



**YELLOWKNIFE SKI
CLUB
ANNUAL REPORT**

2023/2024

President's Report

Kerry Wheler, President

2023-24 was another wonderful year for the YK Ski Club! While the pre-season was interrupted with the wildfire evacuation, I think there was extra appreciation for the cool, clear winter days with clean air! I'm proud to be part of this organization that promotes wellness and outdoor recreation for so many people in our community. Here are a few highlights:

Trail Grooming Project

Thanks to our focused efforts for the last 3 seasons, we have made dramatic improvements to our fleet of trail grooming equipment. We appreciate the tireless work of grooming volunteers who create great tracks even under tricky conditions. The new equipment helps to support their time and energy.

Frisbee Golf

The Ultimate Frisbee Club enjoyed a full season (well, minus the evacuation) of disc golf on the unique course set up on the trails. The MOU in place helps to create a unique outdoor recreational activity on the off season for our club. [Frisbee Golf Report](#)

Archery NT and Aboriginal Sports Circle

In 2023, we created an MOU with Archery NT and Aboriginal Sports Circle for use of the biathlon range during the summer season. The facility proved to be a great fit for their organization and benefitted many youth. They contributed 34 hours of volunteer service to grounds maintenance as part of the agreement. The YKSC has extended this partnership with another 5 year MOU. [Archery Report 2023](#)

Spirit North Visitors

Youth from Little Red River Cree Nation in Northern Alberta came to Yellowknife for a trip organized by Spirit North coordinator, Annika Oleson. They enjoyed our groomed trails and adventure skiing to Sundog Trading post. Hear their interview on CBC: [Spirit North](#)

Nordiq Canada Ski Playground

Former Olympian Jesse Cockney visited Yellowknife in early April to create an opportunity for people to try cross-country skiing, ski jumping, biathlon, and nordic combined. With the help of key volunteers (Anna-Spring Doerfler, John Stephenson, Karen Johnson, Mike Argue, Thomsen D'hont, Kerry Wheler), the stadium area became a playground for these activities. Amazing teachers from Mildred Hall School brought 60 grade 5 and 6 students in the afternoon and the

playground was open to the public in the evening. Many youth in regular programs attended plus families who were new to snow sports.

NWT Volunteer of the Year Award

Tania Hercun, one of our longtime dedicated board members, received a prestigious NWT Volunteer of the Year Award. Tania has made significant volunteer contributions as a Yellowknife resident, including the Yellowknife Ski Club, the committee for École Itł'ò rebuilding project, and the Yellowknife Playschool Association. At the Yellowknife Ski club, Tania has held the treasurer position for close to 10 years; she has also been the fundraising director and registrar. She is responsible on a weekly basis for all funds coming in and out of the club, preparing detailed budgets for the multi-faceted aspects of the club, printing and distributing cheques, regularly presenting financials, managing capital reserve funding, etc. In addition to that, she has coordinated club races which engage youth and adults, including Arctic Winter Games Trials and Yellowknife Ski Races; she recruits and delegates tasks to other volunteers; she has planned travel details for traveling athletes (Territorials in Hay River 2023). Tania was also the volunteer project manager for the significant renovation to the YKSC Chalet in 2015. She wrote the proposal for funding, then led a committee to design and manage the work. The entire ski community continues to benefit from her incredible commitment to service. She has continually prioritized volunteerism as a core value, and we are so pleased that she was recognized by the Government of the NWT for this award.

NWT Male Athlete of the Year Award

Graduating athlete, Joe Curran, has been awarded Sport North's Male Junior Athlete of the year award. Joe has been an active member of the Yellowknife Ski club through-out his youth, participating in team training and competitions. Earlier this year, Joe won a gold ulu at the 2024 Arctic Winter Games in Alaska, becoming Team NT's first cross-country skiing champion at this level for 16 years. He went on to also win both a silver and bronze ulu that week. Joe attended Eastern and Western Canadian competitions this season and raced hard at our local YK Races. Joe has been a great teammate, a wonderful role model and a pleasure to coach. We wish him well as he continues to pursue skiing with Rocky Mountain Racers while attending the University of Calgary in the fall.

Board of Directors 2023-24

Our board of directors is a dedicated group that meets monthly but works hard behind the scenes all season to make things run smoothly:

President - Kerry Wheler

Vice President - Gary Magee

Treasurer - Tania Hercun
Secretary Scott Falshaw
Past President - (non-voting) Heather Scott
Registrar - Mark Cliffe-Phillips
Facilities - John Stephenson
Trails - Sean Marshall
Communications - Natalie Pressman
Grants & Fundraising - Shelley Browne
Programs - Belinda Whitford
Events - Yvonne Pike
Volunteers - Alyssa Titus
Director-at-large - Sarah Marrai

Outgoing Directors:

We are saying goodbye to a few directors this year so I would like to highlight their work:

Gary Magee served on the board for several years as our Vice President. In January 2024, Gary was appointed to the Territorial Court of the Northwest Territories. His attention to detail and willingness to step in to take minutes or track down elusive documents was greatly appreciated by all.

Yvonne Pike has been in the role as Events Director since the fall of 2022. Our club has enjoyed a fun, full, diverse schedule of events during this time. Yvonne was always organized far in advance and great at inviting participation and assistance from the larger membership.

Belinda Whitford served as the Programs director this season. In this multifaceted role, Belinda helped ensure important higher level coach training was provided in Yellowknife. We appreciate her thoughtful comments/insights for future programming to meet the needs of the athletes.

To all our members: thank YOU for your contribution to the club this season. The ski club is certainly my favorite place to go in Yellowknife! Enjoy the summer and see you next season!

Trail's Report

Sean Marshall, Trails Director

Trail maintenance work is done in three phases, summer, fall and winter with each phase also benefiting from maintenance support. Each activity has its own focus, and supports the goal of maximizing the quality of trail use experience for members and guests at the Club.

Summer

The warm season schedule of 2023/24 was disrupted by evacuations this past summer, and as a result, the usual summer maintenance of trailbed, signs, fences and benches did not occur.

What to look for in 2024/25:

Signage improvements in the Ravine will aid tourists and snowmobilers to make good navigation decisions through the Club with lower impact on trails.

Fall Brush Cutting

Brush cutting is the principal activity carried out in the fall, and summer 2023/24 saw plenty of growth. Brush cutting keeps the Club's trails at width and contributes to minimizing the amount of snow needed before "rock skis" can be put away. This task is carried out by volunteers operating in groups of two to four foraging the trails on foot with powered brush saws. Between 30 September and 18 November, approximately 60 shifts comprising over 200 hours of labour were worked in 2023/24.

John McCullum's year over year contribution to organizing volunteers for the annual weed whack is greatly appreciated. Volunteer calls are made in the fall to prior year members who identified trails work as a volunteer interest. Please make your best effort to say "yes" if you receive a call inviting you to help out in September 2024.

Winter Snowfarming

Snowfarming starts as early as October and runs through until April. Winter work crews spend evenings gathering, smoothing and shaping the snow that falls into the trails we all enjoy.

Regular sessions are scheduled for Thursday and Friday evenings, as well as Monday (sometimes Sunday) and as needed when weather and special events require.

2023/24 was another good snow year at the Yellowknife Ski Club, and trails conditions continue to set a high bar for availability and quality.

While warm weather experienced during the Club's late spring calendar this year brought a welcome variance from cold and blizzard that was experienced in 2022/23, the same conditions present thaw-freeze cycles and specific challenges for light equipment grooming. Compared to typical fresh snow grooming, grooming old snow when temperatures include above-freezing cycles is a brute force exercise, often requiring four to six times the duration of work to shape snow effectively, and is very hard on equipment.

In these conditions, the commitment and contribution of grooming crews is most apparent. The most glowing example of this was the last of three grooming sessions preparing for the Loppet. On Saturday night before the event day, a team of five groomers met at Vee Lake at 10 PM when snow temperature dropped enough to allow grooming. Work to get tracks set into an already established trail base, and then a dozen equipment pieces hauled back to the Club, continued until dawn. Even more impressive is that one intrepid groomer (Rob Tumchewics) went on to present at the start line Sunday morning to ski as well (presumably after a quick nap).

The Club continues to enjoy critical and strong support from volunteers on winter trail crews. Together, Alex Lothian, Ben Lothian, Bruce Look, Chris Hrkac, Dave Speakman, Devin Lyall, Ed Hoeve, Greg Littlefair, John Buckland, John Stephenson, Kiran Ray, Oliver Hodgins, Paul Guy, Rob Tumchewics, Scott Robertson, Spencer Littlefair and Shamus Gordon contributed over 700 hours to the program this season.

What to look for in 2024/25:

Bulletproof snow conditions left behind by late season thaws, or mid-winter dry and cold spells, can make successful event preparations very uncertain. Powered equipment to facilitate cutting through hard snow for track setting will be explored in the coming year.

Equipment and Maintenance

Supporting the goal of high fleet availability, the Club's equipment renewal initiative began to rollout in 2023/24. The most exciting addition is entry into the fleet of a new hauling snowmobile, along with new covered storage for protection of equipment from the elements. The new Ski-Doo Expedition paid great dividends by offering additional towing capacity for high effort grooming completed to support the Club's late spring event calendar. The machine is proving to be a comfortable, capable and efficient part of the fleet.

What to look for in 2024/25:

Wheeled transport to support work outside of snow season will be added in the coming year, and opportunities to improve efficiency for hard snow grooming (eg. track setting after thaw-freeze cycles) and brush cutting will be further explored.

Banting Lake Tent

Julie Ward and Doug Townson continue to manage the Club's tent at Banting. The facility is well used and adds diversity to the Club's offer of ski related experiences.

Events Report

Yvonne Pike, Events Director

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the events successful. It was a great year for events, good snow, weather and lots of people willing to make the events happen.

Calendar of events:

Saturday, Nov 4th, 2023 – Snow Show

Thursday Nov 9th, 2023 – Wax and Wine

Beginning of season to January 7th, 2024, SKIGO BINGO #1

December 13th to 17th, 2023 – Arctic Winter Game Trials

Sunday, December 10, 2023 – Frost Fest, Free Ski

Sunday, January 21st, 2024 – World Snow Day, Free Ski

Sunday, February 11, 2024 – NWT Ski Day, Free Ski & Costume Ski

Saturday March 23rd – 2024 Frostbite 55

Sunday, April 7, 2024 – Yellowknife Gold Loppet

Saturday & Sunday, April 13, 14th 2024 – Yellowknife Ski Races

Saturday, April 20th, 2024 – Nordic Cross

January 12th 2024, to April 7th 2024 – SKIGO BINGO #2

Snow Show

The Snow Show was a great success. Lots of young adults came out to see what the ski club has to offer. We had stations for all the different programs, adult lessons were a very popular one. Overlander Sports had a station with some special intro ski packages. Archery also had a station to show their equipment and inform about their program. The Silent Auction was organized by Tania Hercun and the HP team, which was a huge success. HP was also there to wax everyone's skis. The used gear sale with the help of John Stephenson as always attracted many people looking to connect with new equipment. The Track Attack program had an amazing bake and chili sale.

Wax and Wine

The Wax & Wine kicked off the ski season with wine, good food, and good company while your skis are waxed by the High Performance team.

SKIGO BINGO 2X

Skigo Bingo offered a variety of activities to diversify one's ski experience and motivate skiers of all ages and abilities. With funding from CCNWT we were able to offer some amazing prizes, this great activity was organized by Clarinda Spijkerman.

Arctic Winter Games Trials

Our club hosted the cross-country skiing territorial trials for the Arctic Winter Games. We had some participants from Fort Good Hope and Hay River.

Frost Fest – Free Ski

Lot of fun activities were offered with our new event. You could ski through the forest to collect candy canes, get a picture taken with Santa, enjoy free hot chocolate and snacks. HP organized a fundraiser and we had more than 20 craft vendors selling their goods, plus a 50/50 draw with some amazing prizes and you could get your skis waxed. This portion was organized by Danielle Morin with the help of lots of other volunteers. The trail fees were waived for this day, so that anyone could enjoy a magical day on snow.

World Snow Day

The international celebration of "World Snow Day" is one of the most inclusive events of the season and a great opportunity to showcase what our club has to offer. We make it accessible to all by waiving trail fees for the day and offering free equipment rentals. Tania Hercun organized a pancake breakfast which is always a great success. We served about 200 people.

Complimentary skis were provided by École Ƴtł'ò school. We also offered free adult skis that were provided to us for a discounted rate by Overlander Sports. This event was very well attended (with around 300 people) by both members and non-members and provided a wonderful opportunity for new skiers to try out the sport. Various instructors offered free mini ski lessons. Sponsors for the event included: Cross Country NWT, Recreation & Parks Association's "Get Active" program, YK Co-op, Barren ground Coffee.

NWT Ski Day and Costume Ski

Oyuka Bernabe organized a costume ski that took place in January. This was a fun family event that featured dancing, door prizes & great photo ops. The club waives trail fees for the day, and our groomers set double tracks on the snowflake trail for side-by-side glide. Cookies and hot chocolate were served inside the chalet.

Yellowknife Ski Races

Tania Hercun organized the Yellowknife Ski races again this year, which featured classic and freestyle races. The weather was amazing, and everyone had a lot of fun. Cookie medals were made by Lisa Mcshane and were presented by various volunteers. We had warm Gatorade at the finish line, which was a big hit. We had yummy chili for lunch (made by the HP team) and some great soup and stew which was kindly made by Andrew Benning. 80 volunteer positions allowed the weekend to run smoothly for all participants.

Frostbite 55

Organized by the Multi-sport club this event starts and ends at the ski club. This 55 km ski and snowshoe event follows ungroomed snow machine trails to Yellowknife Bay, Walsh Lake, Hay Lake, Duck Lake, around Dettah and across Yellowknife Bay, back to the Ski Club trails.

Yellowknife Gold Loppet Sponsored by Gold Terra

The 2024 Yellowknife Gold Loppet was a great success and a beautiful day of skiing. With 425 registrants, this was our largest event of the year, with skiers of all ages and experience levels. In this non-race event, skiers choose between various routes of 4, 15, and 25 km starting from Vee Lake on trails which are specially set for this one-day event. We acknowledge and appreciate the land on which the Loppet is held, on Chief Drygeese Territory within the traditional lands of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. We are grateful to have this experience.

Special mention goes to our grooming team this year who spent tens of hours pre-packing and prepping the trails. Then, due to challenging warming temperatures leading up to the event, the grooming team spent the full night setting the tracks — until 6 am on the day of the Loppet. Thank you!

Thank you to all our volunteers and sponsors. This event would not be possible without you.

VOLUNTEERS:

Aggie Brockman, Alex Lothian, Alison Lewis, Alison McCabe, Alyssa Titus *Loppet Coordinator, Amanda Johnson-Dunbar, Anna Tumchewics, Beth Cowan, Blair Weatherby, Brian Latham, Bruce Look *groomer, Chris Hrkac *groomer, Danielle Stachiw, Dave Beattie, Dave Speakman *groomer, Dave Taylor, Elaine Weng, Eric Reed, Greg Hartel, Isabella Zytaruk, Jacqueline Ho, James Rose, Jean-Marie Mariez, Jennifer Waterhouse, Jocelyn Apps, John Stephenson *Loppet Coordinator, Katherine Joyce, Kathi Woodward, Kathy Beattie, Kerry Wheler, Kim Murray, Megan Lowry, Meghan Schnurr, Micheal Gilday, Nicola Langille, Nigel Bocking, Pam Dunbar, Rob Tumchewics *groomer, Roxane Poulin, Sara Wong, Sarah Beattie *Loppet Coordinator, Sarah Pruis, Scott Young, Sean Marshall *groomer, Shamus Gordon *groomer, Shauna Morgan, Shirley

Au, Shirley Zouboules, Sophie Lubet, Stephane Poitras, Tania Hercun, Trent Waterhouse, Tracey Pope, Trish McFaul, Wendy Stephenson

SPONSORS/SUPPORT:

Signature Sponsor: Gold Terra, Aurora Geosciences, CAH Consulting, CasCom, CCNWT, C.Heal Construction, J&R Mechanical, Weatherby Trucking, WSP, YK1 School Board

Nordic Cross

This late season fun event was organized by Mike Argue, who creatively re-routed skiers through familiar trails in a new way. Skier agility was challenged in the sharp turns, slalom downhill, picnic table ramps, backwards double poling, sidestepping through ropes, and other fun obstacles. 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:

- 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
- Co-op
- Overlander Sports
- Canadian Tire
- Booster Juice
- Barren ground coffee

Programs Report

Belinda Whitford, Programs Director

This year the Yellowknife Ski Club was very active with a number of programs. We are always looking for new coaches or volunteers willing to support these amazing programs. If the 2023-24 stories inspire you – sign up to lead or volunteer for a 2024 program!

In addition to supporting the amazing children and adult based programs, we had a number of ski club members complete officials training for both ski and biathlon. Having qualified officials is critical to support events at the YKSC. If you are interested in this aspect of volunteering,

contact the Club to ask about where and how to sign up for the training. Coaching training was also provided from Nordiq Canada in November, April and May. This training not only increased the coaching capacity of the team at Yellowknife Ski Club but also brought in trainers and coaches from Hay River and Yellowknife.

High Performance Season Review 2023/24 – Submitted by Claire Littlefair

The 2023/24 snow season has come to an end! The Team had yet another fantastic year on snow. We had a team of 26 athletes and seven coaches. The coaching team consisted of Stephen Dunbar, Mike Argue, Julia Gyapay, Kerry Wheler, Maxwell McEachern, and Clair Littlefair.

No two years are the same around here! This year, we had fewer races and had some very warm weather then some freezing weather. The team attended the Western Canada Cup at Sovereign Lake Nordic Centre in Vernon, BC, attempted the Alberta Cup at Canmore Nordic Centre, and the Canadian Eastern Championships at Old-Vieux Lennox Golf & Ski in Sherbrooke, QC. Unfortunately, we had a few issues with racing in Canmore due to cold weather; the Alberta Cup was postponed and no longer feasible for the team. Easterns also had challenges due to the lack of snow! The races were shortened and switched to only skate skiing since tracks could not be set. To follow up on the provincial races, many athletes on the team also participated in the Arctic Winter Games in Alaska! The games provided a tremendous end-of-season opportunity for many skiers. We had many personal bests and many first-time race experiences, and the team walked away with five medals from individual races and relay teams! To end our on-snow season, we finished with the Yellowknife Races. These races had everyone out, and the energy was high; skiers and coaches were participating, and it was a highlight of the year to see all the smiles and hear everyone cheering for their friends in such warm weather!

This year, the team added more fundraising activities that were a huge success! Some activities were a bottle drive, additional ski waxing opportunities, holiday events and garbage pick up. As travel costs are increasing, all fundraising events play a more significant role in accessibility to travel; we hope to have many successful fundraising opportunities for the next ski season.

The team grew this year, and we adopted a Squad approach to help every athlete train at a developmentally appropriate stage, and it worked well! We will keep the approach for seasons to come. Three new skiers are joining the team for the 2024/25 season, and four are graduating. The coaches look forward to a summer of training and a busy winter of racing! There are some changes in store for the coming season regarding the program name and further coaching development opportunities, all to support this rapidly growing team!

Thank you to the Yellowknife Ski Club for the fantastic support of the programs, and thank you to the groomers for our beautiful trails!

Track Attack

The Track Attack program was coached by Julie Ward along with Alex Lothian, Julia Kanigan, Mike Palmer, Craig Scott, Brett Wheler and Kerry Wheler. The program started drylands training in early October on Saturday mornings. There were lots of new kids in the program who moved up from Jackrabbits. The overall objective was to have a fun year, keep kids interested in skiing, be physically active, give them the taste of competition and hopefully prepare all those who wish to move onto High Performance.

The Track Attack team travelled to two events this year:

1. The Alberta Youth Championships in Bragg Creek, Alberta March 1-3, 2024. This event included about 20 of the 'older' Track Attack skiers and 4 coaches. This event gives our athletes a taste of competition outside of the NWT.
2. The Pat Bobinski Memorial Races is an all-time favorite for Track Attack Skiers. It gives most skiers a chance to experience a race away from Yellowknife and raises significant interest in skiing and the race community. With compensation from CCNWT and fundraising efforts towards this event, the team has been able to keep costs low enough that all Track Attack participants regardless of economic status have the ability to experience this event. 40 racers and 8 coaches headed to this event March 29-31, 2024.

In addition to YK Ski Club travel, many members of the Track Attack team tried out for the Arctic Winter Games team. Trials were held in Yellowknife in December 2023 and the Games ran from March 10-16. Coach Julie was the Team NT Ski Head Coach this year. Events in Yellowknife rounded off the season for the team with participation in the Yellowknife Gold Loppet, YK Ski Races, and Nordic Ski cross events in April 2024.

Jackrabbits / Bunnyrabbits program – Submitted by Mark Ishack

It was a very fun season!

The program included about 16 Saturdays of lessons, of which 4 were cancelled due to cold weather. On two of those Saturdays — one at the beginning of the season and one at the end of the season — we hosted a "Beckie Scott Ski". In March, on one of the Saturdays, we had a ski to the Snowcastle (with snack break from Sundogs Trading Post on the ice by the causeway) for

Jackrabbits, while on that same day the Bunnyrabbits met at the Snowcastle and went for a ski in the vicinity of the Snowcastle.

There were about 24 children registered in Bunnyrabbits, broken up into two groups. There were 5 coaches for the Bunnyrabbits program. There were about 54 children registered in Jackrabbits, broken up into 5 groups, with 13 coaches.

Janet Pacey at Signed made nice new signs for the program this year for use at the beginning of lessons to allow the children to identify their groups. We had one volunteer designated as a snack coordinator which was extremely helpful for the post-lesson canteen organization. There were fewer coaches this year than last year. Partly as a result of this, we were not able to offer an “open / all ages” lesson group. These factors made it challenging particularly in the case of older children who were new to skiing. It would be good if we could recruit more coaches for next season. A very fun season with fantastic coaches and terrific students!

Biathlon

We started the year with eight biathletes and four keen coaches — Doug Lockhart, Marie-Eve Raymond, Ruby Pigott and Belinda Whitford. Ruby left us shortly after Christmas to start an adventure on the other side of the globe and we wish her all the best Down Under. Fortunately we had a returning coach/athlete to fill in some of the gaps as long time biathlete Effie Lockhart was able to join us during breaks in the school year.

The season was warmer than normal which meant many more days outside to practice. Big cheer! We had a great mix of snowshoe and ski biathletes this year. With Arctic Winter Games, and a lack of snow in many locations, there were not a lot of travel events this year for our athletes.

Arctic Winter Games trials were held in Hay River at the end of November. Doug Lockhart was appointed Head Coach to Team NT Biathlon and we had all five of our Yellowknife athletes competing successfully qualify for the team. In March, Yellowknife hosted a Team NT Biathlon camp three days before the official charter left for Alaska. What a great time that was — intense training, fun and shooting. Our biathletes all came home with an ulu from the games in Alaska along with many memories and pins!

A huge shoutout to Doug Lockhart for his tireless work on the range and keeping our rifles in top shape as well as the ski club groomers that had the range ready to go for every practice.

The parents were generous with their time to help setup and take down the range which is always appreciated. Many hands make practice happen. We are looking forward to the 2024/25 biathlon season.

Ski Parents – submitted by Sarah Beattie

The Ski Parents program is a way for parents with little children to share in their passion for skiing and parenthood in a relaxed atmosphere. The program got started late into the year but they made good use of the time they had. Seven people signed up for the program. They arranged for a babysitter for 4 ski parent sessions so that all the ladies could go out skiing together. Everyone loved having the ski club as a place to hang out in! In fact they loved it so much they continued to meet one day a week into May.

Ski At School

The Yellowknife Ski Club partnered with Mildred Hall School for the Nordiq Playground which ran between April 15 & 16 during the day and in the evening. Mildred Hall has been a partner school for ski at school in the past.

Adult Lessons – submitted by Jennifer Stranart

Two sessions of Introduction to Cross Country Skiing and 3 sessions of Beginner Classic lessons were held. All of these sessions were sold out within days of registration being opened. A pilot session was held throughout the season for intermediate skiers on Fridays. This was free to members. Attendance was consistent but small. Rob Matthews and Jenn Stranart taught beginner classes. Bev Wilson co-taught a number of classes with Jenn with the goal of her being comfortable with her own class for next season. Classes were conducted in English and French (as possible)

There was strong demand again this year for private lessons. It is important to note that the main driver for the demand is that the group classes were sold out/courses (children's programming) had already started. Increasing capacity in this regard is essential. Several of those requesting private lessons were able to be accommodated in the existing group classes as students dropped out.

This year I was given a tutorial on the registration program. This made the adult lessons run much more smoothly. We were able to access students lists and were able to communicate more easily with them and in a timely manner. We were able to directly upload classes for registration for the additional classes over Christmas and this was very helpful.

Challenges – the timeliness of emails being passed on was inconsistent for adult or private

lessons. For next season, we have a direct email for adult and private ski lessons where people can direct their enquiries.

Building Capacity:

Increasing the number of instructors for adult ski lessons is essential to meet the demand. With this in mind, Jenn, Clair and Karen Johnson participated in Nordiq Canada's new instructor stream training with the result that by fall 2024, we will have the capacity to train new instructors in this stream.

Currently, there is interest from 3-4 individuals to become adult ski instructors. The plan is to facilitate their training this coming fall and have them mentored by the existing ski instructors during the first sessions of the season. They would then be able to offer additional classes during next season. This will help to develop confident instructors that feel supported and capable. As more instructors for beginner lessons are trained, additional classes can be offered for more advanced skiers.

Grants & Fundraising Report

Shelley Browne, Grants & Fundraising Director

The Yellowknife Ski Club is 100 percent volunteer operated. We rely strongly on grants and the proceeds of fundraising to maintain and advance our thriving club, which is a treasured community asset. Grants and fundraising support ski trail maintenance and improvements, chalet operations and maintenance, coach training/development and programs, and ski club communications and outreach.

The Board has particularly focused our grants and fundraising efforts this year and last on securing resources for trails maintenance and mobile equipment, including purchase of an all-terrain vehicle. Good trail conditions are essential to ensure safe and enjoyable skiing to our members, both at the Club and the Loppet and other community tracks our equipment and volunteer groomers set and maintain.

We are in the final year of a generous three-year grant from the City of Yellowknife that has tremendously benefited our ski club. We greatly appreciate this contribution, and all funds we receive from grants and donors. Thank you to all!

The Board continues to develop and submit funding applications as opportunities arise. Our recently updated Grant and Fundraising Policy is enhancing our capacity to secure money and continue to recognize and celebrate the generosity of businesses and

individuals who donate to the club.

Volunteer Report

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, 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 2024 award recipients are:

- Wooden Ski (long service) – John Buckland
- Double Poler (outstanding adult) – Max McEachern
- Stellar Snowflake (outstanding youth) – Leah McShane
- Herringbone (outstanding company) - Wild Creative Studio - Lianne Plamondon

Special mention and thanks to our other award nominees who have gone above and beyond for the club: Jenn Stranart; Karen Johnson; Weatherby Trucking; TrueNorth FM; J&R Mechanical.

Communications Report

Natalie Pressman, Communications Director

It's been a pleasure to lead communications for the Yellowknife Ski Club in the 2023/24 season and help keep members and ski-savvy Yellowknifers up to date on the happenings of the ski club.

The communications position includes monitoring and responding to emails at ykskiclubcommunications@gmail.com, updating the website, coordinating with local media, advertising through web banners, posters and radio advertising, sharing information on the club facebook page and creating and sending out weekly newsletters through the ski season.

The club created a new Facebook page this year after the previous page, where much of our audience was, was hacked. We're still growing that page, which currently sits at about 420 followers — down from about 1,500 on the previous page. I'm confident, however, that with consistency and perhaps the help of Facebook boosting, the new page can grow to be as successful as the previous Ski Club Facebook page. Meanwhile, we continue to reach nearly 1100 newsletter subscribers by email.

The Ski Club is also currently transitioning its website. The goal is to have a more modern, user-friendly site with all the information skiers need by the start of the next season. Huge thank you to Lianne Plamondon for taking on that behemoth of a project!

Advertising this year included radio ads through True North FM and Cabin Radio, web banners on the cabinradio.ca website, posters all around town, ads in the Yellowknifer newspaper and in the 2024 Yellowknife Guide, designed by Up Here Magazine. The Yellowknife Ski Club is pleased to be able to continue to support local media.

Huge thank yous to Kerry Wheler, Tania Hercun, Yvonne Pike and the Loppet crew who designed many of this year's posters and kept the Facebook updated. Thanks too to the trail crew for their reporting and keeping us all in the loop about the conditions of our trails (in addition to the huge amount of work of manning the trails themselves). And of course thank you to all who engaged with us, provided feedback or otherwise participated in club activities.

Facilities Report

John Stephenson, Facilities Director

The Facilities include the Yellowknife Ski Club and Elks' Youth Centre (Chalet), the Konge Garage, Biathlon Building and Range, two seacans, yellow garage and various trail maintenance structures. There were no major projects undertaken on YKSC facilities this year.

There were many bookings in 2023/24 including overnight stays by Jackpine Paddle and FOXY/SMASH. Government and corporate interest in rentals for meetings has been strong. The Chalet was well used by the YKSC Programs and Events. YK Multisport Club used the Chalet for their running and biking events and Frostbite 55. Stanton Hospital Foundation has used the Chalet for their popular fundraiser run called the Run for Our Lives Mud Run for several years. This event was cancelled in 2023 due to Yellowknife's wildfire evacuation. It is planned for September 2024. Joint Task Force North used the Chalet for their annual adventure fitness race of canoeing, running and obstacle courses. The Chalet is popular for weddings and special parties.

The City of Yellowknife through the Facilities Clerk assist YKSC with the administration of bookings for a fee.

Fees for Chalet rentals were increased for this past year to include cleaning costs.

The Chalet is reserved for Ski Club purposes during the winter – November to April. Downstairs is reserved 24/7. Members can access the building with the keypad code anytime to wax skis or change gear. Upstairs is available for Ski Club purposes on the weekends. The NWT experienced the worst forest fire season last summer including a Yellowknife evacuation from August 16 to September 6, 2023. All Chalet rentals including some weddings were cancelled during this period. During the evacuation, numerous contractors collaborated to create fire breaks, install sprinklers and do fire smarting. The contractors contacted the Facilities Director early in the evacuation and offered to fire smart the YK Ski Club Chalet. Numerous spruce trees were removed from about 10 meters away from the building. Thanks to the contractors that worked hard during this period to help protect our community and keep everything working. Prominent in the leadership of the contractors were Pete Houweling, Kavanaugh, Kenny Ruptash, Nahanni Construction and Steven Thomson, Aqua Diversities.

There were some small repairs done on the Biathlon building. There are numerous projects to be done on this building in the next year or so. The Biathlon Range was used by NWT Archery under a user agreement.

Four stalls in the parking lot were rented, June – September 2023, for a contractor's staff parking. Blumetric Environmental was doing work in the Giant Mine remediation project.

Thanks to the many contractors who assisted in maintaining facilities this past year: J&R Mechanical, DT Electric, Kavanaugh Brothers Ltd (garbage removal and sewage pumpout), WB Water Services (water delivery), Northern Interiors (blind servicing), Ollerhead Locksmiths, Tundra Transfer (water tank cleaning), Thyssenkrupp Elevators (elevator servicing), Arctic Alarm, Fire Prevention Services (fire extinguisher servicing), Creative Basics (janitorial supplies), 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 and GNWT Elevator Inspector.

Special thanks to:

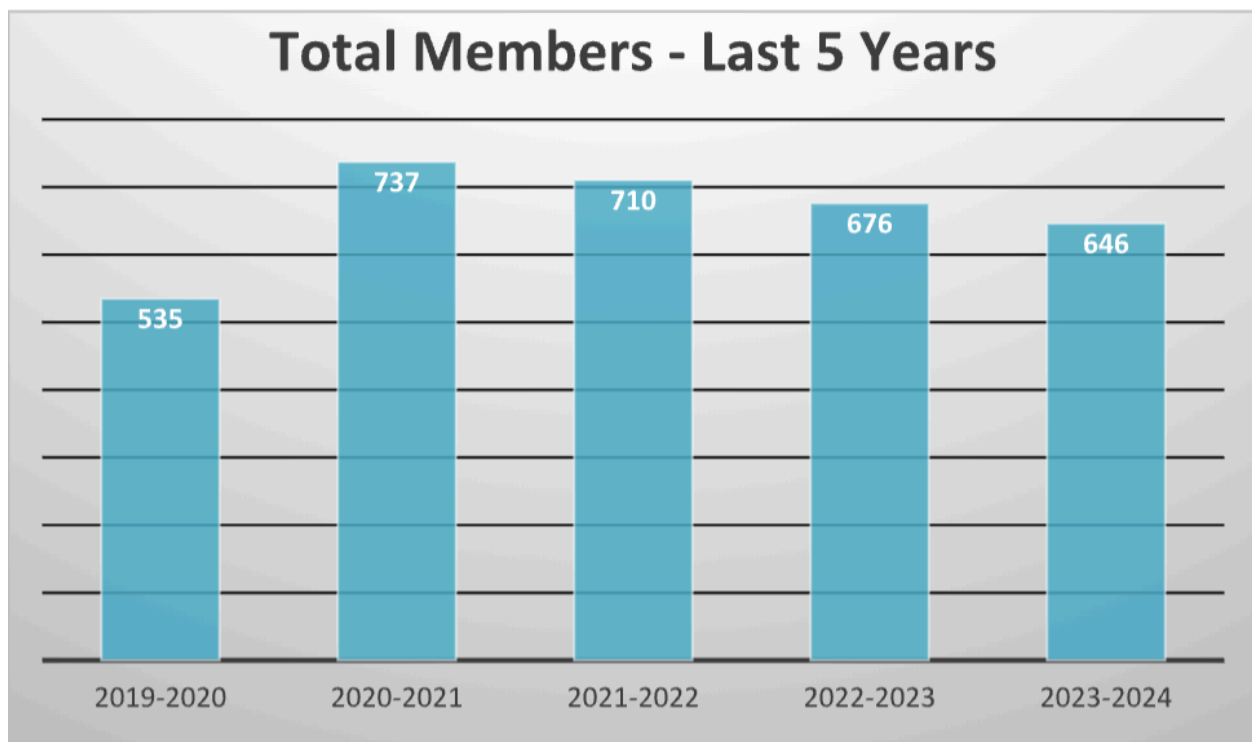
- Rosemarie Alido Gunio and her team with R3 Cleaning for providing consistent cleaning services throughout the year and for many years. Bryan Choroskowski with J & R Mechanical for his prompt and consistent service to our heating needs.
- Cliff Heal with C. Heal Construction for short notice snow clearing of the parking lot in the last days of winter and site preparation for the new seacan trail storage structure last fall.

- Blair Weatherby, Weatherby Trucking for short notice emergency snow clearing in the early winter and annual Vee Lake parking lot clearing for the Loppet.

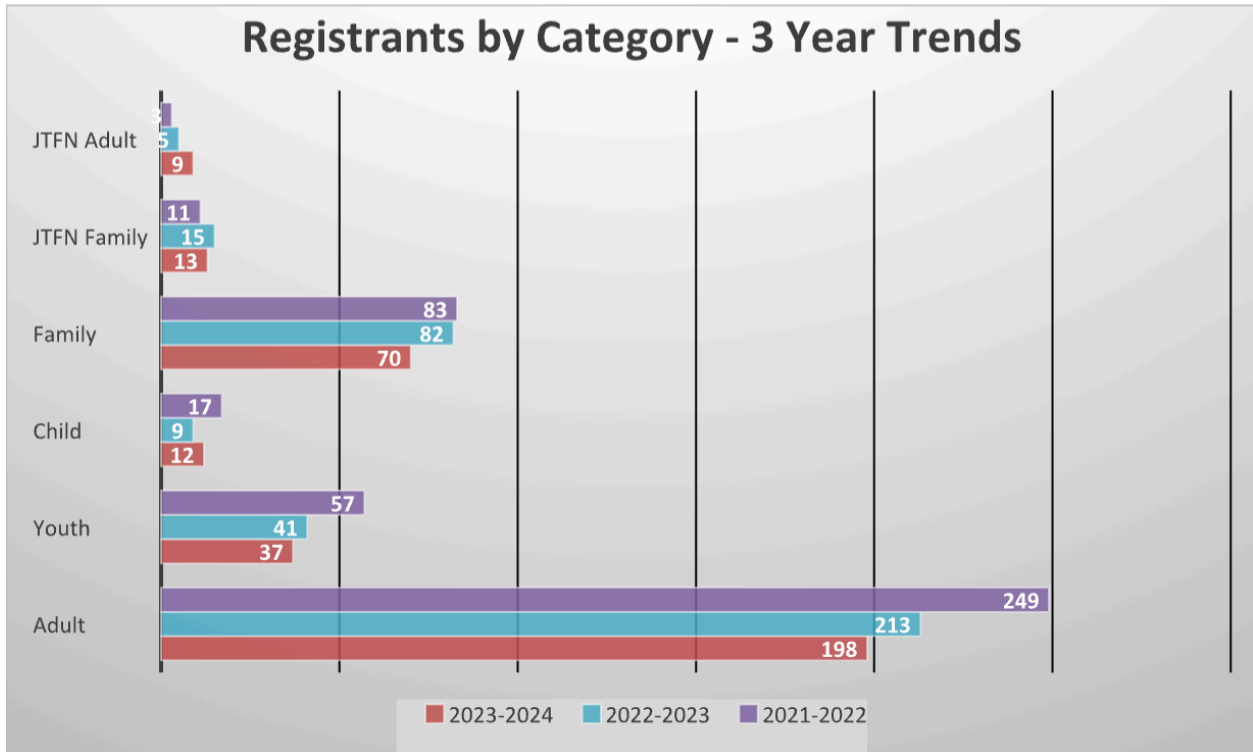
Registrar’s Report

Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Registrar

The Yellowknife Ski Club had another great year registering members to the club during the 2023-2024 ski season. We continue to have a small decrease in membership from our peak during the bump in membership we saw at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020-2021. Our five year average annual membership is now 660 members, which is over 100 more members per year than the annual averages seen prior to the pandemic. The club welcomed 45 new members this year.



The club had 70 families taking advantage of the family membership rates. Individual memberships included 198 adults, 37 youth, and 12 individual child registrants (see figure below). In addition to those members, 13 families and 9 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 with over 134 individual day passes and 4 family day passes. Please remember that if you have friends or family who want to try skiing at the club, they can register online!



Treasurer’s Report

Tania Hurcun, Treasurer

Due to another strong membership year and uncompleted budgeted maintenance this year due to the wildfires, we had a net income surplus of \$51,614. The annual revenue for the year was \$300,305 and the total expenditure was \$248,691. As of April 30, 2024 the club has a total of \$148,136 in cash and \$205,538 allocated to the Capital Reserve Fund. In the upcoming year we will allocate an additional \$15,000 to the ongoing Trails Equipment Improvements project.

The Fees & Charges Policy was updated on May 14, 2024. Changes included an increase to adult ski lessons and HP program fees.

The Capital Reserve Fund 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 contribution was \$26,000 this year and will be the same amount next year. The annual contribution amounts will be reviewed in April 2026.

Below, you will find the approved year end financial statements; which include the 2023-24 Balance Sheet, the 2023-24 Income Statement and the 2024-25 Budget. These documents were approved at the May 14, 2024 board meeting.

Yellowknife Ski Club Balance Sheet As at 04/30/2024

ASSET

Current Assets

Chequing - TD 5202820	41,095.56	
HP Account	24,219.96	
TA Account	15,288.97	
Biathlon Account	5,856.37	
Trails Equipment Improvements	61,674.78	
	<hr/>	
Total Cash		148,135.64
Total Capital Reserve Fund		205,537.88
Total Receivable		66,982.08
Prepaid Expenses		11,029.92
Total Current Assets		<hr/> 431,685.52 <hr/>

Capital Assets

Net - Building		565,424.35
Net - Building Furnishings		3,807.77
Net - Snow Machine		30,259.98
Net - Trail Equipment		4,873.71
Net - Rifles		0.00
Net- New Maintenance Shed		50,562.70
Net - Timing Equipment		1,136.80
Total Capital Assets		<hr/> 656,065.31 <hr/>

TOTAL ASSET

1,087,750.83

LIABILITY

Long Term Liabilities

Unrestricted Net Assets		554,702.77
Total Long Term Liabilities		<hr/> 554,702.77 <hr/>

TOTAL LIABILITY

554,702.77

EQUITY

Equity

Retained Earnings - Previous Years		481,433.73
Current Earnings		51,614.33
Total Equity		<hr/> 533,048.06 <hr/>

TOTAL EQUITY

533,048.06

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

1,087,750.83

Yellowknife Ski Club Comparative Income Statement

	Actual 05/01/2023 to 04/30/2024	Budget 05/01/2024 to 04/30/2025	Difference
REVENUE			
Revenue			
Membership Registration	66,977.00	60,000.00	6,977.00
Programs	116,604.54	99,400.00	17,204.54
Events	31,056.99	24,770.00	6,286.99
Fundraising	611.18	3,000.00	-2,388.82
Donations	1,877.55	2,500.00	-622.45
Building Rental	49,004.00	60,000.00	-10,996.00
Trail Use	1,901.90	2,000.00	-98.10
Interest Revenue	7,099.35	1,000.00	6,099.35
City of Yellowknife Grant	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00
In Kind Donations	172.50	50.00	122.50
Total Revenue	<u>300,305.01</u>	<u>277,720.00</u>	22,585.01
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>300,305.01</u>	<u>277,720.00</u>	22,585.01
EXPENSE			
Expenses			
Communications/ Advertising	2,223.32	4,775.00	-2,551.68
Accounting and Legal	542.99	500.00	42.99
Amortization Expense	27,977.86	40,000.00	-12,022.14
Building Maintenance	6,510.39	26,700.00	-20,189.61
In Kind Chalet & Trail Fees	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
Volunteer / Fundraising Reco...	252.51	500.00	-247.49
Events	29,282.39	27,730.00	1,552.39
Insurance	12,086.00	15,000.00	-2,914.00
Interest & Bank Charges	18.41	100.00	-81.59
Janitorial	7,638.69	9,800.00	-2,161.31
Licenses / Memberships	8,190.00	6,500.00	1,690.00
Office Supplies	222.96	500.00	-277.04
Admin & Booking Fees	8,919.27	8,000.00	919.27
Programs	104,920.69	108,561.00	-3,640.31
Trail Maintenance	16,589.01	18,350.00	-1,760.99
Alarm Monitoring	198.29	800.00	-601.71
Electricity	8,529.17	9,000.00	-470.83
Elevator	1,995.15	1,800.00	195.15
Fuel/Heat	11,346.39	15,000.00	-3,653.61
Garbage	3,692.92	3,500.00	192.92
Telephone & Internet	1,748.77	2,000.00	-251.23
Water	3,714.27	4,000.00	-285.73
Gain on sale	-7,908.77	0.00	-7,908.77
Total General & Admin. Exp...	<u>248,690.68</u>	<u>304,116.00</u>	-55,425.32
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>248,690.68</u>	<u>304,116.00</u>	-55,425.32
NET INCOME	<u>51,614.33</u>	<u>-26,396.00</u>	78,010.33

**YK SKI CLUB BUDGET
2024-25
FINAL**



	2023-24 Actual	2023-24 Budget	2023-24 Diff	2024-25 Budget
REVENUE				
1 Membership Registration	\$66,977.00	\$60,000.00	\$6,977.00	\$60,000.00
2 Fundraising	\$611.18	\$3,000.00	(\$2,388.82)	\$1,000.00
3 Donations	\$1,877.55	\$2,500.00	(\$622.45)	\$2,000.00
4 Building Rental	\$49,004.00	\$60,000.00	(\$10,996.00)	\$50,000.00
5 Trail Use	\$1,901.90	\$2,000.00	(\$98.10)	\$2,000.00
6 Interest Revenue	\$7,099.35	\$1,000.00	\$6,099.35	\$6,000.00
7 Misc Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
8 City of Yellowknife Grant	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00
9 In-Kind Donations	\$172.50	\$50.00	\$122.50	\$200.00
10 Events	\$31,056.99	\$24,770.00	\$6,286.99	\$30,300.00
11 Programs	\$116,604.54	\$99,400.00	\$17,204.54	\$127,400.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$300,305.01	\$277,720.00	\$22,585.01	\$303,900.00
EXPENSES				
20 Accounting & Legal	\$542.99	\$500.00	\$42.99	\$2,000.00
21 Amortization	\$27,977.86	\$40,000.00	(\$12,022.14)	\$30,000.00
22 Building Maintenance	\$6,510.39	\$26,700.00	(\$20,189.61)	\$26,700.00
23 Communications/Advertising/W.	\$2,223.32	\$4,775.00	(\$2,551.68)	\$4,300.00
24 Volunteer / Fundraising Expense	\$252.51	\$500.00	(\$247.49)	\$500.00
25 Admin & Booking Fees	\$8,919.27	\$8,000.00	\$919.27	\$8,000.00
26 Insurance	\$12,086.00	\$15,000.00	(\$2,914.00)	\$15,000.00
27 Interest & Bank Charges	\$18.41	\$100.00	(\$81.59)	\$100.00
28 Janitorial	\$7,638.69	\$9,800.00	(\$2,161.31)	\$10,000.00
29 Licenses/Memberships	\$8,190.00	\$6,500.00	\$1,690.00	\$8,000.00
30 Misc. Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
31 Office Supplies	\$222.96	\$500.00	(\$277.04)	\$500.00
32 Trail Maintenance	\$16,589.01	\$18,350.00	(\$1,760.99)	\$18,850.00
33 In-Kind Chalet Rentals	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	(\$1,000.00)	\$0.00
UTILITIES				
34 Alarm Monitors	\$198.29	\$800.00	(\$601.71)	\$200.00
35 Electricity	8,529.17	\$9,000.00	(\$470.83)	\$8,500.00
36 Elevator	1,995.15	\$1,800.00	\$195.15	\$2,000.00
37 Fuel/Heat	11,346.39	\$15,000.00	(\$3,653.61)	\$15,000.00
38 Garbage	3,692.92	\$3,500.00	\$192.92	\$3,500.00
39 Telephone & Internet	1,748.77	\$2,000.00	(\$251.23)	\$2,000.00
40 Water	3,714.27	\$4,000.00	(\$285.73)	\$4,000.00
41 Gain on Sale	-7,908.77	\$0.00	(\$7,908.77)	\$0.00
42 Events	\$29,282.39	\$27,730.00	\$1,552.39	\$31,000.00
43 Programs	\$104,920.69	\$108,561.00	(\$3,640.31)	\$144,400.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$248,690.68	\$304,116.00	(\$55,425.32)	\$334,550.00
NET (REVENUE minus EXPENSE)	\$51,614.33	(\$26,396.00)	\$78,010.33	(\$30,650.00)
CAPITAL RESERVE FUND				
Contributions	\$26,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$0.00	\$26,000.00
Expenditures	\$0.00	\$13,300.00	(\$13,300.00)	\$22,300.00
NET CHANGE	\$26,000.00	\$12,700.00	\$13,300.00	\$3,700.00
MEMBERSHIPS	646	650	-4	650