



Yellowknife Ski Club Annual General Meeting  
2020/2021 Annual Report

June 10, 2021

## President's report

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### Heather Scott, President

First of all, let's celebrate the fact that the Yellowknife Ski Club was not only able to continue operations during the pandemic, but actually flourished and saw greater membership and participation than ever before. I would firstly like to thank the members of the COVID-exposure control plan committee, headed by our new programs director, Bernadette Knox. The committee worked swiftly and thoroughly this fall to ensure our club opened in time for the snow to hit the ground. The plan had to consider the intricacies of managing program numbers, constraining chalet use, and maintaining cleaning standards. Once approved, our COVID-exposure plan was then shared with, and utilized by, all of the regional ski clubs in the territory.

I (virtually) attended many of the Cross Country NWT (our territorial sport organization) meetings this year. The excitement for skiing around the territory was palpable. Although it seems wrong to celebrate good outcomes of the pandemic, the increased interest in outdoor sports and Nordic skiing in particular was undeniable. All clubs around the territory saw growth in membership and events, particularly with the Inuvik ski club returning to the scene as an active organization. Intra-territorial races and loppets were enjoyed by numerous skiers, and many Yellowknife skiers were able to travel and participate in events in both Fort Smith and Hay River.

Our club experienced the resurgence of our biathlon program after a couple of quiet years; much thanks to program coordinator Doug Lockhart and coaches Marie-Eve Raymond, Trent Waterhouse and Belinda Whitford. There is much interest in the program and I'm sure biathlon will only continue to flourish in Yellowknife!

Our board of directors continues to thrive and provide a strong governing base for the club. As we entered into the first year of our 5-year strategic planning phase, we began to tackle action plans: broadening our membership and interest in skiing; starting conversations about the land tenure of our club's lease; and reviewing our governing policies. For some time, there has been a strong desire to bring skiing to those outside of our membership, and the commencement of the incredible Ski at School program this year (spearheaded by Knox and programs director Kerry Wheler) was undoubtedly one of the club's biggest accomplishments to date, having successfully brought ski-programming to many school kids around the capital.

This year, our board is sadly saying good-bye to several members. Credence Wood has served as the facilities director for the past two years. Credence is diligent, hard-working, generous with his time, and just a very kind individual. His services have been indispensable, and we look forward to seeing him and his family around the club! Sara Minogue has served as our Communications Director since 2017. As a seasoned journalist, Sara's weekly ski club updates became sought-out news! Sara regularly volunteers during club events and has a gift for remaining calm under pressure; have you seen her deal with timing chips on an assembly line of young racers?! Sara was just an all-around fantastic addition to the board, and always contributed to discussion thoughtfully and decisively.

At this time, I would like to particularly recognize one other out-going board member: Tania Hercun. Tania has served on the club's board of directors for many years in various roles but served most recently as treasurer. That volunteerism alone would be reason for grand acknowledgement, but Tania's involvement in the club has involved so much more. In addition to her duties as treasurer, Tania has been completing the club's bookkeeping as an in-kind contribution for the past several years — an indispensable and very valuable service. Most of you know that our chalet underwent a major renovation, beginning in 2016. The renovation very much transformed the use of the chalet and amplified the enjoyment members and our community at large get out of the club's facilities. Tania spearheaded the project and saw it through to the end. Tania successfully applied for a Canadian Northern Development Agency grant that largely funded the project, she struck a committee that oversaw the renovation, she sought out various in-kind contributions, and managed the entire project. Without Tania, the renovation simply wouldn't have happened. Simply put, there isn't anything Tania and a spreadsheet can't accomplish! From our club's finances, project managing, organizing races and volunteers. From the bottom of our snowy hearts, thank you Tania.

Thank you all for a fantastic year and I wish you all a fantastic summer; see you when the snow flies!

## **Trails report**

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**Chris Hotson, Trails Director**

The 2020-2021 ski season marked another successful year for all the volunteers who contribute to keeping the trails operational.

## **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 to respond to 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: two-hour work sessions, up to three times a week, at worker's discretion. The work is mostly light, but each session is fully used.

### **Working Conditions**

A very rainy third year in a row. No days cancelled, but scheduling work was more difficult and any painting was done inside the garage. High water/mud levels made movement and equipment use more difficult, but doable.

Crews were mindful of the pandemic but it was not a big factor: most work was outside and done by individuals or in two-person teams. No access to the chalet meant no toilets or place to clean paintbrushes, etc.

Installing the Wolverine Trail signs involved an uncommon deadline. These post locations had to be reconditioned/added, many of which are the most remote on site.

### **Signs**

- Reconditioned/installed 110 signs on 33 posts, most near the Hook and Otter Slide and on trails east of there.
- Improved ground under sign assemblies - T Junction, top of Marten, bottom of Sah Cho, top of La Chute, at the Hook - other sites stabilized.
- Consolidated signs on posts, which required installing longer posts in places. Freed-up posts and concrete bases taken to service area.
- Ordered/obtained/installed arrows and installed four signs for Snowflake shortcut from Gabah Hill to Con Flats.
- Moved Elevator name sign to bottom of hill, freed up sign assembly.

- Added features to dissuade raven-perching and pooping - worst at top of Marten and La Chute.

### **Equipment Shed Area**

- Removed old lumber in bush behind brown storage sheds
- Disassembled lumber collected from chalet and service areas; sorted and stacked for future use.
- Built work table
- Built step for man door of yellow garage
- Cleaned, organized, did dump runs

### **Trail Improvement**

- Moved dirt to around rocks on trails just out from stadium.
- Obtained wood chips, moved to around rocks at tops of Sah Cho climb and new parallel trail.
- Removed fallen tree on lower half of Staircase. Recycled as firewood or saved for chipping.
- Removed bike jumps installed on Rollaway by possible bicyclers.
- Moved pallets to side of trail at foot of Marten Climb.

### **Chalet environs**

- Behind chalet - dismantled old ski racks, removed these and a podium, general cleanup.
- Repaired vandal damage on post at main stadium entrance.
- Put up background for information signs at main stadium entrance.
- Removed old pallets, etc. in general area.

### **Biathlon Area**

- Reattached/stabilized batten boards on west side of range wall.

### **Other**

- Removed fallen, rotten fence and old fence materials in Ravine
- Transplanted trees along road at Biathlon fence
- Removed two old box springs on site. Mud Run?
- Cleaned, sorted materials in equipment shed
- Painted trail name signs and wooden sign backs from reconditioned signs
- Propped up fences near road, stadium

- Closed/opened the fence section between the biathlon and main stadiums
- Welcomed two new workers
- Recruited/managed volunteers
- Obtained materials as needed

### **Many Thanks**

- To Gene Hugo for his time and materials to stabilize part of the security wall in the biathlon shooting range
- To Dave Speakman for use of his chainsaw
- To the volunteers for use of their tools and vehicles

### **Names and number of 2-hour sessions/minimum hours contributed**

Brian Latham, 49, 97

Brian Render, 33, 72

Rich Klakowich, 27, 54

Robert Reid, 23, 45

David Speakman, 16, 31

Vicky Johnston, 5, 9

Gene Hugo, 2, 5

Credence Wood, 2, 3

Anna Soininen, 2/2,

Darin Boutilier 1/1

Overall, 160, 318

### **Description of Wolverine Trail as installed, 2020**



This new trail is basically the decommissioned 5K biathlon trail, but starts in the main stadium instead of the biathlon stadium. It was planned to appeal to a younger group who are looking for more daring trails. It has several added features to increase its challenge nature. It uses a couple of sections of trail that are not part of any other marked trail. It is minimally

signed with only turns marked, otherwise, it's assumed the skier knows to go straight.

#### Route Description

- starts in the main stadium
- goes part way down Rollaway, turns left to cross over to the Staircase uphill.
- turns left at John T turn and goes up to the top
- turns right up the Canada 150 hill then down it
- follows the other trails. Left where Lynx Loop comes in, right at Gabah Hill, right again at the Hook and right again at the top of Otter Slide and down it.
- at the very bottom of Otter Slide, it makes a very sharp right. Instead of going out on the southern edge of Fault Lake with other trails, it uses an old shortcut to meet the other trails after they come off the lake
- to Elevator climb and up it, across the Caribou Corners intersection, then down and around to the top of Back Bay Ramp
- turns left and follows the other trails to the bottom of Dunbar Drop
- turns right, goes to Giant Slide and down to Fault Lake
- goes a bit right of the regular trail to the unnamed and undeveloped trail paralleling Sah Cho climb, joining the other trail at the top
- down Goose Back and up the big climb to Con Flats
- turns right and quick right again and down Zoom
- up Goose Neck, then left to Roadrunner and follows it back to Con Flats and turns right
- into and around the biathlon loop following the 10K to the main trail turns right and into the stadium.

#### Fall Trail Brushing

The annual fall brushing season proceeded as in previous years. A club-wide callout for volunteers is made 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, half day, or as they are able. This process starts in early September and usually finishes after the first snowfall. Time estimated on fall trail brushing in 2020 was 350 hours.

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) grooms again after the heavy traffic from weekend lessons, Jackrabbits, and higher skier volumes, to regroom and track set where needed so that the trails are in good condition for the week.

An annual grooming workshop was held in January to train new groomers who have expressed interest in volunteering. Several of those in attendance have joined the rotation as regular groomers. Thirteen people participated in the workshop which included time learning the science behind grooming, familiarization with the grooming equipment in the shop and finally practical training on the different equipment.

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, Bruce Look, Colin Morris, 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**

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### **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:

Beginning of season until January 17th – SKIGO Bingo Round 1  
Nov 2 – Snow show – CANCELLED



Dec 13 – Candy Cane Forest  
Dec 15 – Trail grooming workshop  
Jan 17 – World Snow Day  
Feb 14 – NWT Ski day  
Feb 10 – April 12 – SKIGO Bingo Round 2  
Mar 20/21 – NWT Territorial Ski Championships  
Mar 27/28 – Polar Cup Biathlon Races  
Mar 29 – Yellowknife Gold Loppet sponsored by Gold Terra  
April 10 – Nordic Cross Fun Event  
June 10 – AGM

### **Snow Show**

Our annual Snow Show was cancelled this year because of COVID restrictions. In lieu of our annual ski swap, a Facebook group was created specifically for ski gear. Many people were successfully matched with gear as others cleaned out their sheds! We look forward to the day when we can share in early season ski enthusiasm over a bowl of chili as we browse silent auction items.

### **Candy Cane Forest Ski – Free Ski with Santa!**

We waived trail fees for the day and invited people to glide into a magical forest full of candy canes. Though it was a very cold day, the lure of a candy laden forest encouraged folks young and old to venture out and fill their pockets! Santa and his elf greeted many skiers!

Special thanks to Toryn, Emma & Brett Wheler who acted as elves and dispersed 600 candy canes on the 1km loop in the forest while I was in isolation! Thanks to Niva & John Stephenson who made a jolly appearance. And to Lianne Plamondon who designed the poster.



### **World Snow Day**

The international celebration of “World Snow Day” has become a much anticipated event for our community. Though we could not have our pancake breakfast feast and free ski equipment rentals of years past, we still managed to reach a lot of new skiers with this event. Trail fees were waived for the day and Overlander offered a reduced rental rate: they rented every pair of skis they own! Individually wrapped trail snacks were available at the trailhead for people to enjoy en route.

### **SKIGO Bingo**

Since events had to operate so differently this year due to COVID, we created a game that inspired self-motivated ski activities. SKIGO Bingo offered a variety of activities to diversify one’s ski experience and motivate skiers of all ages and abilities. It worked! We received rave reviews from those who participated. The main card had 25 activities and a junior card had 9. It is notable to report that we had a group of very dedicated 8-14 year olds who completed the full adult card!

With funding from CCNWT and sponsorship from Blachford Lake Lodge, Overlander Sports and Canadian Tire, we were able to offer AWESOME prizes for both rounds of SKIGO! Grand Prizes included a trip for 2 to Blachford (winner – Arlene Cliffe-Phillips) and \$500 Overlander Spending Spree (winner – Tim Thurley).

### **Yellowknife Ski Races – NWT Territorial Championships**

The Yellowknife Ski Club hosts an annual weekend of both classic & free events for skiers of all ages and abilities. Yellowknife was designated as NWT Territorial Championships so we were delighted to host athletes from Hay River and Fort Smith.

Our exposure control plan for COVID required us to do things slightly differently than normal. There was a flow for all participants when they arrived: go to the biathlon stadium for bib pick-up, warm up in the biathlon area, proceed to start area just before your race, ski your course, exit the course in front of the stadium and either leave or proceed to the spectator area along the fence. The plan worked remarkably well! Though we had our largest number of participants perhaps ever (135 for Saturday and 82 for Sunday), we never had a large crowd at any one place at any time.

An incredible amount of new snow on the evening before the classic event was magically transformed into beautifully groomed tracks by our outstanding grooming crew of Sean Marshall, Bruce Look and Rob Tumchewics who always have an eye on the weather and an intuitive ability on how to manage it. They even groomed the parking lot so that cars wouldn't get stuck.

Hosting the event in March is preferable to February in terms of weather, however, the event was still very close to the cut-off for temperature for younger categories. Slight alterations to distances in some categories were made for the free technique event on Sunday.

Eighty volunteer positions allowed the weekend to run smoothly for all participants. Our main volunteers included Tania Hercun, John Stephenson, Kerry Wheler, Brett Wheler, David MacMillan, the groomers Bruce Look, Rob Tumchewics, Sean Marshall, and the McShane family who made and decorated cookie medals for all participants!

### **Polar Cup Biathlon Races**

After a hiatus of several years, we were happy to host a Polar Cup Biathlon event this season with our friends from Hay River. Our local team, led by Doug Lockhart and Belinda Whitford, was joined by the mighty Hay River entourage to organize and execute fun biathlon races for this growing group of participants.

### **Yellowknife Gold Loppet Sponsored by Gold Terra**

Because we anticipated a large turn-out for the Loppet, it was decided that the traditional route beginning at Vee Lake would be difficult to manage in terms of volume of skiers, trail congestion, volunteers, etc. The planning committee discussed the objectives of the loppet. We sought to encourage people to ski and feel like part of the

larger ski community. We wanted to offer options to maybe ski somewhere different. Last year's modified loppet was a huge success so the decision was made to follow a similar format with some expanded trail options.

The community responded and 437 individuals registered for the 2021 Loppet! Alyssa Titus coordinated the event with John Stephenson coordinating the "guerilla grooming" crew who have established regular trails in and around Yellowknife this season. With coordinated efforts, an incredible network of trails was put together for the loppet that allowed ample space and time for social distancing as well as new adventures for participants. Individuals who registered for the event received a Gold Terra lined buff, Kathi Woodward's coveted cookies, ski stickers by Janet Pacey of Signed, and a trail map created by Dave Taylor.

Special thanks to all of the volunteers, especially Alyssa Titus, John Stephenson, Kathi Woodward, Dave Taylor, Kelly Slack, and Groomers Niels Konge, Dave Kellet, Ryan McCord, Kevin Hodgins, Adrian D'Hont, David Gilday, Collin Stockwell, Stu Impett and the Range Lake Groomers, Shea Alain, and Mike Palmer.

### **Nordic Cross**

This late season fun event reported its highest number of participants ever with 89 skiers lining up (backwards!) at the start line. Through the creativity and leadership of Mike Argue, a challenging, dynamic course with obstacles was established that included double poling uphill, slalom, rope jump, 360-degree turns and side stepping through a web of ropes across the trail, among others.

The mass start waves were particularly entertaining as athletes double-poled backwards when the shovel (that was thrown into the air to indicate the start) hit the ground. Everyone enjoyed a cookie medal upon completion of the course, compliments of Sarah Argue. What an incredible way to end the season of successful events at the YK Ski Club! Thanks to other event volunteers: Mike Palmer, John Stephenson, Roxane Poulin, Kerry Wheler, Erica Janes, Meghan Beveridge, Brian Latham and Sarah Cook.

### **Funding – Grants for Events**

We received grants from the following organizations:

- CCNWT (Cross Country NWT)
- NWT Recreation and Parks Association ARC Grant (Active, Resilient, Connected)

## **Funding – Sponsors of Events**

These local businesses generously supported our events!

- Gold Terra
- Blachford Lake Lodge
- Overlander Sports
- Canadian Tire

## **How to get more involved**

Would you like to take the lead on an event next season? Contact:  
ykskiclubevents@gmail.com.

## **Programs report**

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### **Bernadette Knox, Director of Programs**

This ski season started off a bit differently this year, with the requirement of having an approved COVID-19 exposure control plan detailing the hazard mitigations and cleaning measures the Yellowknife Ski Club would follow to allow our various programs to run safely (find the full plan attached at the back of this report). A large group of volunteers came together to create a plan that was workable and reasonable for our sport and our club. The Office of the Chief Public Health Officer gave advice and support to get our plan approved. With the plan in place, the chalet was able to reopen in the fall with limited use by our membership and programs. I would like to extend a huge thank you to the program leads, coaches, ski club membership, volunteers, and the board of directors for all their diligence, patience, understanding, and support. Our ability to have run such a successful ski season is a tribute to the amazing Yellowknife Ski Club community!

### **Ski Parents**

This program did not run in 2020/2021.

### **Adult Ski Lessons**

This year our ski community warmly welcomed many new skiers and those reconnecting with the sport. We were happy to be able to offer beginner and intermediate lessons to over 40 skiers, many skiing for the first time! Robert Matthews dedicated many Sunday time slots to coaching these group lessons and helping people build and improve their skiing techniques. He even offered bonus time slots for people who may have missed a class or two. Karen Johnson was able to offer a few individual

lessons to out-of-town skiers or those who couldn't make the group lessons. Thank you both for sharing your love of skiing.

## **Jackrabbits**

We had a wonderful season, despite some of the challenges faced this year!

Jackrabbits had 75 registrants and Bunnyrabbits had 24. Each class had two coaches, with additional assistant/junior coaches for larger classes. This season, there were 16 scheduled lessons altogether, which took place Saturday afternoons from 2:00-3:00 pm from November 21, 2020 to April 3, 2021. Due to cold weather, however, five lessons were cancelled (on December 12, January 23 and 30, and February 3 and 27).

Skiers from each group levels 1-4 and Mixed Ages successfully skied to the Snowbuddy Winter Garden, an amazing event enjoyed by all those who participated!

All Jackrabbits and bunnies were encouraged to participate in the Yellowknife Ski Races for cookie medals, and fun was had by all those who took part in the annual ski-a-thon.

Several important changes were made due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Lessons were shortened to 1 hour (from 1 hour and 30 minutes)
- Skiers had to use [a self-screening tool](#) prior to attending the Ski Club
- Skiers were expected to get dressed at home or in their car to avoid using the ski chalet, which was only to be used for warmth, bathroom, waxing skis, treating injuries, or other emergencies (for full list, see Yellowknife Ski Club COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan).
- Lessons started outside at designated meeting spots (see map below). \*This proved to be very efficient in getting skiers active sooner. It is recommended that this arrangement is kept even after restrictions are lifted.
- Lessons ended with a free pre-packaged snack (ex. granola bar, oatmeal cookies or fruit bar), instead of fresh fruit, snacks and hot chocolate served on the upper floor of the chalet, as done in previous years.
- Each family was required to volunteer at least one Saturday afternoon to sanitize the clubhouse. Duties included wiping down surfaces, such doorknobs, countertops, light switches, etc.
- Due to limited chalet access, a cold weather cut-off was implemented. Classes were cancelled if temperatures reached -30 C or colder (or -35 C with wind chill). If classes were cancelled, an email was sent out to parents at 11 am on Saturday morning and a notification was posted on Facebook.

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

- Bunnies: Hakuya Matsuo, Anita Philipovsky and Oliver Stockwell
- Level 1: Graeme Wood and Finn Walker
- Level 2: Arya Townson and Sohya Matsuo
- Level 3: Jakob Sears
- Level 4: Jimmy Decoste and Charlotte Hilton
- Mixed Ages: Colin Gilbert and Bertram Naphan

This year, we had 15 volunteer coaches, 7 part-time coaches, and 8 junior coaches.

Coaches: Raynor Look, Chelsey Weleschuk, Sarah Beattie, Jeremy Sears, Ella Wray, Julie Ward, Paul Clyne, Damian Panayi, Darha Phillpot, Kirk Tastad, Angela Paultz, Wendy Lahey, Bruce Laurich, Mike Mitchell, and Shelley Browne.

Part-time coaches: Kynyn Doughty, Laani Uunila, Meghan Schnurr, Sara Wong, Jack Panayi, Rae Panayi, Shauna Morgan.

Assistant/Junior coaches: Leah McShane, Niva Stephenson, Kaatje Fulford, Rowan Fulford, Kira Young, Jakob Hotson, Neve Mahon and Sophie Mahon.

The Ron Seale coaching award went to Alex Lothian whose commitment, dedication and passion has been a huge asset of this program for the past several years.

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

- Rosie Benning

### **Track Attack**

For the biggest year yet, Track Attack had 46 skiers in the program. This was 10 more skiers than in 2017/18, our last record year. Of the 46 skiers, seven were completely new to skiing. Skiers were put into one of four squads depending on skill level and friendships, to attempt to keep skiers of comparable ability together. There was also a basic skills group for new skiers until they felt comfortable to join their squads.

Coaches felt that when we had a small group of new skiers, it worked well for them skiing together. We would like to continue to encourage new skiers between the ages of nine and 14 to join the Track Attack program rather than a separate program (i.e. Go Ski).



Our season started with dryland training every Saturday morning from September to November, and added in weeknight practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays once snow arrived in November. Due to COVID capacity restrictions in the chalet, all skiers met their squads in the stadium. This process continued during the winter season with skiers going indoors only for weeknight workouts when the weather got too cold for staying outside very long. Indoor workouts however, could only occur when we had fewer numbers of skiers to remain within the capacity requirements within the club and there wasn't a conflict with other user groups. On a few very cold days when the numbers were too high, we either shortened practices or cancelled completely. It was surprising how much more efficient the skiers were when we didn't start the practices inside, getting ready. All skiers came ready to ski and already warmed up, while they skied around waiting for the remainder of skiers to arrive.

Again due to COVID limitations, we celebrated the start of winter with an evening cookout instead of our annual sleepover. This took place in November, where skiers developed their goals for the season. During the season, coaches tried to reflect on kids' goals to remind them of what they had achieved.

Despite travel limitations, we were able to travel to one race this year: the Pat Bobinski Memorial Ski Race in Hay River. Thirty-six skiers from Yellowknife attended the event. Travel conditions were not our typical situation of staying in churches or school gyms; we were accommodated and catered to at the Ptarmigan hotel. We also appreciated the generous hospitality of the volunteers from the Hay River Ski Club who provided soup, sandwiches, hot chocolate, cookies and coffee to the skiers and parents on two race days, and who went out of their way to make sure we had enough indoor space (at the golf club) to stay warm during the day.

- Alex Lothian and Julie Ward, program coordinators

### **High Performance**

A great year was had by the HP skiers: technique and fitness gains were made, many rounds of ski hockey were played and much fun was had.

After receiving considerable support from CCNWT and the ski club board in pulling together our safe return to play protocol, we returned to practice together in June 2020.

Summer training consisted of three team sessions per week and included lots of running and roller skiing together with ultimate and other games. Short training camps



were held that allowed for the opportunity to discuss individual and team goals, build confidence on mountain bikes and test our fitness in time trials.

The fall and winter saw an additional practice added and a winter of great skiing. Skiers were very lucky to have the chance to enjoy a number of time trials, the Thebacha Loppet in Fort Smith, the Pat Bobinski Memorial races in Hay River, the NWT Champs and the Yellowknife Loppet.

While additional races have often been a high point in seasons past, the chance to spend additional time on skis and working on technique and enjoying our fantastic trails and the many additional groomed options around town was recognized and appreciated. Yellowknife skiers will be well prepared when further travel and race opportunities become available!

A big thank you to all of the many ski club volunteers, parents, and the HP skiers themselves for a fantastic season!

- Mike Argue and Kevin Durkee

### **Ski-at-School**

This year we introduced a long-desired program targeting youth who, for various reasons, do not currently access our programs. The goal was to work with nearby schools, many of which have lots of ski equipment, to help get that gear back in use. We sent coaches to schools and had children ski on nearby lakes and playgrounds, sometimes using playground equipment for learning basic on-ski skills. We put special effort into getting teachers comfortable on skis with students so that they could continue to use the equipment throughout the school year. At the end of the year, we bused students to the ski club to enjoy the full experience of our trails and hills. It proved to be a joyful experience.

For full details, see the full report on this program attached at the end of this report.

## **Grants & Fundraising report**

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**Diep Duong, Director of Grants & Fundraising**

The Yellowknife Ski Club is grateful to our many sponsors and supporters. Without their generous donations 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 provide the most support to the club with a total of \$24,200 for 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.

The Ski Club received a three-year grant from the City of Yellowknife's Community Grant Fund starting in 2018-19 in the amount of \$20,000 per year. This will be the last year of funding and we will apply for this funding again in the coming year. 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.

This year, the N.W.T.'s Department of Municipal and Community Affairs' Regional Youth Sporting Events provided \$11,275 to the Ski Club towards our Ski-at-School program. Schools that participated in this program included Weledeh, Range Lake North, Mildred Hall and K'alemi Dene School in Ndilo. AltaGas and Nordiq Canada also contributed a total of \$6,000 to our Ski-at-School program.

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 2020-21 sponsors.

**2020-21 Yellowknife Ski Club Sponsors (as of April 30, 2021)**

<b>Gold Sponsor (\$10,000 or More)</b>	<b>Silver Sponsor (\$1000 - \$9999)</b>	<b>Silver Sponsor (\$100 - \$999)</b>
Cross Country NWT	KidSport™ NWT	Gene Hugo
City of Yellowknife	Canadian Tire	Mark Ishack
MACA Regional Youth Events Program	Blachford Lake Lodge	John Stephenson
	AltaGas	Ed Hoeve
	Nordiq Canada	Jonny Covello
		Catherine Pigott

## **Volunteers report**

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### **Alyssa Titus, Director of Volunteers**

The Yellowknife Ski Club is the largest volunteer-run sports facility in northern Canada. This year we had over 700 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, manage our finances, 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.

Each year the board calls for nominations then selects individuals to receive the award.

The 2021 award recipients are:

- Wooden Ski (long service) – Rob Matthews
- Double Poler (outstanding adult) – Rosie Benning
- Stellar Snowflake (outstanding youth) – Kira Young
- Herringbone (outstanding company) – YES group from Yellowknife Association for Community Living.

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, Brian Latham and John Stephenson. This year, the board elected to induct Bob Reid into this small pantheon.

## **Secretary's report**

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### **Mikaela Robertson, Secretary**

This year the ski club had another successful ski season, with very high membership numbers and participation in events. It was great to see so many skiers on the trails.

As usual, the board continued to meet monthly throughout the ski season. We worked towards improving our use of digital platforms for record keeping and continued to share club minutes on our webpage. I encourage all members to visit the Governance section of our webpage to view meeting minutes, and see what we've been up to.

This season we also initiated a review of club policies to ensure that they remain up to date. One policy change in response to COVID is to allow for virtual board meetings where board members cannot meet in person. Such a policy review is one action item from our strategic plan for 2020-25. Updated policies will be available on the website for the 2021/22 season.

## **Communications report**

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### **Sara Minogue, Communications Director**

This was another fun year of communications as the ski club hosted several unusual events and made efforts to make sure our many new members knew what was happening and how to participate. It was also important this year to communicate clearly about our COVID restrictions and how to use the chalet and our trails safely.

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](mailto: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 from 890 followers to 1,144 (up from 662 two years ago). 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.

This year, our advertising dollars were concentrated on Cabin Radio and posterings, with two ads (for the loppet) placed in the *Yellowknifer* newspaper. We also put slightly more money into promoting events on Facebook but this remains a low dollar share of our advertising spending.

Part-way through the winter, Lianne Plamondon, a local graphic designer, came forward to volunteer her services. This resulted in several really lovely animation-style

advertisements promoting our adult ski lessons, kids programs and the Candy Cane Ski. Thanks Lianne!

In addition to Lianne, this year we signed up for a team membership at Canva, an online group graphic design service. This made it much easier for myself and events director Kerry Wheler to create, print and post our own somewhat designed products, and to include logos in our designs, which our sponsors always appreciate. 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. Posterage remains a great, and affordable, way to make our club more visible in the community.

One other small initiative this year was a series of Facebook posts celebrating the diversity of our members. Thanks to Cheryl Mandeville, Jonny Covello, Ana Villegas, Rosie Benning and Yvonne and Kelsey Pike and family for participating.

Once again, I'd like to mention the excellent work of local sports reporter James McCarthy and other reporters at the *Yellowknifer* for their ongoing coverage of our events and athletes. This year, as COVID precluded many sports activities, the *Yellowknifer* covered everything from the Yellowknife Ski Races and our first biathlon event in many years to our enchanting Candy Cane Ski held despite the frigid December temperatures.

Thanks also to the coaches and parents who shared photos and stories with the paper so that our members and our community can learn about our teams and activities.

And once again, thanks to Janet Pacey at Signed for another new trailhead sign letting people know how to pay day rates and/or sign up for a membership.

## **Facilities Report**

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### **Credence Wood, Facilities Director**

Despite the uncertainties and restrictions during this past year due to the pandemic, the chalet remained available to our members and renters. Thanks to everyone for being flexible and adapting their use of the chalet to comply with our COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan. Doing so ensured we could continue to operate during the pandemic.

Chalet rentals slowed down during the pandemic but did not stop and are starting to pick up again with weddings, workshops, camps and courses all booked for this summer. It was great to see school groups using our facilities again this spring. Before rental bookings are accepted, renters must show that they understand and can meet the requirements of the current public health order.

Two of the larger projects that took place at the Ski Club this year were the installation of new shingles on the chalet roof and the replacement of one of the old garages with a seacan storage container. The roofing work was done by KV Construction (Kevin Valilee) who altered their schedule to ensure the work was completed before summer chalet rentals started. They did a great job at a great price. The seacan storage container was brought up from Edmonton and installed on site by John's Trucking (John Dickinson). John also removed and disposed of the old garage for us with the loader and trailer he had on site for the seacan.

Thanks to the many contractors who provided assistance in maintaining club facilities this past year, including J&R Mechanical, R3 Cleaning, KV Construction, John's Trucking, DT Electric, WB Water Services, Kavanaugh Bros, Ollerhead NWT Locksmithing and ThyssenKrupp Elevator.

Special thanks goes to:

- Inclusion NWT for providing cleaning, snow shovelling and recycling pickup service at no cost. Great to have them back after a pause during the pandemic.
- The City of Yellowknife for continuing to provide booking and key holding services for chalet rentals.
- Canadian Tire for donating the shelving units in the seacan storage unit.
- John Stephenson for continuing to take a lead role in the day to day operations of the chalet.
- Gene Hugo for donating his time and materials to secure loose planks on the retaining wall of the biathlon range.

## **Registrar's report**

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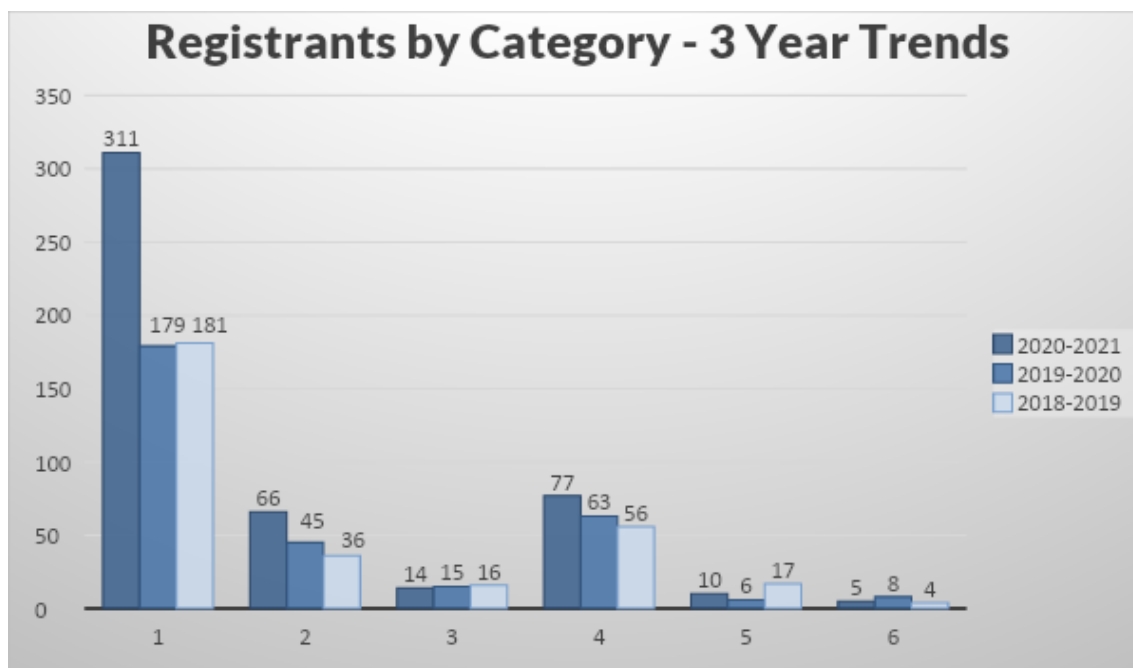
### **Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Registrar**

The Yellowknife Ski Club membership had a flagship year. Likely due to the increase in interest in outdoor pursuits that was one of the small benefits of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, interest in membership at the club resulted in 737 members, which eclipsed

our highest ever membership of 562 members in the 2015-2016 season. The ski club welcomed 201 new members this ski season as well!



The club continues to see an increase in the number of members registering as families, with 77 families taking advantage of the family membership rates. Individual memberships included 311 adults, 66 youth, and 14 individual children registrants (see Figure below). In addition to those members, 10 families and five individual members registered as part of our ongoing partnership with Joint Task Force North. We continue to see non-member 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

Due to the pandemic and the unknown financial outlook for this year, the ski club had budgeted a financial loss of nearly \$40,000 for the 2020-21 ski season. However, this was not realized due to nearly a 40 per cent increase in memberships over what we expected (and budgeted for). The ski club finished the year with a net surplus of \$21,963. The annual revenue for the year was \$189,674 and the total expenditure was \$167,710. As of April 30, 2021, the club has a total of \$202,811 in cash assets of which \$118,327 are allocated to the Capital Reserve Fund (previously known as the Chalet Reserve Fund.)

This year the board updated the three financial management policies: Capital Reserve Fund Policy, Fees & Charges Policy and Financial Management Policy. Please see our website under governance for updated versions of these policies. The largest change to these policies was the renaming the Chalet Reserve Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund. The Capital Reserve Fund now includes all the club capital assets and has a comprehensive financial model to help plan for future asset replacement costs, such as building roofs, snow mobiles, flooring, plumbing etc. The reserve fund policy has been updated with a reserve fund contribution schedule which was \$40,000 this year and will



be \$26,000 each year for the next four years. Contributions to the capital reserve fund are scheduled to occur every April.

At the end of this report, you will find the approved year-end financial statements which include the 2020-21 Balance Sheet, the 2020-21 Income Statement and the 2021-22 Budget.

# Yellowknife Ski Club

## Balance Sheet As at 04/30/2021

### ASSET

#### Current Assets

Chequing - TD 5202820	71,548.05
Total Capital Reserve Fund	118,327.00
Accounts Receivable	11,296.00
Total Receivable	11,296.00
Prepaid Expenses	1,640.78

<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>202,811.83</b>
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#### Capital Assets

Net - Building	623,358.60
Net - Building Furnishings	5,641.38
Net - Snow Machine	21,481.33
Net - Trail Equipment	8,401.67
Net - Rifles	0.00
Net- New Maintenance Shed	57,051.83
Net - Timing Equipment	2,079.30

<b>Total Capital Assets</b>	<b>718,014.11</b>
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<b>TOTAL ASSET</b>	<b>920,825.94</b>
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### LIABILITY

#### Long Term Liabilities

Unrestricted Net Assets	554,702.77
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<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>554,702.77</b>
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<b>TOTAL LIABILITY</b>	<b>554,702.77</b>
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### EQUITY

#### Equity

Retained Earnings - Previous Years	344,160.24
Current Earnings	21,962.93

<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>366,123.17</b>
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<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>366,123.17</b>
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<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>920,825.94</b>
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## Yellowknife Ski Club

### Comparative Income Statement

	Actual 05/01/2020 to 04/30/2021	Budget 05/01/2021 to 04/30/2022	Difference
<b>REVENUE</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>			
Membership Registration	70,147.60	47,000.00	23,147.60
Programs	55,326.80	76,670.00	-21,343.20
Events	11,450.00	14,320.00	-2,870.00
Fundraising	9,030.00	3,000.00	6,030.00
Donations	2,190.00	3,000.00	-810.00
Building Rental	13,458.10	10,000.00	3,458.10
Trail Use	635.00	1,500.00	-865.00
Interest Revenue	374.93	725.00	-350.07
City of Yellowknife Grant	21,000.00	20,000.00	1,000.00
In Kind Donations	6,060.95	3,000.00	3,060.95
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>189,673.38</b>	<b>179,215.00</b>	<b>10,458.38</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>189,673.38</b>	<b>179,215.00</b>	<b>10,458.38</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
<b>Expenses</b>			
Communications/ Advertising	3,872.51	4,890.00	-1,017.49
Accounting and Legal	142.64	500.00	-357.36
Amortization Expense	41,096.99	35,000.00	6,096.99
Building Maintenance	2,619.42	14,750.00	-12,130.58
Volunteer / Fundraising Reco...	352.10	0.00	352.10
Events	8,961.91	14,970.00	-6,008.09
Insurance	13,601.00	14,000.00	-399.00
Interest & Bank Charges	36.55	100.00	-63.45
Janitorial	3,944.39	4,000.00	-55.61
Licenses / Memberships	7,652.50	5,800.00	1,852.50
Office Supplies	246.74	250.00	-3.26
Admin & Booking Fees	4,736.75	6,000.00	-1,263.25
Programs	48,522.76	75,170.00	-26,647.24
Fundraising Expenses	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Trail Maintenance	5,701.40	18,240.00	-12,538.60
Alarm Monitoring	793.16	1,000.00	-206.84
Electricity	6,894.29	6,500.00	394.29
Elevator	1,742.34	1,700.00	42.34
Fuel/Heat	10,333.39	10,000.00	333.39
Garbage	1,353.83	2,000.00	-646.17
Telephone & Internet	2,411.94	2,200.00	211.94
Water	2,693.84	3,000.00	-306.16
<b>Total General &amp; Admin. Exp...</b>	<b>167,710.45</b>	<b>220,570.00</b>	<b>-52,859.55</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>167,710.45</b>	<b>220,570.00</b>	<b>-52,859.55</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>21,962.93</b>	<b>-41,355.00</b>	<b>63,317.93</b>

**YK SKI CLUB BUDGET**  
**2021-22**  
**FINAL**

Completed By: Tania Hercun

Approved: May 10, 2021

	2020-21 Actual	2020-21 Budget	2020-21 Diff	TOTAL 2021-22 Budget	Comments
<b>REVENUE</b>					
1 Membership Registration	\$70,147.60	\$47,000.00	\$23,147.60	\$60,000.00	
2 Fundraising	\$9,030.00	\$3,000.00	\$6,030.00	\$3,000.00	
3 Donations	\$2,190.00	\$3,000.00	(\$810.00)	\$2,500.00	
4 Building Rental	\$13,458.10	\$10,000.00	\$3,458.10	\$27,000.00	Low due to Covid-19 impact
5 Trail Use	\$635.00	\$1,500.00	(\$865.00)	\$1,000.00	Lower due to increased membership
6 Interest Revenue	\$374.93	\$725.00	(\$350.07)	\$500.00	
7 Misc Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
8 City of Yellowknife Grant	\$21,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$20,000.00	2021 Additional \$1K for Covid Relief
9 In-Kind Donations	\$6,060.95	\$3,000.00	\$3,060.95	\$3,000.00	
10 <b>Events</b>	\$11,450.00	\$14,320.00	(\$2,870.00)	\$21,570.00	
11 <b>Programs</b>	\$55,326.80	\$76,670.00	(\$21,343.20)	\$105,375.00	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$189,673.38</b>	<b>\$179,215.00</b>	<b>\$10,458.38</b>	<b>\$243,945.00</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
20 Accounting & Legal	\$142.64	\$500.00	(\$357.36)	\$500.00	
21 Amortization	\$41,096.99	\$35,000.00	\$6,096.99	\$40,000.00	
22 Building Maintenance	\$2,619.42	\$14,750.00	(\$12,130.58)	\$20,800.00	Includes Shed Roof, Seacan Door, Chalet Easetrough
23 Communications/Advertising/Web	\$3,872.51	\$4,890.00	(\$1,017.49)	\$4,500.00	
24 Volunteer / Fundraising Expenses	\$352.10	\$500.00	(\$147.90)	\$500.00	
25 Admin & Booking Fees	\$4,736.75	\$6,000.00	(\$1,263.25)	\$5,000.00	Zone 4 & City bookings
26 Insurance	\$13,601.00	\$14,000.00	(\$399.00)	\$14,000.00	
27 Interest & Bank Charges	\$36.55	\$100.00	(\$63.45)	\$100.00	
28 Janitorial	\$3,944.39	\$4,000.00	(\$55.61)	\$4,500.00	
29 Licenses/Memberships	\$7,652.50	\$5,800.00	\$1,852.50	\$6,000.00	CCC Memberships
30 Misc. Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
31 Office Supplies	\$246.74	\$250.00	(\$3.26)	\$230.00	
32 Trail Maintenance	\$5,701.40	\$18,240.00	(\$12,538.60)	\$14,440.00	
33 In-Kind Chalet Rentals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
<b>UTILITIES</b>					
34 Alarm Monitors	\$793.16	\$1,000.00	(\$206.84)	\$2,000.00	
35 Electricity	6,894.29	\$6,500.00	\$394.29	\$6,500.00	
36 Elevator	1,742.34	\$1,700.00	\$42.34	\$1,800.00	
37 Fuel/Heat	10,333.39	\$10,000.00	\$333.39	\$11,000.00	
38 Garbage	1,353.83	\$2,000.00	(\$646.17)	\$2,000.00	
39 Telephone & Internet	2,411.94	\$2,200.00	\$211.94	\$2,200.00	
40 Water	2,693.84	\$3,000.00	(\$306.16)	\$3,000.00	
41 <b>Events</b>	\$8,961.91	\$14,970.00	(\$6,008.09)	\$21,570.00	
42 <b>Programs</b>	\$48,522.76	\$75,170.00	(\$26,647.24)	\$114,586.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$167,710.45</b>	<b>\$220,570.00</b>	<b>(\$52,859.55)</b>	<b>\$275,226.00</b>	
<b>NET (REVENUE minus EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$21,962.93</b>	<b>(\$41,355.00)</b>	<b>\$63,317.93</b>	<b>(\$31,281.00)</b>	
<b>CAPITAL RESERVE FUND</b>					
Contribution	\$40,000.00			\$26,500.00	As per Capital Reserve Fund Polic
Expenditure - Roof	(\$17,745.00)	(\$20,000.00)	\$2,255.00		
Expenditure - Landscaping (Parking Lot)				(\$10,300.00)	Fill for parking lot
<b>NET CHANGE</b>				<b>\$16,200.00</b>	
<b>MEMBERSHIPS</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>650</b>	

# **Final Report on Yellowknife's Ski-At-School Program**

Delivered by the Yellowknife Ski Club

May 2021

## **Introduction**

The Yellowknife Ski Club's Ski-At-School program, funded by AltaGas, Nordiq Canada, and the Government of Northwest Territories' Regional and Youth Sports Events (RYSE) program was a highly successful program. Both the impact and reach exceeded our expectations for the initial year. We were able to partner with four local schools in the ways that made the most sense for them. This meant helping to initiate new skiing activities, supporting existing programs or providing financial assistance, all within the various school policies and guidelines related to COVID-19. Our main goal of having meaningful on-snow time with children, and reaching them in an ongoing and impactful way, was accomplished. We also achieved the goal of creating networks within the Yellowknife ski community while building capacity among teachers, staff, local volunteers and within our own ski club board of directors. The success of Yellowknife's Ski-At-School program was due to the strong support of our ski club board of directors, Cross Country NWT, dedicated volunteers and the generous financial support granted to the program.

## **Approach**

Our approach to delivering the Ski-At-School program was simple: coordinate with schools and teachers to ascertain their needs and work with them to deliver ski programming either at their school or on nearby fields and frozen lakes. By getting our trained ski instructors to go to schools we were able to use existing school ski equipment and provide games-based ski instruction to children without the need for transportation. For various reasons, the majority of children reached through the Ski-At-School program do not normally access Yellowknife Ski Club ski programs. Although some barriers are financial, the majority are more systemic and not easily addressed with money or short-term sport programming. By taking our ski instructors into schools, we were able to introduce children to cross country skiing and have them experience the physical and mental benefits of the sport while having fun on the snow in their own "backyards."







*The majority of our Ski-At-School programming happened in schoolyards or on frozen lakes within walking distance of the schools. Soccer fields were perfect for games, snowbanks provided downhill practice and playground equipment offered fun agility challenges on skis. The children learned skills and techniques through games and came up with a few new ways of playing on skis!*

We structured the program with the goal of building capacity among teachers and school staff. The long-term vision is to empower teachers to make cross country skiing a regular part of their winter physical education programming. We helped teachers to feel more comfortable with their own skiing ability and provided examples of games-based ski lessons that were easy and fun to organize. Teachers participated in the games and our coaches explained the skills and techniques that were being learned through play. Ideally, these teachers will be able to take their classes out skiing without our support in future years and will serve to build capacity themselves within their schools to strengthen ski programming.





*Although the program focused on skiing with children, a second goal was to help improve confidence and capacity among teachers and school staff. This often involved learning how playing games helps to build skills and techniques while having fun!*

### **Student and teacher reach**

In the first year of Yellowknife's Ski-At-School program we wanted to keep our goals manageable and achievable. We took the time to reach out to schools and gave them time to consider if this program was something that would work for them within the reality of COVID-19 restrictions. The schools in Behchokǫ and Dettah thanked us for the offer but did not want external people coming into their communities from Yellowknife. K'àlemì Dene school in N'Dilo also was unable to have our ski instructors visit the school, but was willing to accept financial support to access the trails at the Yellowknife Ski Club throughout the winter. Within Yellowknife we were able to partner with Range Lake North, Mildred Hall, and Weledeh schools to bring instructors for physical education classes and after school programs. All partner schools were able to participate in a wrap-up spring ski lesson at the Yellowknife Ski Club.

School	At school instruction	At ski club with instruction	At ski club independently
Range Lake North	4	1	0
Weledeh	3	1	0
Mildred Hall	3	3	0
K'àlemì Dene	0	4	3

Each of the sessions had between 6 and 18 children in grades 1-8.

### **Lessons Learned**

#### **Weather**

Weather was our main challenge in delivering the Ski-At-School program. In our early winter we often do not have enough snow to allow for skiing. This means November and December are often marginal for skiing, particularly on school grounds where snow grooming does not regularly take place. For the majority of our ski season, our main weather considerations are related to cold weather and wind. Several times we would set up times with teachers and coaching volunteers and have to cancel due to cold temperatures and wind chills. However, we were often able to ski during heavy snowfall.

To mitigate these weather challenges it would make sense to create plans with teachers and coaches that span multiple days and are re-evaluated the day before the lessons. This may mean a ski coach will go to a school in a week on one of three possible days or will plan to go on a specific week day for a period of several weeks.







*Weather conditions were one of our main challenges in delivering the Yellowknife Ski-At-School program. Kids and teachers enjoyed skiing in many weather conditions but sometimes cold weather forced us to postpone our ski lessons.*

## **Funding**

In this first year of the program we faced a delay in receiving approval for funding and actually receiving the money. We cautiously approached spending any money prior to receiving it, which the majority of spending happened at the end of the fiscal year. Being able to spend Yellowknife Ski Club money initially was essential to our programming. In future years, we should be ready to more confidently spend money in advance of receiving it once agreements with funding sources have been finalized.





*The arrival of two track setters to the Yellowknife Ski Club in March 2021 for the Ski-At-School program.*

The funding received was spent in its entirety.

<b>Funding Ski-At-School Grant (AltaGas, Nordiq Canada)</b>		
<b>Administration</b>		
Coordinating coaches, program development, financial		800
<b>Gear purchases</b>		
Signs and magnets (visibility products)		511.48
Food for student ski program		302.08
<b>Coaching</b>		
Coaching at Ski Club (26 hours at \$50/hour)		1300
<b>Rental</b>		
Chalet rental		1200
<b>Other</b>		
Ski waxing K'àlemì Dene School		\$1,890
<b>Funding received</b>		<b>6000</b>

<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>6003.56</b>
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Funding GNWT -RYSE Program		
<b>Administration</b>		
Coordinating coaches, program development, financial		600
Honorarium for groomers		600
<b>Gear purchases</b>		
Track setter x2 for schools		1554
Shipping of track setters		200.27
Warm winter gear (neck warmers, toques)		76.13
Gas for grooming machines		600
Pylons, Handwarmers		77.36
Duct tape		12.37
Canadian Tire (handwarmers, soccer ball)		88.36
Overlander Sports (gear repair, small purchases)		201.59
<b>Coaching</b>		
At school (21.5*50)		1075
At chalet (coaching hours Skiing 101 21*50)		1050
At chalet (lesson planning 4*50)		200
At chalet (coaching)		1825
<b>Rental</b>		
Chalet rental for Skiing 101 Professional Development		525
<b>Transportation</b>		
K'alemi Dene School		1000
Range Lake North School Taxi		\$63
Mildred Hall (3) and Weledah (1)		\$967
<b>Other</b>		
Ski waxing K'alemi Dene School		600
Food purchase -coaches		41.06
Fresh fruit for student ski program		38.96
<b>Funding received</b>		<b>11,275</b>

<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>11395.6 4</b>
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## Human resources

Human resources were a large logistical challenge. In this first year we were creating the content for the program and figuring out what was needed. Much of this work regarding logistics has now been done and can be modified for use in future years.

### Coaches' schedules

When scheduling coaches we were often anticipating when weather would be good for skiing. This required coordination with teachers' and our coaches' work and life commitments in the day or two in advance of the program. Having set days and times in advance with coaches and teachers, with the pre-planned option to use an alternate day if necessary, would help us to deliver more days of skiing with classrooms. We would still be able to offer more spontaneous ski days if we got particularly good weather.

### Teachers' time

This program was designed to provide support and create capacity for teachers. Although we were able to achieve this, we did rely on teachers putting in some additional time to make the program happen. This included time spent discussing and coordinating with us about the program. It also included sending and compiling permission notes for students to join us at the Yellowknife Ski Club. Now that we've gone through this process, the Ski-At-School organizers can send out information packages and standardized permission notes for teachers to use. In addition, a brief summary of the program could be provided to schools for inclusion in their newsletters and social media posts, reducing the workload on school staff, while raising the profile of the program.

### Program lead time commitment

In 2020-2021 we learned that coordinating the Ski-At-School program required a large time commitment. As the coordinators are also the club's Events Director and Programs Director, there is a significant overlap between spring Ski Club events and the majority of Ski-At-School events. This overlap in workload was certainly a challenge. It makes sense to have additional coordinators assigned specific tasks (e.g. media coverage, year-end financial statements).



*A lot of preparation went into hosting a trip at the ski club. Using funding to provide busses for school groups was an important factor to make the trip to the ski club possible for participating schools. The snacks were a huge hit and kept people fueled for lots of fun games!*



## **Program visibility and media coverage**

The Yellowknife Ski-At-School was a good news story and was regularly featured on our website and in our weekly newsletters. Our program also caught the attention of local and territorial media. This visibility attracted a lot of local attention and positive feedback.

The ski club also put up a large fence sign outside the chalet and large logo magnets inside the club on our sponsorship wall to recognize the funders who made this program possible.

Additional media regarding Ski-At-School:

Yellowknife Ski Club announcement January 29<sup>th</sup>:

<http://skiyellowknife.com/page/2/>

CBC radio interview April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Ski-at-school is featured at 20:57 in CBC Northbeat on April 9, 2021:

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1883678787883/>

NNSL Media (Yellowknifer newspaper)

<https://www.nnsi.com/sports/yellowknife-ski-clubs-ski-at-school-program-sees-four-schools-learn-the-sport/>

## **Conclusions and looking towards next season**

The Yellowknife Ski Club would like to continue to offer the Ski-At-School program in local Yellowknife schools in the winter of 2021-2022. The board of directors and local volunteers were very supportive of the initiative and as a team we were able to surpass our goals for the first year. We provided positive and meaningful skiing activities for approximately 100 children. We also generated the documents and workflow required to deliver the program and create capacity within our own group and within local schools. Continuing this momentum will help reach the longer-term objective of helping to create lifelong cross country skiers. We anticipate that several students reached through schools this year can be supported to begin accessing regular ski club programming. It's also likely that students will begin skiing on their own outside of school or club ski programs. The Yellowknife Ski Club would also like to provide support to other NWT clubs that may want to run Ski-At-School programs in 2021-2022, and is keen to share lessons learned, documents and workflow ideas with other groups.

Thanks to everyone involved for a great Ski-At-School season!



Provided by:

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May 12, 2021



## **Covid-19 Exposure Control Plan** for Safe Return to Play for Athletes, Coaches, Parents & General Members

This Exposure Plan is designed to allow for safe delivery of our cross-country ski programs in conjunction with general membership using Ski Club trails and facilities. This information will be updated as conditions and restrictions within the NWT change.

**Implementation Date:** October 26, 2020

**Revision Date:**

**NWT COVID Emerging Wisely Resource:**

<https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/en/services/public-health-orders/emerging-wisely>

# Guidelines To Attend Ski Programs & Enter Ski Club Buildings

## Do not come to the Ski Club if you:

- **are feeling unwell.**
- **have currently been asked to self-isolate for any reason.** As of October 2020, this currently includes:
  - Travel outside of the NWT within the last 14 days
  - Illness with signs and symptoms of COVID, with a COVID test pending OR COVID test declined.
  - Concern regarding exposure to known COVID in the last 14 days

**Health Screening:** All users must perform self-screening prior to attending the Ski Club. E.g. <https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/en/student-daily-symptom-screening-tool>

Participants showing signs of illness will be asked to return home, if symptoms and signs are consistent with the NWT Public Health COVID criteria.

**Contact Tracing:** Attendance and contact numbers will be recorded to allow for efficient contact tracing in event of a COVID case and exposure.

- **Coaches will maintain a daily record of attendance.**
- **All users entering Ski Club buildings must sign in with name, date and time.**

All users are asked to follow Public Health guidelines for healthy respiratory practices: <https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/sites/hss/files/resources/healthy-respiratory-practices.pdf>

This includes: staying home and avoiding close contact with others if you are sick, sneezing into your elbow, throwing used tissues in the garbage, washing your hands frequently and cleaning and disinfecting any surfaces you touch while sick.

## Programs

### Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Travel to and from the Ski Club is encouraged to be by household or “bubble.”

Parents are asked to limit time spent during drop-off and pick-up.

Participants are asked to arrive on time and ready to ski (i.e. with ski boots and ski clothing on).

Additional access points to the ski trails will be identified to prevent congestion.

Participants in our scheduled programs will minimize time spent in the Chalet by meeting up with coaches at designated outdoor areas. Group meeting locations will be divided between the additional access points to the ski trails.

Participants will check in with coaches and be recorded on an attendance sheet before each lesson.

## Training and Instruction

The majority of training and instruction will take place outdoors, within “Coaching Zones.” This is 50 or fewer persons during Phase 2 of Emerging Wisely.

- “Coaching Zones”: The immediate vicinity around the area where the athletes engage with the coaches. Examples would include part of the ski stadium, a section of trail, or a designated location within the parking lot.
- Individual “Coaching Zones” will consist of a maximum number of people, including coaches, children, and volunteers. These numbers will follow NWT COVID Emerging Wisely guidelines.

Physical distancing requirements will follow the NWT Public Health COVID Guidelines. Athletes purposely breaking the rules or displaying carelessness will not be tolerated. Removal from ski lessons and training is the appropriate repercussion for repeated infractions.

Participants are asked not to share water bottles, food, towels or other personal items (except in unplanned circumstances or emergencies where failure to do so would result in health concerns e.g. hypothermia, etc).

Any equipment used by multiple participants will be cleaned routinely and at the end of each practice.

Ski club gear (skis, poles, uniforms, biathlon rifles, etc) will be assigned to a single participant for the duration of the ski season.

Programs will follow any additional guidelines issued by Nordiq Canada and Biathlon Canada.

## Building Use by Programs

The Chalet will be used by participants for reasons such as: warmth; bathroom usage; storage of skis and personal items; use of the designated wax-room; injuries; or other emergencies, following Public Health Order limits for indoor spaces unless an exemption is granted by the Chief Public Health Officer. When access to the Chalet is required, group use will be staggered and capacity limits maintained.

Sanitize hands when entering the Chalet and Biathlon Building. Sign-in not required for program participants as attendance is recorded.

High Performance and Track Attack program participants will use the Chalet for indoor dryland training when it is too cold for safe outdoor training following a WSCC risk assessment to determine group size limits and mitigation measures based on the space and equipment.

Jackrabbit snack and Track Attack lunch programs will be discontinued until communal food and beverages provisions are allowed under the Emerging Wisely plan.

Access to the Biathlon building will be limited to biathlon program participants and maintenance personnel. Numbers will be limited by the ability to maintain 2m physical distancing.

The Ski Parents program will not be offered until indoor physical distancing restrictions are lifted.



Touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected by program volunteers each time a program uses a building. Each cleaning will be recorded on a cleaning log.

## **General Member Use of Trails and Chalet**

Follow physical distancing guidelines while on trails, parking lots, stadium, and within the Chalet. Masks or face coverings are required in circumstances outlined by the NWT COVID Emerging Wisely Plan.

Limit Chalet use, especially during peak times for Ski Club programs (to be shared with membership) and access trails from additional access points to prevent congestion.

Sign in with name, date and time and sanitize hands when entering the Chalet.

Clean and disinfect touched surfaces with provided cleaning supplies before leaving.

Follow posted maximum capacities and additional guidelines per zone or per room (i.e. wax rooms, washrooms).

Communal hot drink stations will not be operational until communal food and beverages provisions are allowed under the Emerging Wisely plan. Members may bring their own food and beverages for personal consumption.

Chalet rentals can continue with user groups who show that they understand and can meet the requirements of the current public health order. Cleaning contractors will be hired to clean and disinfect the rented area after each rental.

## **Grooming Garage Use**

Access to the Grooming Garage will be limited to trails crew and maintenance personnel.

Sign in with name, date and time and sanitize hands when entering the Grooming Garage.

## **YK Ski Club Banting Tent Facility Use**

The YK Ski Club Banting Lake tent facility will be limited to immediate families and their bubbles.

The numbers in each group will not exceed recommendations from Protect NWT for people staying in a personal home.

The names of all members of each visiting group will be recorded for contact tracing purposes.

Groups will be asked to bring their own personal belongings and clean any communal items on arrival and on departure.