



Yellowknife Ski Club Annual General Meeting
2019/2020 Annual Report

June 17, 2020

President's report

Heather Scott, President

This year, my main project was working with the board's executive (myself, the secretary and treasurer) to complete a strategic planning process for the next five years at the Yellowknife Ski Club (YKSC). One of our members, Roxane Poulin, graciously donated her time and professional skills to this fruitful process. She started by conducting a survey of our members which helped us to prioritize our five-year goals for the YKSC. Right off the bat, common themes emerged. We also reviewed our previous strategic plan and extracted and refined the relevant goals from that document.

With Roxane's help, we created a plan that did not include the operational items that we currently execute well but prioritized the aspirational goals that we hope to achieve over this next planning period. We grouped these goals under the pillars of membership, programming, governance, and trails. We then met several times to define action items for each theme over the next five years. As members in a volunteer-based organization, I encourage you to have a look at our strategic plan and see where you can help execute our action items in the years to come.

In December 2019, the YKSC had the privilege of hosting two instructors from Nordiq Canada: Ilona Gyapay, coach and athlete development coordinator, and Stephen Novosad, technical coordinator for coaching development. This visit provided board members a rare chance to meet in-person with national officials to discuss the club, our programs, and our future goals.

Normally this report would come on the heels of year-end celebrations, program completions and participation at the Arctic Winter Games. But as we know, our club, programs and events came to a grinding halt in March 2020. A global pandemic meant that our chalet doors were shut to all members, programs and rentals; there were no hot dog roasts to wrap-up the Jackrabbits season; the Track Attack Olympics were not held; and we never saw our athletes board planes to Whitehorse to compete and soak in that special experience.

The irony is that despite the loss of these parameters by which we often ski, I think many of us felt our love for skiing grow beyond measure this spring. Skiing was the thing we could do when we could not do anything else. There wasn't a pool, a rink, a school, an office, or a soccer field, but there were ski tracks, and lots of them. There

were ski tracks at the ski club, on the bay, and on Frame Lake. March and April were filled with a strange new uncertainty and disruption to our normal routines, but the days were often gloriously sunny and cold enough to keep the snow firm yet fast under our skis. We experienced an unusually long ski season that saw the club trails used late into April. I started to hear people refer to skis as their “sanity sticks,” our way to stay physically and mentally well and momentarily forget how different our lives off the trails had become. I think we should officially declare 2020 the year that skiing saved our sanity!

In closing, I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers that are responsible for our facilities, trails, programs and events, including coaches, trail groomers, event planners, cleaners, etc. I'd especially like to thank the board of directors, who had to make swift decisions regarding our programs and facilities this spring and who now, in conjunction with Cross Country NWT, continue to work to understand how the YKSC may function under the GNWT's Emerging Wisely Plan. I wish you all a great summer and I'll see you on your sanity sticks next winter!

Trails report

Chris Hotson, Trails Director

The 2019-2020 ski season marked another successful year for all the volunteers that contribute to keeping the trails operational. The late season skiing through April was excellent.

Equipment

Our grooming equipment, although aging, is generally in good condition. 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 in season.

Summer trail work

Brian Latham again led the summer volunteer crew. His report is included below.

Background

- The work is done mostly by retired members;
- Work sessions are mostly two hours long and up to three times a week, on an as-available basis;

- The work is mostly light, but each session is fully used;
- Bug spray is provided.

Equipment Shed Area

- Major cleanup of old equipment: aluminum and steel pipes, rotten and damaged fencing, wood, ancient lighting, rotten storage shelf, old oil tank, old water heater. Some given away, most taken to dump;
- Brushed around the old materials to get at them;
- Made emergency repairs to side of grey shed deteriorated by water from leaking roof;
- Put new tarps on old Alpine snowmobiles (to show they are not garbage).

Miscellaneous

- Propped up fences near the road and in the main stadium to hold them vertical over the winter. Removed props (annual task);
- Recycled old power poles at west end of parking lot;
- Closed and opened the fence section between the biathlon and main stadiums (end of the Snowflake Trail).

Chalet Area

- Disassembled the fallen large sign structure in front of the chalet (long dangerously weak). Recycled large members into bases for trail signs - useful in low, wet areas;
- Refurbished and painted two benches. Shortened seat or moved legs to make them less tippy;
- Swept part of parking lot for nails, other metals.

Trails

- Removed all Biathlon 3.75 trail signs - trail no longer used;
- Removed half of Biathlon 5 trail signs - trail no longer used;
- Surveyed a potential new trail to replace the old Biathlon 5 trail - about 50 signs required;
- Cleaned old sign decals from 25 aluminum substrates - first step in reusing these for new trail signs;
- Straightened, repositioned, tightened base bolts, painted, replaced sign backings of 23 sign posts, mostly south of the main stadium;
- Rollaway - replaced stolen No Snowmobile sign;
- Ravine trail to Back Bay. Also straightened/propped up snow fence between ski and snowmobile trails;

- Lower part of Staircase uphill - removed/recycled unneeded sign assembly;
- Old Tow Hill - recycled unneeded sign assembly;
- Painted/replaced 48 trail sign backings. Repainted five trail name sign;
- Surveyed lower part of Rollaway for widening potential. Marked edge of trail that could be groomed wider;
- Moved wood chips from past two years to around rocks on Lynx Loop near junction with main trail. Trails dry enough to use a vehicle;
- Cleared fallen tree on main trail before junction with Lynx Loop. Recycled as firewood or for chipping;
- Moved chippable materials and assembled others at north service access. Chipped by R. Tumchewicz and his chipper;
- Wheelbarrowed chips to top of Sah Cho Hill to fill around rocks;
- Surveyed Mud Run route to assess damage due to the use of heavy equipment, other aspects.

Other

- Obtained materials as needed;
- Recruited/managed volunteers;
- Met Janet Pacey re: graphic design and production of signs for new trail route.

Many thanks

- To Robert Tumchewics for use of his chipper and single-handedly chipping several cubic metres of chips;
- To Dave Speakman for use of his chainsaw;
- To Ken Hall for recycling the aluminum banner posts and removing other metals to the dump;
- To Credence Wood for single-handedly cutting up the older oil tank, and removing it and the old water heater to the dump, and work on the biathlon area and building including repair of the roof;
- To Gene Hugo for his time, experience, and truck for moving things.

Volunteer Hours

Volunteers include Brian Latham, Bob Reid, David Speakman, Brian Render, Robert Tumchewics, Gene Hugo, Credence Wood, Anna Soininen, and Ken Hall for a total of 200 hours.

Fall Trail Brushing

The annual fall brushing season proceeded as in previous years. A callout for volunteers is made to the general membership through the newsletter in September.

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

The grooming schedule remained the same this year 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.

We held an annual grooming workshop in January to train new groomers who have expressed interest in volunteering. Several of those in attendance 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 making our trails so terrific; John Buckland, Ed Hoeve, David Speakman, Adam Bembridge, Bruce Look, Colin Morris, Shamus Gordon, Sean Marshall, Nigel Bocking, Oliver Hodgins, Paul Guy, and Greg Littlefair. 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.

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 2019/20 season:

- Nov 1 – Ski swap drop off 6-8pm
- Nov 2 – Snow show – 10am-1pm
- Nov 14 – Wax & Wine 7-10pm
- Nov 30/Dec 1 – Coaching workshops: CC (community coach) & L2T (Learn to Train)
- Dec 8 – Adult Lesson Kick-off, “Get Active” potluck dinner 5:30pm with Christmas Carols
- Dec 13, 14, 15 – Arctic Winter Games Trials
- Dec 15 – Trail grooming workshop
- Jan 19 – “Get Active” World Snow Day
- Feb 16 – “Get Active” NWT Ski day
- Feb 29/Mar 1 – YK Ski Races
- March 7 – Frostbite 50
- April 5 – Yellowknife Gold Loppet
- CANCELLED – Nordic Cross Fun Event
- June 17 – Volunteer Appreciation and AGM

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. There is a silent auction, which is a significant fundraiser for the HP (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 sale table for general club revenue. This year’s event was once again well attended.

Wax & Wine Soiree

The Wax & Wine kicks off the ski season with wine, good food, and good company while your skis are waxed by the High Performance team (one of their primary fundraisers).

CC (Community Coaching) & L2T (Learn to Train) Courses

These courses are part of CCC (Cross Country Canada) to provide training to people who are interested in coaching the Jackrabbits Programs (approx. ages 4-10) & Track Attack programs. We were very fortunate to have instructors Ilona Gyapay and Stephen Novosad, both employees of Nordiq Canada. They delivered wonderful courses, provided insight into program development, and demonstrated Nordiq Canada’s commitment to supporting our Territorial Sport Organization.

Trail Grooming Clinic

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

Adult Lessons Kick-off and “Get Active” Christmas Potluck Dinner & Carols

With increased interest in Adult lessons, we hosted a kick-off day to invite adults to check out the club & take a short mini lesson. Hot drinks and snacks were served. The Christmas potluck has become a tradition over the past few years. New & returning members enjoy this annual tradition. Caroling downstairs in the members lounge was a hit.

Arctic Winter Games Trials

Our club hosted the cross-country skiing territorial trials for the Arctic Winter Games. Two athletes from Fort Smith, two from Fort Good Hope, and 12 from Yellowknife participated in the trials for the weekend. Unfortunately, the weather was too cold to host skiing time trials, so trials included indoor strength and cardio testing.

Sunday Lunches

We renewed our Food Establishment License which allows vendors to come and use our facility to sell food. We hosted “Sunday Lunches” for select Sundays in January & February from 12-2pm. Karen Johnson took the lead to organize individuals through the NWT Literacy Council Community Connections Program to bring a series of “Food from Around the World.” This was well received by our members, the public, and the vendors. We hope to continue this next season.

World Snow Day

The international celebration of “World Snow Day” has become one of our most inclusive events of the season and a great opportunity to showcase what our club has to offer. We make it accessible to all by waiving trail fees for the day and offering free equipment rentals. Tania Hercun organized a pancake breakfast from 10-2.

Complimentary skis and snowshoes were provided by JH Sissons school (made possible by John Stephenson and Karen Johnson) and Overlander Sports. This event was very well attended (with around 300 people) by both members and non-members and provided a wonderful opportunity for new skiers to try out the sport. Karen Johnson from the NWT Literacy Council’s Community Connections Program for Newcomers offered on-snow instruction. Sponsors for the event include: Cross Country NWT, Recreation & Parks Association’s “Get Active” program, YK Co-op, Barrenground Coffee,

Yellowknife Ski Races – Territorial Championships

The Yellowknife Ski Club hosts an annual weekend of both classic & 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. Additional funding from CCNWT helped to support the attendance of athletes from Fort Good Hope and Fort Smith this year. The temperature cut-off for hosting races proves to be an obstacle for our club. Fortunately, we were able to host classic races for our older athletes, but all races for children ages nine and under were cancelled. Fearless volunteers organized a fun (and chaotic) relay for them. Sunday temperatures did not allow for any races to take place.

Frostbite 50

In partnership with the Yellowknife Multisport Club, the Frostbite 50 was another huge success this year, despite the challenging weather (-28 C with winds up to 35 km/hr). This 50 km ski and snowshoe event follows snow machine trails for the ski club to Walsh Lake and Prosperous Lake in five stages. It is always very well attended with around 100 skiers and runners this year. Our committed crew of volunteers, led this year by Amanda Blair & Stacey Menzies, did a great job again this year.

Yellowknife Gold Loppet Sponsored by Gold Terra

CHANGED to: The Great COVID-19 non-Loppet Loppet

Covid-19 changed the course of events at the end of the season.


The 42nd annual loppet was set and ready to go under the outstanding leadership of Alyssa Titus. In late March, it became clear that the loppet as we know it would not happen this year. A few board members worked together to come up with a scheme to encourage spring skiing in the city by coordinating grooming efforts between rogue trails around the city and the YKSC.

Spring conditions are usually at their peak in early April (one of the reasons the Loppet is always such a success), so we wanted to create an opportunity for people to still experience that, but in a way that allowed ample space and time for social distancing. By putting together a large loop (with options to do smaller portions of the loop) with many access points, the non-loppet became a great success, celebrated in both the *Yellowknifer* and on social media.


Classic or Skate Ski this Unmarked

~ 20 km Groomed Loop


Starting Sunday, April 5th




Be sure to practice Physical Distancing !



~ the Guerrilla Groomers





But what about the cookies??? It is a well known fact that homemade cookies and skiing go together. Kathi Woodward had already made her classic 100 dozen cookies for the checkpoints. When figuring out what to do with them, the decision was made to distribute to members in exchange for donations to the Salvation Army. Around \$1,500 was fundraised! Her recipes were also shared on social media and members enjoyed

baking these beloved cookies to fuel their ski adventures in the outstanding spring conditions.

In addition to the regular (fantastic!) grooming crew at the ski club who kept the trails in amazing conditions all season, we'd also like to thank Niels Konge for grooming Frame Lake (all season) and Back Bay (for the non-loppet), Dave Kellet & Ryan McCord for grooming the Yellowknife Bay Burwash trails, and Kevin Hodgins & Jack Kotaska for maintaining Back Bay all season. Thanks to Tania Hercun for putting together a map that connects the trails.

Our key sponsor for this event, Gold Terra, was very supportive in our decision to change the event to comply with restrictions made by public health. We appreciate their on-going support!

“Get Active” events

The NWT Recreation & Parks Association provides funding to offer free events that promote recreational activities. Trail fees were waived on these days and refreshments and draw prizes were available in the chalet. Our “Get Active” events for the 2018/19 season were: Dec 8 – Potluck Dinner with Christmas Carols, Jan 19 World Snow Day, Feb 16 NWT Ski Day.

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

This was another excellent year for programming at the ski club, despite the chilly weather, including a two-week period from Jan. 6 to Jan. 19 when the temperature didn't rise above -30 C. Cold weather forced the cancellation of the Yellowknife Ski Races and caused many shortened Jackrabbit lessons, but it didn't stop people from getting out on skis.

Adult Ski Lessons

Adult ski lessons proved somewhat challenging this year with the very cold weather. We held the second annual adult ski lessons kick-off in December that brought several

new people to the club for mini-lessons, even at -34 C. Low temperatures in January caused cancelled classes. This has been the case since adult lessons resumed two years ago.

Our February lessons for intermediate and beginner skiers proved successful. Rob Matthews taught the Sunday class with six intermediates. Amy Lechelt and Kynyn Doughty taught the Saturday class — a mix of eight beginners and intermediates. Both of February's classes saw good to great progress from students. Make-up lessons were offered to both classes to ensure students received four two-hour blocks of instruction. The system of running four two-hour classes on consecutive weekends works well.

No weeknight classes were offered this year and in future I recommend we only offer those in March/April when it is warmer and lighter out.

The Covid lockdown prevented any more classes in March or April, though we had proposed another round of intermediate classes and beginner skate classes.

- Rob Matthews

Coach training

Twenty-one people participated in a community coaching course and the Learn to Train dry-land courses in early December. This helped set up one of the most successful seasons so far for Jackrabbits and Track Attack with both programs having a healthy number of energetic coaches. Quite a bit of effort went into organizing a CANSI course for our ski community, but there were not enough registrants to make a go of it this year. We'll try again next year.

- Alex Lothian

Ski Parents

The Ski Parents program used the Yellowknife Ski Club Ski Parents Program Facebook group as well as an email chain to organize gatherings this year.

To find the perfect day/time for everyone a Doodle poll was done, and we chose two times: one on Monday morning between 9:30 and 12:30 and the other on Thursday afternoon around 3 pm. Mostly families with infants and toddlers were attending the Monday morning meetings, where parents would take turns watching the kids while others would go for a ski. On Thursday afternoons, we had lots of preschool age kids,

so the dynamic was a bit different. The preschoolers would often go for a ski as well or just play outside, go sliding, etc.

For next year, we hope to provide more family-friendly items in the chalet, including one or two high chairs, a small toilet seat for toddlers and a stool for children to use while washing hands. We also discussed the possibility of holding special ski parents events, for example on PD (no-school) days or holidays.

- Laurence Rivet-Jaque

Jackrabbits

This year, Jackrabbits had 60 registrants plus 17 Bunnyrabbits. In all, we held 13 lessons on Saturday afternoons from 1:30 to 3 between Nov. 23 and March 7. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ski-a-thon scheduled for March 28 and the last day of lessons scheduled for April 4 were cancelled. Our annual excursion to the Snow Castle was also cancelled due to cold weather. Lessons were not cancelled due to weather, but rather, a “cold weather routine” was implemented to reduce time outside on cold days.

All Jackrabbits and bunnies were encouraged to participate in the Yellowknife Ski Races, however, due to Nordiq Canada’s cold temperature racing rules, Peewee skiers (2010 birth year) and younger participated instead in an informal relay for cookie medals.

Each class had two or three coaches. Bunnyrabbits were each accompanied by a parent. 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: Anya Marshall and Barrow Wray
- Level 1: Quinn Vander Veen Kielstra
- Level 2: Finn Marshall
- Level 3: Vaida Marrai and Leah Stephenson
- Level 4: Jack Lyall
- Mixed ages: Ana Maria Villegas
- Go Ski: Carys Lyall

Coaches included: Victoria Tylnski, Paul Parker, Laani Uunila, Rosie Benning, Monika Schroder, Julie Ward, Kirk Tastad, Jeremy Sears, Craig Scott, Mike and Andrea Mitchell, Wendy Lahey, Alex Lothian, Kynyn Doughty, Ella Kokelj, Bruce Laurich, Lisa McShane, Shelley Browne and Shauna Morgan.

The Ron Seale coaching award went to Kirk Tastad whose caring and dedication has been a huge asset of this program for several years.

This year's coordinators were Rosie Benning, Alex Lothian and Tawanis Testart.

- Rosie Benning

Go Ski

Julie Ross and Yvonne Pike lead Go Ski this year, a program which had been in hibernation for a year or two. Go Ski was intended to catch the young skiers who fall through the cracks after the Jackrabbit program but may not want to enter Track Attack. This year we had eight participants, four of whom “belonged” to either Julie or Yvonne. Activities included skiing to the ice caves, making quinzees and bushwhacking. If we ended early, there were homemade snacks and rich sweet chocolate and card games.

- Julie Ross

Track Attack

This year was another great year for Track Attack, with about 30 skiers in the program and an influx of energetic new coaches.

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. Unfortunately, the Track Attack Olympics, our

year end, weeklong event, which involves a series of events based on other sports, was cancelled due to COVID-19.

A big thank you to all coaches: Stephen Dunbar, Eric Reed, Geoff Ray (white squad), Julie Ward, Julian Kanigan, Alex Lothian, Steve Reitsma (yellow squad), and Tim Ensom, Meghan Beveridge, Brett Wheler and Mike Palmer (blue squad).

Thanks also to Joanna Wilson, who ran the lunch program, and Roxane Poulin, who organized the Snow Show canteen.

- Stephen Dunbar

High Performance

The HP skiers started their season at the end of May meeting three times per week for running, roller skiing, strength training and enjoying lots of ultimate!

In early September, a fourth weekly practice was added and the focus on speed and intensity was increased. The Mud Run was once again a highlight as was all the work put into ski waxing and the silent auction during the Snow Show. Dry-land training turned to on-snow fun on Nov. 5 with our first ski practice taking place on Niven Lake.

The first races of the season saw a large group of Yellowknife skiers head to Canmore in early December. The following weekend, Arctic Winter Games Trials were held in Yellowknife with local skiers as well as athletes from Fort Smith and Fort Good Hope. Unfortunately, temperatures were too cold for racing, but skiers still tested their strength and fitness at the Fieldhouse track and their technique during a chilly technique evaluation

Skiers continued to train over Christmas and a small team then attended the Western Canadian Championships in mid-January. Ski excitement continued later in January and February with new Yellowknife Ski Club race and warm-up suits, a race trip to Camrose for another Alberta Cup and a celebration for Sharon Firth and her years of racing.

Clearly the low point of our year was the cancelation of the Whitehorse Arctic Winter Games in early March. While there was lots of disappointment, we continued to meet as a team and enjoy the warmer temperatures and evening light until club programs were cancelled a few weeks later.

Skiers were encouraged to continue skiing and a number of socially distant challenges were coordinated through Strava. Seeing skiers enjoying the non-loppet was definitely a late winter highlight!

Thanks to Kea Furniss, Ruby Pigott, Rae Panayi, Linnea Azzolini, Ella Kokelj, Effie Lockhart, Gillian Furniss, Kira Young, Shannon Mercer, Jack Kotaska, Morgan Young, Makoa Kokelj, Joe Curran and Malachi Morin for your efforts this year!

- Mike Argue (on behalf of himself and Kevin Durkee)

Biathlon

Our accomplishment in the 2019-2020 season was taking two athletes to Hay River to the Arctic Winter Games biathlon trials. Ruby Pigott and Effie Lockhart were accompanied by Catherine Pigott and Doug Lockhart. Doug served as a coach, doing sighting in and gun adjustments with the girls. They completed the trials; Ruby was selected; unfortunately of course she was unable to compete after the Games were canceled.

There was very limited shooting over the winter due to cold temperatures. Ruby Pigott and Effie Lockhart were our only active biathletes. Since March there has been no activity at the club.

We remain without a coach and for that reason I'm not confident we can offer any kind of program next year. Bob Reid remains willing to help old biathletes with shooting when he is available. Doug Lockhart is keen to take part but would require coach training and has shift work to contend with.

- Catherine Piggott

Grants & Fundraising report

Diep Duong, Director of Grants & Fundraising

The Yellowknife Ski Club is grateful to our many sponsors and supporters. Without their generous donations both in money and in-kind support, we would not be able to provide the many programs and services to the residents of Yellowknife.

Cross Country NWT (CCNWT) continues to be one of the club's biggest supporters, not to mention one of our biggest fans! This year, CCNWT provided a total of \$26,125 to our programs and services including the High Performance and Track Attack programs, events such as the YK Ski Races and World Snow Day, and training clinics for our coaches and officials.

Last year, the club received a three-year funding grant from the City of Yellowknife's Community Grant in the amount of \$20,000 per year. This was the second year of the multi-year grant. The city's support was directed towards trail maintenance and improvements, chalet operations and maintenance, training and development for coaches and officials, and communications and outreach.

Gold Terra contributed a total of \$10,000 to the YK Ski Club for the replacement of the hot water tank and the annual loppet. However, due to COVID-19, the loppet did not take place this year so the money will be used for next year's loppet.

This year, the Yellowknife Ski Club also focused on accessing grants to support the purchase of ski club uniforms. As a result of the fundraising efforts, we received a total of \$4000 from community businesses and organizations, which paid for a significant portion of the Yellowknife Ski Club racing suits. These community businesses and organizations included:

- KidSport™ NWT - \$2000
- Aurora Village - \$1000
- Canadian Tire - \$1000 (Canadian Tire also provided in-kind donations of much needed chalet equipment that added up to another \$1000.)

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our many sponsors for their continued generous support. The following table provides a list of our 2019-20 sponsors.

In March 2020, much like everything else in Yellowknife, the chalet had to close its doors due to COVID-19. The YK Ski Club offered free trail use for the rest of the season to encourage physical health and physical distancing. Depending on what happens in the fall/winter with COVID-19, the YK Ski Club may need to seek opportunities for additional grants and fundraising efforts to offset any potential loss in revenues from chalet rentals.

2019-20 Yellowknife Ski Club Sponsors (as of April 30, 2020)

Gold Sponsor (\$10,000 or More)	Silver Sponsor (\$1000 - \$9999)	Bronze Sponsor (\$100 - \$999)
Cross Country NWT	KidSport™ NWT	Jeff Hipfner Design & Video
City of Yellowknife	Aurora Village	Signed.
Gold Terra	Canadian Tire	Robert Gamble
	SiTech Systems	Debbie DeLancey
	Blachford Lake Lodge	Jonny Covello
	Anonymous	Crowe Mackay
		Meaghan McLaren
		NWT Recreation & Parks Association
		Overlander Sports
		Elks Club

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.

This year, we'd like to offer special appreciation to our club groomers who kept our trails in beautiful condition during that long, gorgeous spring, when nearly every other activity was shut down due to the pandemic. We'd also like to acknowledge the guerilla groomers around town who linked the ski club to a broad network of trails throughout the city, in particular, for the non-loppet.

We 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: **Karen Johnson**
- The Double-Poler Award for adult volunteer(s) who made a significant contribution to the YKSC in the past year: **Roxane Poulin**
- The Stellar Snowflake Award for junior volunteer(s) who made a significant contribution to the YKSC in the past year: **Ella Kokelj**
- The Herringbone Award for a business that contributed in-kind services to the YKSC in the past year: **Canadian Tire**

On rare occasions, the Yellowknife Ski Club accepts long-serving volunteers as lifetime members of the club. The current list of lifetime members includes: Sharon Firth, Blair and Linda Dunbar, Kevin Hodgins and John Stephenson. This year, the board elected to induct **Brian Latham** into this small pantheon.

This year we also introduced a new, one-time only award to mark the special circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and our ski community's excellent response.

- The 2020 COVID-19 Ski Sanity Award: **the ski groomers of Yellowknife.**

This award goes to Yellowknife Ski Club groomers:

- Adam Bembridge
- Nigel Bocking
- John Buckland
- Paul Guy
- Oliver Hodgins
- Ed Hoeve
- Clair Littlefair
- Greg Littlefair
- Spencer Littlefair
- Bruce Look
- Shamus Gordon
- Sean Marshall
- David Speakman
- Robert Tumchewics

Yellowknife Guerrilla Groomers:

- Kevin Hodgins
- Dave Kellett
- Niels Konge

- Jack Kotaska
- Ryan McCord
- Bill Stirling
- Keith Sulzer

Guerrilla Groomers outside of Yellowknife:

- Steve Kokelj
- Mike Palmer
- Robin Williams

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

Despite the truncated season, the club had a successful and enjoyable year. Membership numbers were up, as was the club's overall popularity in 2019/20 with record chalet rental reservations and a very active membership taking full advantage of the club's facilities well into April. And though we had to suspend programming and chalet use in March, I hope that this season will be remembered for its highs and that the enthusiasm of our members carries over into next year.

This year was an important one for club governance. With the invaluable help of Roxane Poulin, the executive committee and other active directors completed a strategic plan for 2020-2025. This plan will be supported by targeted action plans over the next five years and will help the board tackle priority issues including renegotiating our land lease, supporting and training coaches, increasing membership and improving our trail network.

As usual, 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. The YKSC has kept its Societies Act filings, lease payments and other administrative requirements up to date. Work is also underway this year on reviewing the board's bylaws and administrative policies.

I have truly enjoyed working with such dedicated and enthusiastic directors and love watching the club continue to grow and flourish as a community. If elected to another term, I intend to continue work supporting the board at meetings and with clerical items, advancing governance initiatives and generally helping people get out and enjoy the snow!

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 info@skiyellowknife.com.

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. Our Facebook page grew slightly this year reaching 890 followers, up from 662 at the close of last season. Thanks to the trails team for posting grooming updates regularly to meet public demand, and to Alyssa Titus, Tania Hercun and Heather Scott for responding to Facebook queries.

The generalized decline of local media had an impact on our advertising this year. This year, Edge Magazine ceased publication, prompting us to look elsewhere to promote our club. Advertising dollars were shared to the *Yellowknifer* newspaper and Cabin Radio. The City of Yellowknife also ceased publication of its printed recreation guides, allowing us to use these dollars elsewhere. The Yellowknife Ski Club is pleased to be able to support local media on a continuing basis.

I'd like to mention the excellent work of local sports reporter James McCarthy in the *Yellowknifer* for his ongoing coverage of our high performance and track attack athletes as well as our club generally, such as a full-colour photo spread of our non-loppet. Thanks also to the coaches and parents who shared photos and stories with James while on the road so that our members and our community can learn about our teams, as well as those athletes who contributed newspaper columns.

Once again, Kerry Wheler designed several event posters. 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 another significant contribution to our club by giving us a discount to design and print a new trailhead sign. Her attention to detail is appreciated!

Facilities Report

Credence Wood, Facilities Director

Biathlon Building and Sheds

The biathlon building is showing its age. Some emergency repairs were done on the roof to prevent water damage and deterioration. The old garages, now used as storage sheds, have also been identified as needing repair and replacement in the near future.

Chalet

John Stephenson continued to take a lead role in the day to day operations of the chalet which, among other things, includes coordinating with cleaners, water and waste services, the City, and renters and was an invaluable resource to a new director. Thanks John.

Improvements to the chalet continued this past season. New commercial flooring was installed throughout the upper level and on the stairs in the fall. As well, new shingles for the chalet are planned and should be installed before the AGM.

Another welcome improvement was the replacement of the old, small hot water tank with a new, full size model. No more running out of hot water before the dishes are done!

A new electrical subpanel was required for the hot water tank and also allowed us to install an additional plug in the kitchen, which will help to reduce load on the kitchen breaker and hopefully prevent a tripped breaker and loss of power in the kitchen when multiple heating appliances are in use.

Rentals

With the past renovations and continued upgrades this year, the chalet continues to be a popular spot for group rentals including school and youth groups, day camps, wedding and other family gatherings, and meetings and workshops. With the closure of the chalet due to the COVID-19 pandemic, rentals took a hit, particularly with the loss of annual spring school rentals. We are working towards opening the chalet to some groups this summer and things are looking promising for the return of summer camps, youth group sleepovers and maybe others. Thanks to Brian Kelln with the City of Yellowknife for sharing what the city's facilities are doing as they work to reopen during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks also to the City of Yellowknife for continuing to provide booking and key holding services for chalet rentals.

More Thanks

Thanks to the many contractors who provide assistance in maintaining the chalet including J&R Mechanical, DT Electric, WB Water Services, Kavanaugh Bros, Ollerhead NWT Locksmithing, R3 Cleaning, Tundra Transfer, ThyssenKrupp Elevator and FloorsFirst/Aurora Decorating.

Special thanks goes to:

- The Yellowknife Association of Community Living's YES! group for providing bi-weekly cleaning, snow shovelling and recycling pickup service at no cost;
- Simon deJong (SiTech Systems) for donating his time to build a platform for the new hot water tank plus adding shelving to and painting the water tank / janitorial room; and
- Gold Terra for contributing funds to purchase and install the new hot water tank.

Registrar's report

Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Registrar

The Yellowknife Ski Club saw a total of 535 members register this year. Total membership continues on an upward track back towards our all-time high membership recorded in the 2015-2016 season. Continuing the trend of the last several years, we had over 350 members take advantage of the early bird pricing, with many people taking advantage of the in-person registration at the Snow Show. A big shout-out to Damian Panayi who again volunteered his time to assist the snow show registrants.



The club continues to see an increase in the number of members registering as families, with 63 families in total this year. Individual memberships included 179 adults, 45 youth, and 15 individual children registrants (see Figure below). In addition to those members, six families and eight individual members registered as part of our partnership with Joint Task Force North. This year we had 57 individuals identify themselves as new members to the club. We also saw an increase in the number of day use skiers taking advantage of our online day-pass registration on Zone4. Please remember that if you have friends or family who want to try skiing at the club, they can register online!



Financial report

Tania Hercun, Treasurer

The ski club had a stable financial year with a net income of \$554. The club would have expected a larger surplus if the chalet was open to rent in March and April 2020. Unfortunately due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the chalet was closed for the last two months of the season. The annual revenue this year was \$200,574 and the total expenditure was \$200,021. As of April 30, 2020 the club has a total of \$164,288 in cash assets of which \$77,952 are invested in a GIC as the Chalet Reserve fund.

The total asset value of the ski club is \$899,863 as of April 30, 2020. The 2020-21 budget was approved by the board on May 4, 2020. The budget estimates a loss of approximately \$40,000 next year due to the impact of the pandemic. The largest financial impact is due to the loss of chalet rentals revenue over the next unknown number of months.

At the end of this report you will find the year end financial statements which include: Balance Sheet, Income Statement and the approved 2020-21 Budget.

Yellowknife Ski Club

Comparative Income Statement

	Actual 05/01/2019 to 04/30/2020	Budget 05/01/2019 to 04/30/2020
REVENUE		
Revenue		
Membership Registration	49,376.00	44,000.00
Programs	72,930.42	90,970.00
Events	9,210.90	19,320.00
Fundraising	14,255.33	6,500.00
Donations	3,192.26	3,000.00
Building Rental	26,500.00	40,000.00
Trail Use	1,414.25	3,850.00
Interest Revenue	733.83	200.00
City of Yellowknife Grant	20,000.00	20,000.00
In Kind Donations	2,961.40	5,500.00
Total Revenue	200,574.39	233,340.00
TOTAL REVENUE	200,574.39	233,340.00
EXPENSE		
Expenses		
Communications/ Advertising	5,832.83	6,190.00
Accounting and Legal	322.91	1,000.00
Amortization Expense	46,089.09	31,070.00
Building Maintenance	7,291.95	13,500.00
Events	11,982.18	19,320.00
Insurance	10,000.00	9,000.00
Interest & Bank Charges	30.82	100.00
Janitorial	3,013.57	6,500.00
Licenses / Memberships	5,767.50	5,800.00
Office Supplies	0.00	250.00
Admin & Booking Fees	4,347.92	6,000.00
Programs	68,788.41	89,620.00
Fundraising Expenses	0.00	500.00
Trail Maintenance	7,619.80	19,990.00
Alarm Monitoring	849.86	1,000.00
Electricity	7,059.48	6,500.00
Elevator	1,691.56	1,800.00
Fuel/Heat	11,201.87	8,000.00
Garbage	1,998.86	2,000.00
Telephone & Internet	2,304.28	2,200.00
Water	3,827.98	3,000.00
Total General & Admin. Exp...	200,020.87	233,340.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	200,020.87	233,340.00
NET INCOME	553.52	0.00

Yellowknife Ski Club

Balance Sheet As at 04/30/2020

ASSET

Current Assets

Chequing - TD 5202820	79,960.59	
Capital Reserve GIC - TD 572966	77,952.07	
Total Cash		157,912.66
Total Receivable		6,375.00
Total Current Assets		164,287.66

Capital Assets

Net - Building		631,217.19
Net - Building Furnishings		7,051.73
Net - Snow Machine		30,687.61
Net - Trail Equipment		10,502.09
Net - Rifles		0.00
Net- New Maintenance Shed		53,517.60
Net - Timing Equipment		2,599.13
Total Capital Assets		735,575.35

TOTAL ASSET

899,863.01

LIABILITY

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable		1,000.00
Total Current Liabilities		1,000.00

Long Term Liabilities

Unrestricted Net Assets		554,702.77
Total Long Term Liabilities		554,702.77

TOTAL LIABILITY

555,702.77

EQUITY

Equity

Retained Earnings - Previous Years		343,606.72
Current Earnings		553.52
Total Equity		344,160.24

TOTAL EQUITY

344,160.24

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

899,863.01

YK SKI CLUB BUDGET - GENERAL ACCOUNT
2020-21
FINAL

Completed By: Tania Hercun

Approved: May 4, 2020

		2019-20 Actual	2019-20 Budget	2019-20 Diff	TOTAL 2020-21 Budget	Comments
REVENUE						
1	Membership Registration	\$49,376.00	\$44,000.00	\$5,376.00	\$47,000.00	
2	Fundraising	\$14,255.33	\$6,500.00	\$7,755.33	\$3,000.00	
3	Donations	\$3,192.26	\$3,000.00	\$192.26	\$3,000.00	
4	Building Rental	\$26,500.00	\$40,000.00	(\$13,500.00)	\$10,000.00	Low due to Covid-19 impact
5	Trail Use	\$1,414.25	\$3,850.00	(\$2,435.75)	\$1,500.00	
6	Interest Revenue	\$733.83	\$200.00	\$533.83	\$725.00	
7	Misc Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
8	City of Yellowknife Grant	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	
9	In-Kind Donations	\$2,961.40	\$5,500.00	(\$2,538.60)	\$3,000.00	
10	Events	\$9,210.90	\$19,320.00	(\$10,109.10)	\$14,320.00	
11	Programs	\$72,930.42	\$90,970.00	(\$18,039.58)	\$76,670.00	Includes \$51K Travel Budget
TOTAL REVENUE		\$200,574.39	\$233,340.00	(\$32,765.61)	\$179,215.00	
EXPENSES						
20	Accounting & Legal	\$322.91	\$1,000.00	(\$677.09)	\$500.00	
21	Amortization	\$46,089.09	\$31,070.00	\$15,019.09	\$35,000.00	
22	Building Maintenance	\$7,291.95	\$13,500.00	(\$6,208.05)	\$14,750.00	
23	Communications/Advertising/Website	\$5,832.83	\$6,190.00	(\$357.17)	\$4,890.00	
24	Fundraising Expenses	\$0.00	\$500.00	(\$500.00)	\$500.00	
25	Admin & Booking Fees	\$4,347.92	\$6,000.00	(\$1,652.08)	\$6,000.00	Zone 4 & City bookings
26	Insurance	\$10,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$14,000.00	
27	Interest & Bank Charges	\$30.82	\$100.00	(\$69.18)	\$100.00	
28	Janitorial	\$3,013.57	\$6,500.00	(\$3,486.43)	\$4,000.00	
29	Licenses/Memberships	\$5,767.50	\$5,800.00	(\$32.50)	\$5,800.00	CCC Memberships
30	Misc. Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
31	Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$250.00	(\$250.00)	\$250.00	
32	Trail Maintenance	\$7,619.80	\$19,990.00	(\$12,370.20)	\$18,240.00	
33	In-Kind Chalet Rentals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
UTILITIES						
34	Alarm Monitors	\$849.86	\$1,000.00	(\$150.14)	\$1,000.00	
35	Electricity	7,059.48	\$6,500.00	\$559.48	\$6,500.00	
36	Elevator	1,691.56	\$1,800.00	(\$108.44)	\$1,700.00	
37	Fuel/Heat	11,201.87	\$8,000.00	\$3,201.87	\$10,000.00	
38	Garbage	1,998.86	\$2,000.00	(\$1.14)	\$2,000.00	
39	Telephone & Internet	2,304.28	\$2,200.00	\$104.28	\$2,200.00	
40	Water	3,827.98	\$3,000.00	\$827.98	\$3,000.00	
41	Events	\$11,982.18	\$19,320.00	(\$7,337.82)	\$14,970.00	
42	Programs	\$68,788.41	\$89,620.00	(\$20,831.59)	\$75,170.00	Includes \$51K Travel Budget
TOTAL EXPENSE		\$200,020.87	\$233,340.00	(\$33,319.13)	\$220,570.00	
NET (REVENUE minus EXPENSE)		\$553.52	\$0.00	\$553.52	(\$41,355.00)	
CHALET REPLACEMENT ITEMS (RESERVE FUND)						
	Roof, Eaves & Landscaping				\$23,360.00	