in Yellowknife in the winter of 2020. If we are successful, the Yellowknife Ski Races will host more participants from NWT communities. Stay tuned for more news on this in the fall!

Volunteers report

Alyssa Titus, Director of Volunteers

The Yellowknife Ski Club is the largest volunteer-run sports facility in northern Canada. We have over 500 members, many additional non-member participants in events, and hundreds of volunteers. We could not do what we do without our volunteers.

Volunteers coach our programs, groom and develop our trails, run our events, and maintain and improve our facility. Some volunteers have been involved with the club for decades, while new volunteers also play a key role in enabling the club to function at its fullest. Our largest event of the year, the Yellowknife Gold Loppet sponsored by TerraX, drew over 350 participants and involved over 60 volunteers.

In addition to our programs and events, the ski club is also involved in other volunteer activities in the community. This year, families from the High Performance team were involved with trail development for the Ranney Hill interpretive trail near Vee Lake.

We highlighted the contribution of all our ski club volunteers at the City of Yellowknife Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast in April, recognizing and thanking everyone for their dedication.

We also highlight outstanding contributions of individuals and businesses with our annual volunteer awards. Our 2019 recipients are:

- The Wooden Ski Award for long-service member(s) of the club with a tradition of involvement and dedication to the YKSC: **Greg Littlefair**
- The Double-Poler Award for adult volunteer(s) who made a significant contribution to the YKSC in the past year: **Sarah Beattie**
- The Stellar Snowflake Award for junior volunteer(s) who made a significant contribution to the YKSC in the past year: **Jakob Hotson**
- The Herringbone Award for a business that contributed in-kind services to the YKSC in the past year: **TerraX Minerals**

Thank you to these outstanding volunteers, and to all our other volunteers who make the club what it is. If you'd like to join our crew, email ykskiclubvolunteerdirector@gmail.com.

Secretary's report

Chris Rose, Secretary

It was a busy and enjoyable year at the club, with chalet renovations complete and members able to enjoy the new digs and luxuries of the indoor space.

The YKSC board held regular monthly meetings this past year. All board minutes are posted to the website under the "Governance" tab, and I would encourage members to review the minutes to learn more about the work of the board.

This year saw the board welcome Heather Scott as president in December 2018. We also welcomed long-time club member and past director John Stephenson as a member-at-large, and are lucky to have his knowledge and expertise to draw upon.

Several important governance items were before the board this year, including formalizing our policy on the use of the ski club chalet. Work on reviewing the board's bylaws is underway, and the board is looking forward to a strategic planning session this summer to set its strategic goals for the next five years (2019-24).

The YKSC has kept its Societies Act filings, lease payments and other administrative requirements up to date.

If elected to another term, I intend to continue work supporting the board at meetings and with clerical items, and advancing governance initiatives including strategic planning and updating the club's fundraising policy, among others.

Communications report

Sara Minogue, Communications Director

The communications position manages club advertising and promotion, updates and fixes to the club's website, our Facebook page, a seasonal weekly email newsletter and monitoring of our info@skiyellowknife address.

From November to April, a somewhat weekly email was published via Mailchimp to all members, including updates on events, volunteer opportunities and other items of

interest. This year, we passed the threshold of subscribers receiving our emails and had to start paying \$20 a month for this excellent service.

Our Facebook page grew slightly this year reaching 662 followers, up from 528 at the close of last season. Thanks to the trails team for posting grooming updates regularly to meet public demand. Thanks also to Alyssa Titus for posting event information on our Facebook page, and to Alyssa and Tania Hercun and Kerry Wheler for responding to Facebook queries.

Our advertising campaigns included three full-page ads in Edge magazine highlighting the variety of activities at our club as well as event promotion and business thank you ads in the Yellowknifer and radio ads to promote our Snow Show and the loppet. Thanks to Edge magazine for creating lovely ads that also doubled as posters around town. Ads were also placed in the city recreation guides.

Thanks to events director Kerry Wheler for designing several events posters, as well as a huge event calendar for the chalet. Thanks also to the Yellowknife Association for Community Living which put up 50 posters at a time for us at the low cost of \$50. Postering remains a great, and affordable, way to make our club more visible in the community.

This year, Janet Pacey at Signed made a significant contribution to our club by giving us a huge discount to design and print a new road sign welcoming people to our club as well as new trail signs for the chalet. Her attention to detail is appreciated!

Facilities Report

John Stephenson, Acting Facilities Manager

The position of Facilities Director was vacant again this year. John Stephenson took on a role to coordinate facility actions and maintenance, on the chalet especially, including cleaning, rentals, repairs and emergency callouts. Members of the Chalet maintenance team included Tania Hercun, Kerry Wheler, John Ketchum and Credence Wood.

Facilities include the chalet, trail maintenance buildings and the biathlon building.

Chalet Renovation

The major improvements to the Chalet were completed in 2018 following a two-year, \$270,000 renovation. This project included a major facelift and new kitchen upstairs, installation of a biomass (pellet) boiler in the Jonas Konge Memorial Grooming Garage with trenching/piping across the parking lot to heat the chalet. The first floor underwent significant floor plan changes with the addition of a members lounge, new wax room location, new windows looking at the stadium, new double doors to the stadium, a new small kitchen, furniture and carpet.

Cleaning

Thanks to our cleaning service providers, R3 Cleaning Inc., who continue to do cleaning on request. For the second year, twice weekly cleaning has also been done by the YES group of work experience volunteers from the Yellowknife Association of Community Living. Their contributions included cleaning as needed, garbage removal, washroom checks and snow shovelling.

Contractors

Thanks to the many contractors who provide assistance in maintaining our buildings especially J&R Mechanical, DT Electric, Ollerhead Locksmithing, WB Water Services and Kavanaugh Bros.

Rentals

Following our renovation, the board reviewed rental rates for our facilities and agreed to a series of new rates that reflect the increased value our chalet now offers. The new rates are more in line with other facilities in town, and also include discounts for school, youth programs and non-profit rentals. The new rates go into effect in the fall of 2019.

This year the chalet hosted meetings, youth group sleepovers, family events and weddings. The City of Yellowknife continues to provide booking service for a modest fee. For Chalet Bookings call the City Facilities Clerk at 669-3457.

Registrar's report

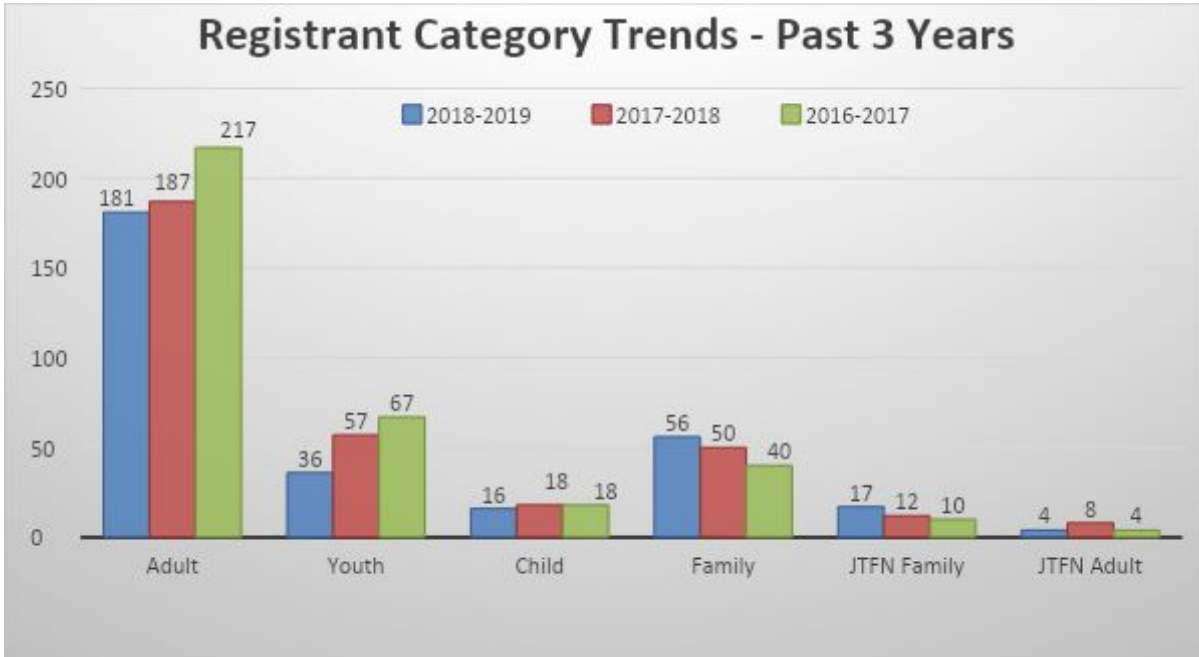
Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Registrar

Following a similar trend to the last several years, we had over 330 members take advantage of the early-bird pricing in the fall. Many members accessed the in-person registration service available at the annual Snow Show. The majority of registration

occurred prior to the new year. The Ski Club saw a total of 515 members register this year, which is a slight decrease in members from 2017-2018 and in line with the five-year average of 514 members. (See figure below).



The club had 56 total family memberships, with an average of approximately four members per family. We have been seeing an increase year over year in the number of family memberships. Individual memberships included 181 adults, 36 youth, and 16 children registrants (see figure below). In addition to those members, 17 families and four individual members registered as part of our partnership with Joint Task Force North. This year we had 102 individuals who identified themselves as new members to the club, which is an increase from the 71 new members of the previous year.



Financial report

Tania Hercun, Treasurer

The ski club had a stable financial year with a net income of \$9,507. The annual revenue was \$216,635 and the total expenditure was \$207,129. As of April 30, 2019, the total asset value of the ski club is \$899,370. The club has a total of \$140,298 in cash assets of which \$77,218 are invested in a GIC as our Chalet Reserve fund. This year \$30,000 from the general account will be transferred to the chalet reserve fund as per our chalet reserve fund contribution plan.

The 2019-20 budget was approved by the board on April 13, 2019. At the end of this report you will find the year-end financial statements which include: the balance sheet, the comparative income statement and the approved 2019-20 budget.