



Yellowknife Ski Club Annual General Meeting  
2021/2022 Annual Report

June 14, 2022

## President's report

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### Heather Scott, President

It's hard to believe that four years have raced by, but here I am, at the end of my term as President of the Yellowknife Ski Club (YKSC). It is an understatement to say that my fellow board members were a pleasure to work with; this group is hard-working, kind, humble, dedicated and so expertly suited to their respective positions. I often joke that being President is the easy job with such an earnest and high-functioning group of volunteers that uphold this organization, but it's actually more truth than satire.

It's hard to summarize the things that I have been happy to be a part of and witness during this time, as many come to mind, but to highlight a few that I'm especially proud of:

**Development of the Strategic Plan.** In 2019/20, our Board's executive and a few interested members worked with volunteer Roxane Poulin to finalize our 5-year strategic plan. The process required us to think hard and home in on what the foci of the next few years should be. It also made us reach out to members and incorporate their input. I'm also happy to report success has been realized for a number of action items under the plan thus far.

**Approval of the Fees and Charges Policy.** While the approval of a policy that simply outlines how much rentals and programs cost at the YKSC may seem futile, but prior its implementation, many board meetings were spent fielding inquiries from various organizations for special rates and considerations for use of the YKSC. To now have clarity on this matter sets expectations and frees up board meetings for other important matters that advance the goals and objectives of the strategic plan.

**Covid-Response.** As the YKSC is a membership-based club, a sporting organization, and a facility, multiple decisions on many levels had to occur over the past two years in order to respond safely and effectively during the pandemic. The board of directors, program leads, and coaches made swift and thoughtful decisions and drafted exposure control plans to ensure programs were able to continue, club trails remained opened, and a compliment of unique events were offered. I experienced particular pride when the Board of Directors made a thoughtful decision to rent our out chalet when a covid-outbreak hit Yellowknife rendering isolation centres in short supply.

**Ski at School.** Improved community outreach and providing skiing opportunities to youth outside of our programming were action items within the YKSC's 5-year strategic plan. The Ski at School program was launched in 2021, and with the help of several sponsors and grants, has brought skiing to various schools in and around Yellowknife over the past two seasons. The program made use of existing ski equipment that many schools in Yellowknife have and empowered teachers to get students moving on skis, on trails and fields around their respective schools and at the YKSC. Big thanks to Bernadette Knox and Kerry Wheler for being the pillars of this program.

Reflecting specifically on the past year at the YKSC, we have experienced waves of events and emotions from complete shut-down of our facilities in the fall of 2021 to a return to all programs, races and events.

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Similar to 2021, YKSC memberships and program participants were at record highs. The club was able to hold a number of events, the biggest being the 2022 Territorial Championships. It was amazing to feel the palpable excitement with the return of pre-pandemic events like the Frostbite 50 and the Gold Terra Loppet across Vee, Banting, Jackson and Walsh Lakes. Adult lessons were more popular than ever, and a good number of keen adventurers joined the inaugural Frostbite-50 training program. Both Track Attack and High-Performance athletes were able to once again travel for races.

I would like to recognize the following out-going Board members: Trails Director Chris Hotson, Communications Director Ashley Janes, Treasurer Rhiana Bams, and Vice-President Diep Duong. Both Ashley and Rhiana responded to an immediate need to fill their respective positions the past year and fulfilled their duties as though they'd been at them for years. Diep has been a board member for a number of years and has been a true asset to our organization with various foci as both our Grants and Fundraising Director and more recently as the Vice-President and our club's representative on our Territorial Sports Organization, Cross Country NWT. Chris has been on the Board for a number of years and has served as a great conduit between the grooming crew, Board and programs. He's also helped procure some new grooming equipment with his keen eye for deals and expertise with snowmachines. Thank you all for your invaluable volunteerism!

This year, I took the liberty of nominating Events Director Kerry Wheler for a Nordiq Canada Volunteer of the Year award. Although the award was not granted to Kerry, the awards committee was blown away by her contributions to skiing in Yellowknife and across the NWT and will hold on to this impressive nomination for next year's awards. Regardless, Kerry is a noted champion for Nordic skiing in Canada's north. She loves to ski and loves to get others, of all ages and abilities, on skis. Kerry's visceral love of skiing has translated into countless hours of volunteerism to make skiing accessible and enjoyable to others. As a music teacher, Kerry's career was placed somewhat on hold for the past two years, and it felt as though her energy was practically all poured into skiing, which translated into an amazing compliment of events and offerings for our ski community, despite the pandemic. To quote a few YKSC members:

"Kerry is the backbone of the vast and diverse program delivery made possible by the Yellowknife Ski Club. Her enthusiasm and dedication to the ski programming is one of the key reasons for its success."

*Ashley Janes, Communications Director, YKSC*

"As Director of Events for the last many years, Kerry does much more than this. She is involved with nearly every aspect of the club and brings together all corners of the ski community. Further, she did not let the pandemic slow her down and found creative ways to continue events and engagement."

*Alyssa Titus, Volunteer Director, YKSC*

"Kerry is an outstanding volunteer because she helps out on so many levels! As Events Director, she coordinates amazing events for the YKSC, like SKIGO BINGO and the scavenger hunt for World Snow Day. She coaches Jackrabbits, she stepped up to help coach Track Attack during the Hay River PABS races and

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she led the organization of the NWT Territorial Championships. She is a ray of sunshine at the YKSC, constantly promoting the sport through her positive energy and love for skiing.”

*Rosie Benning, Jackrabbits Coordinator*

Thank you all for four years of challenge, fun and most importantly, watching an ever-flourishing ski community in action. See you on the trails, friends!

## Trails report

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### Chris Hotson, Trails Director

The 2020-2021 ski season marked another successful year for all the volunteers that contribute to keeping the trails operational. Snowfall was slow at the start of the season and presented challenges in producing track set trails early in the season. Groomers spent a lot of time shoveling snow onto the trails to add to the base.

#### ***Equipment***

Our grooming equipment, although aging is generally in good condition. Robert Tumchewics and Bruce Look continue to conduct most 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***

The work is done mostly by retired members working 2-hour sessions, 2-3 times a week at volunteers' discretion. Each session is fully used. The work involves exertion at times for digging or hauling tools and sign bases.

It was a drier summer after 3 rainy ones. No days were cancelled, and all areas remained accessible, notably the wet area at the top of Otter Slide / bottom of Goose Climb. Work, especially the movement of wood chips and concrete sign bases was facilitated by a cart, the “Lindy 500”, donated by the family of deceased resident Lindy Carpenter after a request to them.

There were fewer workers per session than last year, which fitted the work which was more scattered and in less accessible locations after the 2020 concentration on the Wolverine Trail installation. Signs were reconditioned or installed, 51 signs on 26 posts. A new “Dunbar Drop” sign was commissioned and installed. Continued consolidation of signs on posts required installing taller posts in some places, which in turn freed up posts and concrete bases which were transported to service area with the aid of the new cart. Anti-Bird perch spikes were installed on signposts as needed.

In the Equipment Shed Area routine cleanup of materials was completed. Replacement of the grey garage by 2 sea cans (one for the Multisport Club, the other restricted to events materials) reduced the trails

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material storage space, inside and out. Fortified the roof of the old unused Multisport shed, cleaned and moved in summer work materials from various locations into it.

Trail improvements focused on placing wood chips in rocky section at top of Sah Cho Hill. Moved donated chips/sawdust from yards in Northlands. Pulled trees out of bush near the north access point, chipped them and moved chips. Worked on protruding rocks on long uphill between La Chute downhill and the Le Loup bend, a problem stretch identified by groomers. Carted gravel to hide rocks on Bunny Trail near the chalet.

Facilities work included installing a bulletin board on fence at main stadium entrance to reduce posting of signs on chalet walls. Painted the picnic table. Removed old fallen trees from bush near entrance road and stored them for chipping next year. Painted bench at top of Miller Hill. Painted trail name signs, spare wooden sign backs and posts.

Many thanks to; Rob Tumchewics for the use of his woodchipper and his time in tuning, transporting, and running it; to several residents of Northlands for permission to remove chips and sawdust from their firewood preparation; to the volunteers for use of their tools and vehicles; to the family of Lindy Carpenter for the cart he made from dump materials; and to Credence Wood for a donation of bird spikes.

### Recommendations for trail improvements:

- Investigate sites east of Fault Lake and on the bay side of Back Bay Ramp used as possible camping sites with open fires;
- Provide major fill on the new uphill parallel to Sah Cho;
- Do significant trail building for safety and grooming including lower part of Rollaway, downhill at Sidewinder, and last part of Lynx Loop; and
- Make use of boardwalk sections sitting idle in various locations by placing them on site.

### Summer Crew Volunteer Hours

Name	Sessions of 2 hours each	Minimum hours worked
Brian Latham	47	88
Robert Reid	22	44
Rich Klakowich	18	36
Brian Render	15	31
David Speakman	14	29
Walt Humphries	1	1
Diane Baldwin	1	1
Rob Tumchewics	2	6
<b>Overall</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>237</b>

### Fall Trail Brushing

The annual fall brushing season was conducted 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

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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 helped out with brushing. A special thank you to John McCullum and Julie Ross for their efforts in calling and scheduling volunteers. The total hours required to complete the trail brushing exceed 300 hours per year.

### ***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 Sunday's depending on snow and weather conditions) then heads out after the heavy traffic from weekend lessons, Jackrabbits, and higher skier volumes to re-groom and track set where needed so that the trails are in good condition for the week.

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, Shamus Gordon, Adam Bembridge, Bruce Look, Colin Morris, Sean Marshall, Nigel Bocking, Oliver Hodgins, Paul Guy, Pam Naylor, 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 2021/22 season:

- Saturday, November 6, 2021 - Snow Show
- Sunday, November 28, 2021 - "Chix on Stix" all ages Costume Ski
- Sunday, December 12, 2021 - Candy Cane Forest Ski - Free Ski
- Sunday, January 16, 2022 - World Snow Day - Free Ski
- Sunday, January 30, 2022 - Costume Ski
- Sunday, February 13, 2022 - NWT Ski Day - Free Ski
- Saturday & Sunday March 12 & 13 – Rescheduled to April 9 & 10, 2022 – NWT Territorial Championships
- Saturday March 19, 2022 – Frostbite 50 (with Multisport Club)
- Saturday, April 2 – Polar Cup #3 – Biathlon Races

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- Sunday, April 3, 2022 - Yellowknife Gold Loppet
- Saturday, April 16, 2022 - Nordic Cross
- Beginning of season to January 10 - SKIGO BINGO #1
- January 11 to April 11 - SKIGO BINGO #2

### ***Snow Show***

After a hiatus last season due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were able to host a pandemic friendly version of this annual event. The used gear sale was outdoors, and as always, attracted many people looking to connect with new equipment. The Track Attack program spearheaded the bake sale and High Performance executed a successful ski waxing fundraiser and 50/50 draw. Representatives of various programs were available to share information and assist with registration (distanced & masked) upstairs in the chalet. The traditional Silent Auction was not part of the festivities this year since folks were not encouraged to hang around.

### ***Chix on Stix – All Ages Costume Ski***

Oyuka Bernabe brought so much enthusiasm to organize several events at the club this season! This event featured ski Zumba, door prizes, snacks & photo ops in fun costumes!

### ***Costume Ski***

A second costume ski took place in January. This was a fun family event that again featured ski Zumba, door prizes & great photo ops. How fun see Captain America gliding down the hill, a hockey player using hockey sticks instead of ski poles, and a whole group of Track Attack Coaches in random tickle trunk finds. Oyuka arranged for Aroma Breweries Homebrew Beer tasting club to feature several beers for taste testing.

### ***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. It was a beautiful day and folks young and old ventured out to fill their pockets! Santa and his elf greeted many skiers!

Thanks to Oyuka Bernabe & John Stephenson who made a jolly appearance.

### ***World Snow Day***

The international celebration of “World Snow Day” has become a much anticipated event for our community. Annually, we open our trails and encourage the public to see what the ski club is all about. We teamed up with Overlander to offer half price ski gear rentals and trail fees were waived for the day. Since the chalet use was limited through our COVID exposure plan, snacks were available at the trail head. Homemade Fudge from Sundog Trading Post was the perfect compliment to a day on the trails! We also set up a scavenger hunt. People who completed it could input their data to receive a special message that told them to use the code word “Fresh Snow” at Sundog trading post to receive a free beverage. The

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Scavenger hunt continued for a week after World Snow Day since schools were closed and our club wanted to create a fun activity for youth.

### **SKIGO BINGO**

SKIGO Bingo was back after last year's success! It offered a variety of activities to diversify one's ski experience and motivate skiers of all ages and abilities.

With funding from CCNWT and sponsorship from Blachford Lake Lodge, Overlander Sports and Canadian Tire, we were able to offer AWESOME prizes for 2 rounds of SKIGO! Grand Prizes included a \$1000 gift certificate towards a Blachford vacation (winner – Clarinda Spjikerman) and \$500 Overlander Spending Spree (winner – Heather Scott). Canadian Tire's generous sponsorship ensured that every youth participant in Round 2 received a prize.

### **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 other communities (Hay River, Fort Smith).

As usual, temperature is an issue for this event. Nordiq Canada has strict temperature limits for all sanctioned events to protect the health & safety of participants. Our races were scheduled for March 12 & 13, but the forecast was consistently cold for that weekend. The race committee opted to postpone until April 9 & 10, which was a weekend with amazing snow conditions (thanks to the ongoing expertise and prowess of the grooming team) and warm enough air temperature. The winds still howled through the stadium!

We maintained the same strategy as last season to create a flow for all participants to avoid large gatherings and limit chalet use.

We had 148 participants registered for the classic race – a new record! It is notable that the majority of the participants were in U12 and under categories which means we will have lots of healthy ski years ahead.

Cookie medals were presented to our athletes from former Olympians Brendan Green and Rosanna Crawford.

80 volunteer positions allowed the weekend to run smoothly for all participants. Our race committee included: John Stephenson, Julia Gyapay, John Bowser, Kris Udesen, Rosy Tutton, Lisa McShane and Kerry Wheler. Bruce Look, Rob Tumchewics, Sean Marshall created the sweet tracks for the event.

### **NWT Ski Day**

The YKSC hosts NWT Ski Day in February to encourage people to get out and enjoy winter! Though the days are short and often cold, skiers know that gliding through the forest is one of the best ways to approach winter! The club waives trail fees for the day, and our groomers set double tracks on the snowflake trail for side-by-side glide. Thanks to Katherine Ades who was the main organizer and arranged



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snacks & drinks in the chalet for all participants. We used our CCNWT funding to offer Free rentals through Overlander to 15 skiers for the event.

### ***Frostbite 50***

This event was back after a break due to COVID. Organized by the Multi-sport club masterminds Jill Vaydik, Ben Linaker and David MacMillan, this event starts and ends at the ski club. Participants skied/snowshoed a longer than normal trek through the club to access the back country because of the impassable overflow at the bottom of the ravine.

### ***Polar Cup Biathlon Races***

Biathletes from Hay River and YK united for some excitement on the trails and in the range for a full day of biathlon. Individual AND sprint races were held on the Saturday April 2 (to enable athletes and their families to also participate in the Loppet on Sunday). Coaches also participated in a coaching workshop for the duration of the weekend, with visiting clinician Gail Niinimaa. Belinda Whitford, Marie-Eve Raymond, Doug Lockhart, Ruby Pigott are our local coaches who made the event successful. Thanks to the folks who provided food and baked goods for athletes, coaches & their families to enjoy. We were very excited to have Brendan Green and Rosanna Crawford among the group of hardworking volunteers to make this event a success.

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

The 2022 Loppet was back in its traditional route at Vee Lake after a couple years of modified routes due to the pandemic. Once again, 330 skiers flocked to Vee Lake to enjoy beautifully groomed 6, 15, and 25km routes. Loppet cookies, baked by Kathi Woodward, were handed out by our dedicated volunteers at all checkpoints. Participants could store one or two in their new fanny packs to enjoy later on the trail.

Alyssa Titus again spearheaded this monumental event, and handed it off to the very capable (and beloved ski coach of the Bunnies program) Sarah Beattie when Alyssa welcomed baby Annie to the ski club family. The result: a sun-filled day of beautiful glide out in this vast & beautiful landscape that surrounds our city. Thanks to Sarah & Alyssa for your leadership and the dedicated crew of volunteers, especially John Stephenson who dedicates innumerable hours to making these events successful!

### ***Nordic Cross***

This late season fun event was organized by Jacob Shank, who creatively re-routed skiers through familiar trails in a new way (ie around the chalet!). Skier agility was challenged in the sharp turns, slalom

downhills, picnic table ramps, backwards double poling, sidestepping through ropes, and other fun obstacles. Canadian Olympian Dahria Beatty raced and we were reminded how many fast skiers are in our midst in Yellowknife! She awarded the beautiful cookie medals (made by Sarah Argue) to all participants. What an incredible way to end the season of successful events at the YK Ski Club!

### ***Funding – Grants for Events***

We were the recipients of grants from the following organizations:

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- 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
- Booster Juice
- Aroma Brewwealis Homebrew Club

### ***Volunteer Appreciation***

There are an incredible number of volunteers that makes the ski club function so well! Thanks to everyone who contributes uniquely to make this club awesome. Each year the YKSC Board calls for nominations then selects individuals to receive the award. The 2022 award recipients are: Wooden Ski (long service) – Rob Tumchewics; Double Poler (outstanding adult) – Marie-Eve Raymond; Stellar Snowflake (outstanding youth) – Morgan Young; Herringbone (outstanding company) – DT Electric.

### ***HOW TO GET MORE INVOLVED***

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

## Programs report

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### Bernadette Knox, Director of Programs

As the last of the snow melts, I find myself reflecting on the past two winters and the role that skiing has played in our lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been extremely rewarding to have been a part of the group of dedicated volunteers who made ski club activities a reality in the winter of 2021-2022. The increase in participation (e.g. Jackrabbits and Biathalon) and depth (e.g. Learn to Frostbite 50) of ski club programming has been truly impressive and is outlined in the individual reports.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved. Below is an excerpt of a previously shared message I wrote on behalf of the Board of Directors:

The YKSC Board of Directors would like to extend a sincere thank you to the entire ski club community for their support, understanding, and adaptation to public health guidelines throughout these past two years of skiing. We are so pleased that we were able to keep our doors open (although limited) and most importantly to continue to operate all outdoor ski programming! It is no exaggeration to say that each and every member played a role in allowing us to continue functioning. It took all of us to accomplish this, from the main program leads adjusting season plans, to coaches helping children stay distanced, to our tiniest skiers keeping their masks on and having a great ski day, even without hot chocolate! There are truly too many people to thank individually.

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With the end of the Northwest Territories public health emergency, the YKSC is again shifting our policies. During our April board meeting, the directors made a unanimous decision to rescind the Proof of Vaccination requirements and to remove the COVID-19 control plan. It is a big step to remove these tools which have served us so well. What this means is that our capacity and activities within the chalet and outdoor gatherings are no longer restricted, we will not be keeping detailed records of attendance, and members who are unvaccinated can once again access the Chalet and ski programs.

While this is great news, we also want to take this time to strongly recommend continued masking within our facilities as well as healthy respiratory practices. We will also be maintaining our rigorous cleaning protocols of the chalet. We ask that anyone feeling sick, or who has tested positive for COVID-19 to stay home until recovered. COVID-19 is still a reality here in Yellowknife and we want everyone to feel safe and stay healthy as we complete our ski season.

I hope everyone has a fun and safe summer, see you all again once the best season (winter) returns!

### ***Learn to Frostbite 50***

This winter the ski club was pleased to offer a new adult program aimed at introducing adults to remote ski trails while training to ski longer and longer distances. We had a full program with 15 participants of all backgrounds and starting abilities.

The program offered 13 guided long weekend skis ranging from 1 to 7 hours and 7 to 38 km in length. Sara Wong took the lead (literally and figuratively) on taking the group on some of the top ski routes in the Yellowknife area.

Throughout the program we also offered 12 additional events ranging from glide waxing, social short skis, and indoor workout strength and flexibility sessions. A huge thank you to Heather Scott and Ashley Janes for the amazing indoor workouts tailored for cross country skiers.

The feedback for this program has been overwhelmingly positive. There is clearly a huge demand for weekly adult programs that combine skiing and socializing. We hope to offer a similar adult program next season.

A big thank you to Andy Wong and David MacMillian for leading one of our group skis and to Oliver Hodgins for helping out with ski waxing.

## Grants & Fundraising report

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### Aida Nciri, Director of Grants & Fundraising

- This year, the ski club hosted a new Director Grant and Fundraising who was discovering the club activities and events.
- This year, the club also received its last year of funding from the City of Yellowknife's 2019-2021 Community Grant. We sent our annual report to the City.
- Thanks to the contribution of all the directors, we were also successful in putting together a strong application to renew this application for the next 3 years. This core funding will allow the club to cover for part of its operational and maintenance costs.

## 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. Each year we have hundreds of volunteers, including coaches, groomers, race marshals and other event volunteers, and volunteers who maintain our facilities and trails. 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. We could not do what we do without our volunteers.

Each year we recognize a small group of exceptional volunteers. The 2022 award recipients are:

- Wooden Ski (long service) – Robert Tumchewics
- Double Poler (outstanding adult) – Marie-Eve Raymond
- Stellar Snowflake (outstanding youth) – Morgan Young
- Herringbone (outstanding company) - DT Electric

## Communications report

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### Ashley Janes, Director of Communications

It was such a pleasure to be able to do this year's communications for the YKSC, keeping seasoned and new members updated on all the activities taking place and how to participate.

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 1,144 followers to 1,283 (up from 139 one year ago).

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Below summarizes the areas we focused on for advertising and promotion this past season.

- Cabin Radio for general YKSC advertising throughout the season.
- Northern News Serviced Limited was used to advertise the Loppet and NWT Territorial Championships.
- Outstanding graphic designs by Signed for the Loppet and NWT Territorial Championships, including printing posters and stickers.
- A great job by Inclusion NWT, The Odd Job Squad, for putting thousands of stickers on coffee sleeves for the Loppet and NWT Territorial Championship, and a big thank you to Javaroma Gourmet Coffee & Tea for allowing us to advertise on their coffee sleeves for free.
- There was a stunning photo taken by a local photographer, Steve Schwarz during one of the Frostbite 50 training group skis, which was then used in much of our advertising this year, including the stickers for the coffee sleeves, posters and the Loppet bib.
- Another photographer did a fantastic job covering the NWT Territorial Championships, VR Studios.
- We spent funds on Facebook to promote our events, but this remains a very low dollar share of our advertising spending.
- For special events graphic design needs we used Canva, an online group graphic design service. This made it much easier events director Kerry Wheler to create, print at Kopykat North and post our own somewhat designed products, and to include logos in our designs, which our sponsors always appreciate.

I would 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 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.

During my time as Communication Director, I had a lot of support from other board members and am very grateful to you for helping me embrace the new role. There are two ski members who really went above and beyond this season with providing me key information, advise and material for all my work that I would like to send my deepest and most sincere gratitude to: John Stephenson and Brian Latham – your support was very much appreciated!

## Facilities report

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### Yvonne Pike, Facilities Director

First of all, thank you to all the members and renters for adapting to different restrictions due to Covid-19. Unfortunately, Covid was still a factor in our last year, but with the COVID-19 Exposure Plan the chalet was available to be used for most of the year for small gatherings.

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The Chalet was being used quite a bit during last year. GNWT booked the Chalet as an isolation centre for a month last summer. It was nice to see that all directors were in favour of helping out our community. At the end no one isolated there. Over the summer some weddings, workshops, camps and courses took place. Youth groups such as FOXY/SMASH, Jackpine Paddle and Northern Youth Leadership have used the building for sleepovers prior to and after their camps. Before rental bookings are accepted, renters must show that they understand and can meet the requirements of the public health orders.

The Northwest Territories public health emergency was ended by the GNWT in March 2022. On April 11, 2022 the YKSC Board removed the Proof of Vaccination requirements and the COVID-19 control plan. Capacity and activities within the chalet and outdoor gatherings were no longer restricted by the Health requirements. The Board strongly recommended continued masking within our facilities as well as healthy respiratory practices. We also maintained our rigorous contract cleaning protocols of the chalet. Bookings have increased since March.

One project that was completed this year was gravel landscaping around the Chalet by RTL Construction. RTL has been the go-to contractor for trail work with in-kind contributions and discounts for decades.

A weather station unit was located on the rock just to north of Chalet. Chris Cameron with the Yellowknife Amateur Radio Society loaned and setup the unit last summer. There is a link on our website to the weather information.

Thanks to the many contractors who provided assistance in maintaining club facilities this past year:

J & R Mechanical, Kavanaugh Brothers Ltd (garbage removal and sewage pumpout), WB Water Services (water delivery), Ollerhead Locksmiths, Tundra Transfer (water tank cleaning), Thyssenkrupp Elevators (elevator servicing), Fire Prevention Services (fire extinguisher servicing), City of Yellowknife Facilities Booking (Chalet booking services), City Public Works (for access road snow clearing and grading).

We also get great support from the GNWT Fire Marshall, GNWT Elevator Inspector and during Covid from GNWT Health Officials.

Special thanks goes to:

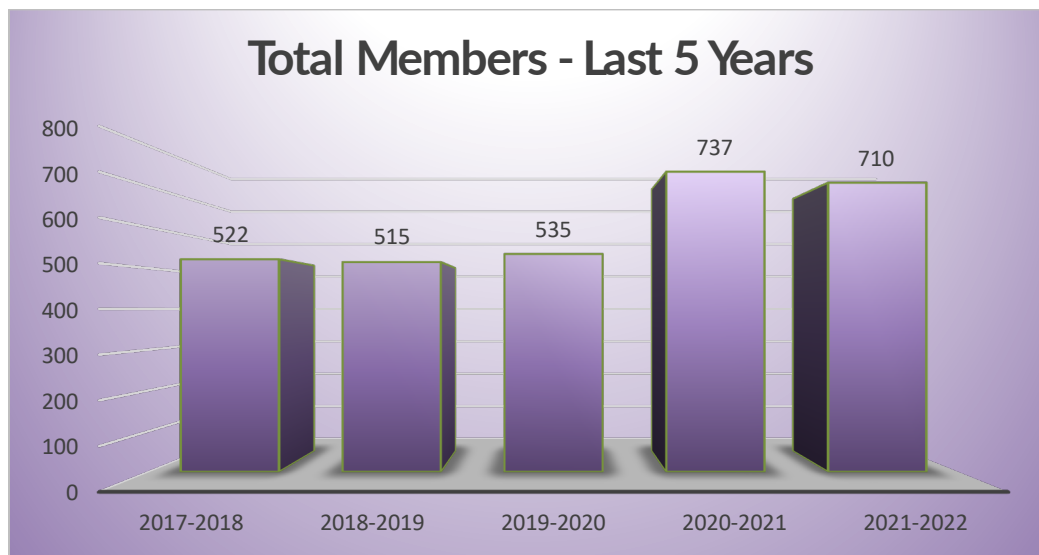
- R3 Cleaning who have provided consistent cleaning services throughout the year and for many years.
- Inclusion NWT for providing cleaning, snow shoveling and recycling pickup service at no cost. Great to have them back after a pause during the pandemic.
- John Stephenson, Volunteer Facilities Manager, for continuing to take a lead role in the day-to-day operations of the chalet and the rental bookings.

## Registrar's report

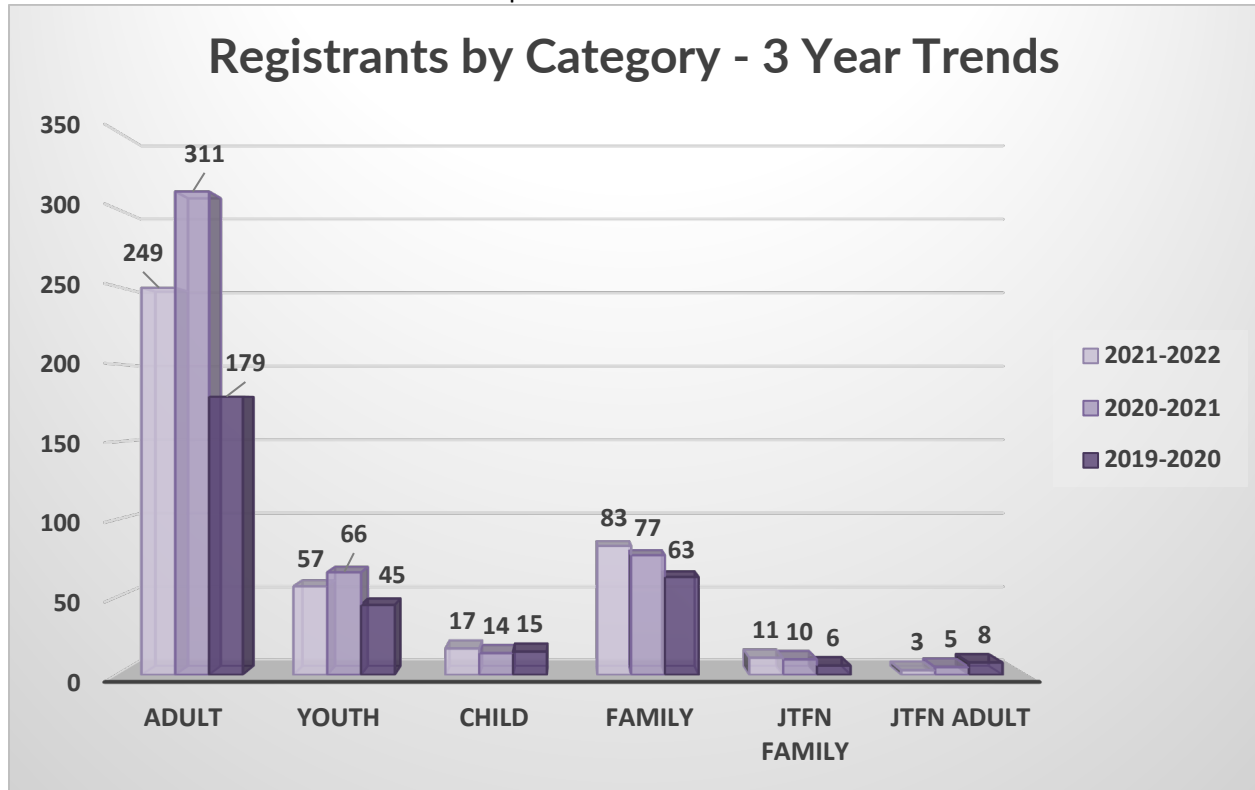
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### Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Registrar

The Yellowknife Ski Club had another successful year with regards to its membership. Continuing interest in outdoor pursuits that was one of the small benefits of the COVID-19 pandemic, membership at the club was 710 members, which was a slight decrease from last year, but eclipsed our highest ever previous membership of 562 members in the 2015-2016 season. The ski club welcomed 72 new members this ski season that shows a good retention of members that we gained last year!



The club continues to see an increase in the number of members registering as families, with 83 families taking advantage of the family membership rates, with a larger average number of members registering per family this year. Individual memberships included 249 adults, 57 youth, and 17 individual child registrants (see Figure below). In addition to those members, 11 families and 3 individual members registered as part of our on-going 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

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### Rhiana Bams, Treasurer

With the ongoing pandemic and the unknown financial outlook for this year, the ski club had budgeted a financial loss of approximately \$31,000 for the 2021-22 ski season. However, this was not realized due to an increase in memberships and building rentals than planned. The ski club finished the year with a net income of \$52,601. The annual revenue for the year was \$245,193 and the total expenditure was \$192,589. As of April 30, 2022 the club has a total of \$286,982 in cash assets of which \$144,795 are allocated to the Capital Reserve Fund (previously known as the Chalet Reserve Fund.)

No major updates were made to financial management policies this year. Please see our website under governance for these policies. The Capital Reserve Fund includes all the club capital assets and has a comprehensive financial model to help plan for future asset replacements 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 \$26,000 this year and \$26,000 each year for the next 3 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 2021-22 Balance Sheet, the 2021-22 Income Statement and the 2022-23 Budget.

# Yellowknife Ski Club 2021-2022 Annual Report

	A	B	H	I	J	K	L
1		<b>YK SKI CLUB BUDGET</b>					Completed By: Rhiana Bams
2		<b>2022-23</b>					Approved: May 16, 2022
3		<b>FINAL</b>					
4			2021-22	2021-22	2021-22	TOTAL	
5			Actual	Budget	Diff	2022-23	
6						Budget	Comments
6		<b>REVENUE</b>					
7	1	Membership Registration	\$70,145.00	\$47,000.00	\$23,145.00	\$60,000.00	
8	2	Fundraising	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	(\$3,000.00)	\$3,000.00	
9	3	Donations	\$2,330.00	\$3,000.00	(\$670.00)	\$2,500.00	
10	4	Building Rental	\$41,246.30	\$10,000.00	\$31,246.30	\$27,000.00	
11	5	Trail Use	\$1,058.25	\$1,500.00	(\$441.75)	\$1,000.00	
12	6	Interest Revenue	\$468.38	\$725.00	(\$256.62)	\$500.00	
13	7	Misc Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
14	8	City of Yellowknife Grant	\$25,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$25,000.00	
15	9	In-Kind Donations	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00	(\$2,000.00)	\$2,000.00	
16							
17	10	Events	\$24,984.50	\$14,320.00	\$10,664.50	\$22,770.00	
18							
19	11	Programs	\$78,958.60	\$76,670.00	\$2,288.60	\$105,375.00	
20							
21							
22		<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$245,191.03</b>	<b>\$179,215.00</b>	<b>\$65,976.03</b>	<b>\$249,145.00</b>	
23							
24		<b>EXPENSES</b>					
25	20	Accounting & Legal	\$142.64	\$500.00	(\$357.36)	\$500.00	
26	21	Amortization	\$37,052.02	\$35,000.00	\$2,052.02	\$40,000.00	
27	22	Building Maintenance	\$4,864.17	\$14,750.00	(\$9,885.83)	\$14,000.00	
28	23	Communications/Advertising/Website	\$2,093.65	\$4,890.00	(\$2,796.35)	\$4,500.00	
29	24	Volunteer / Fundraising Expenses	\$5,436.00	\$500.00	\$4,936.00	\$500.00	
30	25	Admin & Booking Fees	\$7,645.80	\$6,000.00	\$1,645.80	\$5,000.00	Zone 4 & City bookings
31	26	Insurance	\$13,019.00	\$14,000.00	(\$981.00)	\$14,000.00	
32	27	Interest & Bank Charges	\$20.00	\$100.00	(\$80.00)	\$100.00	
33	28	Janitorial	\$3,372.94	\$4,000.00	(\$627.06)	\$8,500.00	
34	29	Licenses/Memberships	\$7,225.95	\$5,800.00	\$1,425.95	\$6,000.00	CCC Membership Fees
35	30	Misc. Expenses	\$66.61	\$0.00	\$66.61	\$0.00	
36	31	Office Supplies	\$523.78	\$250.00	\$273.78	\$230.00	
37	32	Trail Maintenance	\$4,187.53	\$18,240.00	(\$14,052.47)	\$14,940.00	
38	33	In-Kind Chalet Rentals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
39							
40		<b>UTILITIES</b>					
41	34	Alarm Monitors	\$793.16	\$1,000.00	(\$206.84)	\$1,000.00	
42	35	Electricity	6,160.31	\$6,500.00	(\$339.69)	\$6,800.00	
43	36	Elevator	1,794.63	\$1,700.00	\$94.63	\$1,800.00	
44	37	Fuel/Heat	13,282.14	\$10,000.00	\$3,282.14	\$15,000.00	
45	38	Garbage	2,225.12	\$2,000.00	\$225.12	\$1,000.00	
46	39	Telephone & Internet	1,619.52	\$2,200.00	(\$580.48)	\$2,000.00	
47	40	Water	2,907.20	\$3,000.00	(\$92.80)	\$3,000.00	
48							
49	41	Events	\$17,070.21	\$14,970.00	\$2,100.21	\$23,095.00	
50							
51	42	Programs	\$61,087.33	\$75,170.00	(\$14,082.67)	\$114,586.00	
52							
53							
54		<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$192,589.71</b>	<b>\$220,570.00</b>	<b>(\$27,980.29)</b>	<b>\$276,551.00</b>	
55							
56		<b>NET (REVENUE minus EXPENSE)</b>	<b>\$52,601.32</b>	<b>(\$41,355.00)</b>	<b>\$93,956.32</b>	<b>(\$27,406.00)</b>	
57							
58		<b>CAPITAL RESERVE FUND</b>					
59		Contribution	\$26,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$0.00	\$26,000.00	As per Capital Reserve Fund Policy
60		Expenditure - Landscaping (Parking Lot)					
61							
62		<b>NET CHANGE</b>				<b>\$26,000.00</b>	
63							
64		<b>MEMBERSHIPS</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>650</b>	

## Yellowknife Ski Club 2021-2022 Annual Report

### Yellowknife Ski Club Comparative Income Statement

	Actual 05/01/2021 to 04/30/2022	Budget 05/01/2021 to 04/30/2022	Difference
<b>REVENUE</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>			
Membership Registration	70,145.00	47,000.00	23,145.00
Programs	78,958.60	76,670.00	2,288.60
Events	24,984.50	14,320.00	10,664.50
Fundraising	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00
Donations	2,330.00	3,000.00	-670.00
Building Rental	41,246.30	10,000.00	31,246.30
Trail Use	1,058.25	1,500.00	-441.75
Interest Revenue	468.38	725.00	-256.62
City of Yellowknife Grant	25,000.00	20,000.00	5,000.00
In Kind Donations	1,000.00	3,000.00	-2,000.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>245,191.03</b>	<b>179,215.00</b>	<b>65,976.03</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>245,191.03</b>	<b>179,215.00</b>	<b>65,976.03</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
<b>Expenses</b>			
Communications/ Advertising	2,093.65	4,890.00	-2,796.35
Accounting and Legal	142.64	500.00	-357.36
Amortization Expense	37,052.02	35,000.00	2,052.02
Building Maintenance	4,864.17	14,750.00	-9,885.83
Events	17,070.21	14,970.00	2,100.21
Insurance	13,019.00	14,000.00	-981.00
Interest & Bank Charges	20.00	100.00	-80.00
Janitorial	3,372.94	4,000.00	-627.06
Licenses / Memberships	7,225.95	5,800.00	1,425.95
Miscellaneous Expenses	66.61	0.00	66.61
Office Supplies	523.78	250.00	273.78
Admin & Booking Fees	7,645.80	6,000.00	1,645.80
Programs	61,087.33	75,170.00	-14,082.67
Fundraising Expenses	5,436.00	500.00	4,936.00
Trail Maintenance	4,187.53	18,240.00	-14,052.47
Alarm Monitoring	793.16	1,000.00	-206.84
Electricity	6,160.31	6,500.00	-339.69
Elevator	1,794.63	1,700.00	94.63
Fuel/Heat	13,282.14	10,000.00	3,282.14
Garbage	2,225.12	2,000.00	225.12
Telephone & Internet	1,619.52	2,200.00	-580.48
Water	2,907.20	3,000.00	-92.80
<b>Total General &amp; Admin. Exp...</b>	<b>192,589.71</b>	<b>220,570.00</b>	<b>-27,980.29</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>192,589.71</b>	<b>220,570.00</b>	<b>-27,980.29</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>52,601.32</b>	<b>-41,355.00</b>	<b>93,956.32</b>

## Yellowknife Ski Club Balance Sheet As at 04/30/2022

### ASSET

#### Current Assets

Chequing - TD 5202820	82,310.79
Total Capital Reserve Fund	144,795.38
Total Receivable	58,651.33
Prepaid Expenses	1,224.75

<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>286,982.25</b>
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#### Capital Assets

Net - Building	601,323.30
Net - Building Furnishings	5,481.24
Net - Snow Machine	15,036.93
Net - Trail Equipment	6,721.34
Net - Rifles	0.00
Net- New Maintenance Shed	54,769.76
Net - Timing Equipment	1,663.44

<b>Total Capital Assets</b>	<b>684,996.01</b>
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<b>TOTAL ASSET</b>	<b>971,978.26</b>
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### LIABILITY

<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	364,674.17
Current Earnings	52,601.32

<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>417,275.49</b>
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<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>417,275.49</b>
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<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>971,978.26</b>
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## Taking a Moment to Remember and Reflect on Past Members

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In closing, we would like to re-share two stories we reported on earlier in the season, the passing of two former YKSC members, Milo Martin and Jetmund Bendiksen. As well, thank those who provided us with photos, stories and information to help share each of the stories with our members.

### Remembering Milo Martin

The Yellowknife Ski Club would like to pass our most sincere condolences to Milo Martin's family for their tragic loss of their very talented and outgoing son. Milo is remembered as being a fun and energetic member of the Yellowknife Ski Club, someone that had a way to make special connections with other skiers, even his coaches.

Milo comes from a family of skiers and his grandfather contributed a great deal to the club, served on the board. Milo participated in both the Jackrabbits and Track Attack programs when he was younger.

His former coach, Stephen Dunbar shares a few words:

*Milo was a special soul I had the privilege of coaching for many years. He had an eclectic range of interests, which allowed him to connect with all the other skiers. His innate ability to connect and intuit when another skier was having a bad day was phenomenal. So often he would be one of the last skiers to get back to the clubhouse, because he would be happily chatting with another kid about some game/movie/music - whatever they were interested in. On the coldest days of the year, he enthusiastically organized indoor fitness dodgeball workouts - I think it was his favourite part of skiing! I took Milo to a couple big events in Alberta. He was never very fussed about how he did in the race, but he was very concerned if everyone wasn't having a good time. On more than one occasion I found him consoling another skier who was upset over their race. He was such a sweet soul. My heart aches for his parents, sister and friends.*

Rest, dear Milo. You will be so very missed.

## Yellowknife Ski Club 2021-2022 Annual Report



Photo from Shawn McCann. Taken by coach Stephen Dunbar. Canmore race several years ago. Milo is #423

## Remembering Past Ski Club Founder Jetmund Bendiksen

1931 to 2022



Patricia Bendiksen reported on her Facebook:

*"Today, March 20, 2022, my beloved husband, Jetmund, passed away quietly and peacefully at Kvaefjordheimen Hospital at Borkenes, Norway. Jetmund was almost 91 years old and was a fantastic husband, father and grandfather. He will be deeply missed by his entire family."*





Jetmund was a founding member of the Yellowknife Ski Club. Pat and Jetmund arrived in Yellowknife in 1967 to teach at Sir John Franklin High School. In early 1968, Jetmund put a notice on the Hudson's Bay bulletin board for anyone interested in a ski club to call him and the response was terrific. Jetmund started teaching downhill lessons in February 1968 at the Jackfish Lake Hill and the Yellowknife Ski Club was formed in May 1968 with Al Gamble as the first president. Jetmund wanted to be technical director and focus on ski lessons. Jetmund's real passion was cross country skiing. He and others cleared the first trails around Jackfish and Frame Lakes and packed them with their skis. The trails moved across the highway to the Niven Lake area in 1972 with both downhill and cross-country skiing.

Jetmund was a force behind skiing in Yellowknife, contributing to the sport as president, technical director, coach, newspaper columnist, ski rentals and sales outlet and Chief of Race for the inaugural 1970 Arctic Winter Games to name some of his contributions.

Jetmund and Pat departed Yellowknife in 1982 and retired to their family farm in Flesnes Norway. They last visited Yellowknife in 2015 and were impressed with the facilities and trails.

The Bendiksens are celebrated on our trails with the corner called Bendiksen's Bend.

