



*YELLOWKNIFE SKI
CLUB
ANNUAL REPORT*

2022-2023



Yellowknife Ski Club 2022-2023 Annual Report

President's Report

Kerry Wheler, President

It has been a pleasure to serve on the Board of Directors of the YK Ski Club as President for the 2022-23 season. I'm so proud of our club and the vibrant community we have created for members of all ages. There's so much going on at the club these days - I invite you to take a full read through this report to learn about all aspects of the club!

This season was exciting as we emerged from our COVID restrictions from the past few seasons. The chalet was often bustling on the weekends with programs, adult lessons, recreational skiers and special events.

Athletes were able to travel to races in pre-pandemic fashion. Highlights: Yellowknife athletes represented team NT at Arctic Winter Games in Fort McMurray and Canada Games in PEI. I was fortunate to be on the coaching team for both of those games to witness the hard work & dedication of the athletes and to be part of the magic of participating in large national and international sporting events. For our younger skiers, a trip to Hay River proves to be one of the highlights of the season for both race experience and fun team building!

Trail Grooming Project

We continue to use the guidance from our 5-year Strategic Plan from 2020, which indicated trail maintenance and grooming as priorities for our members. Our Trails Director, Sean Marshall, along with the grooming crew, developed a comprehensive proposal for improvements to our current equipment. We engaged in an annual opportunity with Nordiq Canada to host a fundraiser, where individuals were granted tax receipts. The community responded with a generous collective total of \$8730 towards this project. Thank-you!! We continue to seek out grants and other funding opportunities to support this project.

Frisbee Golf

In the fall of 2022, we worked with the Ultimate Frisbee Club to create a Memorandum of Understanding to set up a disc golf course on the trails. They came with a vision for a fun and challenging course using the unique terrain at the club, and the volunteers to set up and manage the removable baskets. We saw lots of groups come to enjoy the



course last fall and look forward to a full summer of disc golf. The Ultimate club has sets of discs available for loan at the Yellowknife Public Library.

Trail Navigation Committee

Our trail network is a clever labyrinth that weaves through the terrain to create diverse routes. Many skiers, however, often find themselves lost. A Trail Navigation Committee was struck this year to find out how to approach this issue so that skiers can feel comfortable navigating their way on the various loops. The findings: "you are here" signs need to be updated with more user friendly trail maps. The committee is seeking the support of a skilled GIS volunteer for trail mapping.

Notable Member

Did you know that National team member, Dahria Beatty, was a member at the YKSC this season? Originally from Whitehorse, she competed in her 11th year in World Cup racing this season and would come to Yellowknife between races to be with her fiancé. Dahria is very supportive to young athletes. Days after retiring from professional racing, she was here cheering on skiers at the YK Races.

Outgoing Directors:

Our board of directors is a dedicated group that meets monthly but works hard behind the scenes all season to make things run smoothly. We are saying goodbye to a few directors this year so I would like to highlight their work:

Bernadette Knox joined the board in 2019 as the Programs Director. Her love of skiing and outdoors was reflected in her work to provide ski opportunities for people of all ages. During her tenure, she worked to start the Ski-at-School program: she secured funding, sought out coaches, taught sessions, organized busses, provided snacks and helped get students into bindings. It is a program that has created such incredible outreach to our community. Many students who participated had never been to the club before and talked about their experience long after. It has been running successfully for the past 3 years. Bernadette also worked hard to support recreational adult programming by creating the Frostbite 50 training group and coordinating adult group lessons. She has been the board communication conduit for the Jackrabbit, Track Attack, HP and biathlon coaches. Bernadette also spearheaded the COVID-19 exposure control plan working group in 2020. The plan allowed us to continue to host our programs safely during the pandemic. The plan was adopted by CCNWT and utilized by other clubs in NWT. She conducted so much research and communication



and the plan worked effectively. We are very grateful for your many contributions, Bernadette!

Patrick Bruce has served as our Secretary since 2020. He helped to keep agenda items and meeting links organized even when we had our board meetings through ZOOM, and always delivered stellar minutes. Thanks Patrick!

Aida Nciri joined the board as Director of Fundraising and Grants in 2020. New to Yellowknife at the time, she worked hard to understand the needs of the club, research grants and fundraising opportunities, support the funding applications of programs & events, and develop a proposal for our current project for grooming equipment. She also spearheaded a working group to revise the fundraising policy to provide more guidance and direction for the club in the future.

Ella Wray joined the board for the 2022/23 season as the Communications Director. She kept a pulse on the goings-on at the club to compile weekly newsletters and social media posts. Her succinct and thoughtful approach was appreciated by the readership to stay in the loop. Our record number of participants for the loppet very well may have been a result of her fun retro posters and timely radio ads.

Clarinda Spjikerman joined the board as a co-Events Director for the 2022/23 season. Her organization skills greatly contributed to the fun schedule of activities hosted at the club this year.

I would also like to thank all the continued work and dedication from the directors who will continue for next season: Tania Hercun (Treasurer), Yvonne Pike (Events Director), Heather Scott (Past President), Alyssa Titus (Volunteer Director), John Stephenson (Facilities Director), Mark Cliffe-Phillips (Registrar), Gary Magee (Vice-President), Sean Marshall (Trails Director). I have loads of good things to say about all these fine folks.

To all our members: thank YOU for your contribution to the club this season. Our club is awesome because everyone makes it so. I deeply value the sense of community and wellness that can be found on and off these trails with like-minded folks who enjoy a nice glide through the forest. Enjoy the summer and I look forward to seeing you next season!

Trails 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 trail use experience for members and guests at the Club.

Summer

Trail bed maintenance is a critical summer task. Effort to backfill trails gouged by runoff, rocks pushed up by frost heave, and general leveling minimizes the amount of snow needed to establish safe high-quality trails. Placement of organic material, in the way of wood chips either created on site with a chipper or brought in from outside sources (eg. firewood producer) continues to be successful for evolutionary improvements with the catch that an organic base supports plant growth (see fall brush cutting). Locations with more incline or deeper depressions are most effectively tackled with granular material, either scavenged locally, or externally sourced. Movement of significant quantities of externally sourced fill to sites even slightly distant from trailheads is a challenge as the crew works with hand tools, carts and wheelbarrows.

The Club's winding network of trails provides users with a wide variety of route experiences. Effective signage is critical for experienced and especially novice users to find their way. In 2022/23, the summer season crew continued efforts to recondition posts and consolidate signage around the trails. Previous years' work is paying off with the crew finding fewer signage locations in critical need of attention. Along the lines of preventative maintenance, different varieties of bird spikes have been placed on signs at known roosting areas to determine which type works best. Successful deterrence of this behavior will reduce accelerated weathering of signs and posts.

The drier season also offers opportunity for facility maintenance in the chalet and stadiums such as fence and bench repair, painting and materials sorting and organization.

With Brian Latham leading a crew including Brian Render, Bob Reid, David Speakman, Gene Hugo, Klaus Scheuhing, and Rob Tumchewics, approximately 195 hours of volunteer labour were contributed to summer trails activity in 2022/23.

Development opportunities:

Improving crew mobility and access to granular fill would expand the summer crew's ability to carry out maintenance activities. Currently, most maintenance is carried out on foot, including movement of supplies to work locations by cart and wheelbarrow.

Fall Brush Cutting

Brush cutting is the principal activity carried out in the fall. While any gardener in the north knows the challenge of fostering plant growth, willows scoff at these hardships and are abundant by late summer. 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 club on foot with powered brush saws. Between 30 September and 23 October, approximately 60 shifts comprising over 200 hours of labour were worked in 2022/23.

A critical piece of this work is organizing volunteers, a task for which John McCullum's year over year contribution 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 2023.

Development opportunities:

Stadiums and other open, level areas are very time consuming to clear with brush saws. Experimenting with other large area clearing methods (eg. walk behind or towed brush mower) may yield a reduction in hours required and improvement of output.

Winter Snow farming

Snow farming starts as early as October and runs through until April. Building on the efforts of summer and fall maintainers, the winter crew works evenings when trail use is low, to gather, smooth and shape the snow that falls into the trails we all enjoy. Regular sessions occur on Thursday and Friday as well as Monday (sometimes Sunday), and as needed when storms and special events require.

2022/23's snow farming story was one of snowy abundance early in the season. This enabled very early establishment of high-quality trails. As the season progressed, weather was more challenging around major Club events. Cold weather coupled with pre-event snow accumulation challenged preparations for AWG Trials, the Yellowknife Ski Races faced cold weather alone, storm activity impacted grooming for the Yellowknife Gold Loppet and Polar Cup Biathlon events, and a flash of warm weather

followed by below freezing temps hardened trails in the spring beyond the cutting capacity of the Club's grooming equipment. Groomers work responsively to weather to meet these tests, and overall, trail conditions were excellent this season.

Efficient and effective grooming relies upon experienced equipment operators and their willingness to contribute time. The Club has been favoured with a strong base of commitment in this area. Together, Adam Bembridge, Alex Lothian, Bob Reid, Bruce Look, Chris Hrkac, Dave Speakman, Devin Lyall, Ed Hoeve, Helen Hoeve, Greg Littlefair, John Buckland, John Stephenson, Nigel Bocking, Oliver Hodgins, Pam Naylor, Paul Guy, Rob Tumchewics and Shamus Gordon contributed an approximate total of 600 hours to the program this season.

Development opportunities:

Early season trail conditions in typical snow years are improved by collecting snow from off-trail areas and placing it in areas with low snow cover or uneven trail bed surfaces. Establishing more efficient methods of moving snow from collection areas to distribution areas will enhance ability to deliver enjoyable early season trail use experiences.

Equipment and Maintenance

The club's trail grooming activities depend heavily on serviceable equipment that would not be available without regular maintenance efforts. In addition to active grooming hours, Rob Tumchewics leads fleet maintenance and had a busy and productive season with planned and unplanned activities. The economics of the trails program benefit critically from Rob's ongoing commitment to this work, along with the assistance of other skilled and experienced hands like Bruce Look.

Development opportunities:

The Club's winter grooming equipment has a very high average age. Strategic renewal of this fleet will improve sustainability and expand capacity to recover trails after storms, large snow dumps, and when hosting events. The funding required for investments of this nature is high with snowmobiles suitable for work on the Club's trails costing between \$20-50,000 and grooming implements themselves in the range of \$5-25,000. Internal fundraising efforts were commenced in 2022/23 through liquidation of underutilized assets and a donation campaign.

Banting Lake Tent

The Club's tent at Banting continues to be managed by Julie Ward and Doug Townson. The facility is well used and an asset to the Club's offer of ski related experiences.

Development opportunities:

The tent will require maintenance to the coverings and blocking in the near term.

Events Report

Clarinda Spijkerman and Yvonne Pike, Events Directors

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the events successful. It was a great and normal year for events. We were able to host all events without any restrictions. It was fun to do organize the events together.

Calendar of events:

October 29, 2022 – Snow Show and Pumpkin Patch

November 10, 2022 – Wax and Wine

Beginning of ski season to January 8, 2023 – SKIGO BINGO #1

December 8, 9, 10, 2022 – Arctic Winter Games Trials

December 11, 2022 – Candy Cane Forest Ski – Free Ski

January 15, 2022 – World Snow Day – Free Ski

February 12, 2023 – NWT Ski Day – Free Ski and Costume Ski

March 11 & 12, 2023 – Yellowknife Ski races

March 18, 2023 – Frostbite 50

April 1, 2023 – Polar Cup Biathlon

April 2, 2023 – Yellowknife Gold Loppet

April 15, 2023 – Nordic Cross

January 11 to April 11, 2023 – SKIGO BINGO #2

Snow Show and Pumpkin Patch

We tried something new and added a pumpkin patch to the snow show this year. The HP team distributed over 150 pumpkins all along the 1km trail and people could purchase a ticket for \$20. Ski waxing was also part of the snow show. The Silent Auction was organized by Tania Hercun and the HP team, which was a huge success. A record number of prizes were donated. The used gear sale as always attracted many people looking to connect with new equipment. The Track Attack program had an amazing bake and chili sale. Representatives of various programs were available to share information and assist with registration.

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

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.

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.

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!

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 from 10-2. We served about 200 people. Complimentary skis were provided by École ɪt'ò school. Overlander Sports provided a discounted rate for ski rentals at their store. 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. Jenn Stranart and Rob Matthews offered

on-snow instruction. Sponsors for the event include 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 this year, which featured a classic race and a team relay. Nordiq Canada has strict temperature limits for all sanctioned events to protect the health and safety of participants. The age category U12 and younger were not able to race due to the weather but were still able to do a fun ski. The older category raced a classic race. Many of the participants were in U12 and under categories which means we will have lots of healthy ski years ahead.

Cookie medals were made by Lisa Mcshane and were presented by various volunteers. We also added warm Gatorade (a suggestion from the HP kids) at the finish line, which was a big hit. NWT literacy made the chili for us which was delicious.

80 volunteer positions allowed the weekend to run smoothly for all participants. Our race committee included: Tania Hercun, John Stephenson, Alex Lothian, Yvonne Pike, Heather Scott, Lisa McShane and Damian Panayi.

Frostbite 50

Organized by the Multi-sport club this event starts and ends at the ski club. This 50 km ski and snowshoe event follows snow machine trails for the ski club to Walsh Lake and Prosperous Lake in five stages.

Cookie Sale and Wax

HP organized another fundraising event just in time for the loppet. People were able to get their skies waxed and buy some yummy treats.

Polar Cup Biathlon

Biathletes from Hay River and YK united for some excitement on the trails and in the range for a full day of biathlon

Yellowknife Gold Loppet Sponsored by Gold Terra

A record number of people registered for the 2023 Loppet, 470 skiers! Skiers flocked to Vee Lake to enjoy beautifully groomed 4, 15, and 25km routes. Loppet cookies, baked by Kathi Woodward, were handed out by our dedicated volunteers at all checkpoints, and soup was offered at the Banting Lake tent for skiers doing the 25km route.

Alyssa Titus and Sarah Beattie spearheaded this monumental event again. Thanks to Sarah and Alyssa for your leadership and the dedicated crew of volunteers.

Nordic Cross

This late season fun event was organized by Jacob Shank, 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

The Yellowknife Ski Club was the recipient of grants from the following organizations

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

Funding – These local businesses generously supported our events

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

- Barren ground coffee

Grants and Fundraising Report

Aida Nciri, Grants and Fundraising Director

This year, the Board focused their grants and fundraising efforts on securing resources for trails maintenance and mobile equipment. Good trail conditions are essential to ensure safe and enjoyable skiing to our members. Through a partnership with Nordiq Canada, the Club raised over \$8,700 in donations. Thank you to all donors!

The Board also developed and submitted two large proposals to secure funding for mobile equipment and chalet upgrade. While unsuccessful, the proposals provide a sound budget estimate and a strong rationale that can be reused and adapted for future grant applications.

The Board also updated the Grant and Fundraising Policy, including donor recognition. With this renewed policy, the Club will enhance its capacity to secure money and continue to recognize and celebrate the generosity of businesses and individuals who donate to the club.

Programs Report

Bernadette Knox, Programs Director

HP: Submitted by Clair Littlefair

The 2022/23 season was a busy one! We hit the jackpot with the volume and timing of the snow and temperature this season. We were on skis at the Ski Club by November 1st! Paired with mild winter temperatures, the skiers could spend lots of time on snow! With four practices a week for two hours, the skiers completed over 300 hours of training. The training included lots of technique work, relays, individual sprints and speed work, strength, and glide-outs around the club. This season we had many amazing people involved in coaching at practices and for the two games!

The coaching crew consisted of Mike Argue, Julia Gyapay, Kerry Wheler, Stephen Dunbar, Geoff Ray, Heather Scott, and Clair Littlefair.

Due to COVID-19, the skiers could try out for and compete at two large-scale games in one season mixed in with many other races around Alberta, British Columbia, and Ontario.

- FIS Nordiq Cup - U16+ (Soverign Lake)

- Alberta Cup 3&4 (Canmore)
- Arctic Winter Games (Wood Buffalo)
- Canada Winter Games (PEI)
- Nationals - U16+ (Thunder Bay)
- NWT Championships (Hay River)
- YK Ski Races (Yellowknife)
- Nordic Cross (Yellowknife)
- Yellowknife Gold Loppet (Yellowknife)

In addition to the on-snow aspects of skiing, we added a couple of practices around sports psychology, nutrition to support your growing and training body, and goal setting! They were received positively, and the skiers could apply what they learned all season.

The team is growing at a rapid pace! There were about 20 people on the team in Yellowknife (we have multiple other team members going to school and living elsewhere right now that are not included in the 20), and we have up to 14 skiers moving up from Track Attack this year! After summer, we will have three skiers heading to a university, but the excitement is high for next season (and Dryland), with up to 31 skiers out!

Thank you to the Ski Club and Board Members for such successful programs and a positive + safe environment for these athletes!

Track Attack - submitted by Kerry Wheler

Track Attack (ages 9-13) had a great season! Weekend dryland practices kicked off with a team entry to the Mud Run. Dryland practices often involved mass games of capture the flag or wave tag. A sleepover at the club in November enabled the group to set goals and build a strong team dynamic. Once the snow came, practices took place Mondays & Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons.

Coaches included: Julie Ward, Alex Lothian, Meghan Beveridge, Craig Scott, Levi Bruce, Brett Wheler, Julian Kanigan, Kerry Wheler, Mike Palmer, Julia Gyapay. Thanks to Julie & Alex for coordinating, and Meghan for managing the skate ski rentals!

Thanks to Wendy Lahey who initiated the return of Track Attack lunches, and to all of the families that prepared food for hungry skiers and coaches this season.

The crew of resilient young athletes enthusiastically brought their best to each practice, even on cold dark nights! Games, technique drills, relays, and adventure skis kept everyone motivated and warm!

Older athletes were able to attend Arctic Winter Games Trials, hosted here in YK with athletes from Fort Smith & Fort Good Hope. 4 athletes from our program were selected to represent Team NT at Arctic Winter Games in Fort McMurray, AB.

8 athletes and 3 coaches traveled to Bragg Creek for Alberta Youth Championships, which provides an opportunity to camp and race with youth from western provinces.

Track Attack traveled as a team to NWT Territorial Championships (AKA PABS) in Hay River. A bus and several vehicles transported over 20 athletes, numerous coaches & supporters to this wonderful event hosted by our friends on the south side of the lake. The team stayed at Ecole Boreal, enjoyed the amenities and hospitality of Hay River, set personal goals and raced **hard**. This trip is a keystone event for providing an affordable, positive race experience for developing athletes. From communal meals (thanks Tania Hercun), karaoke singalong, swimming, the trip was an incredible experience for all who attended. A special thanks to Tamlin Gilbert for planning and managing the details of the adventure!

Jackrabbits: submitted by Rosie Benning

We had a wonderful season! Jackrabbits had 73 registrants and Bunnyrabbits had 24. Each group had two coaches for each lesson, with additional assistant/junior coaches for larger groups. This season, there were 18 scheduled lessons altogether, which took place Saturday afternoons from 1:30-3:00 pm from November 26, 2022 to April 1, 2023, plus 2 night skis sprinkled in. Back this year: hot chocolate and snacks!

As is tradition, skiers from levels 1-4 and Mixed Ages successfully skied to the SnowKing Castle, an amazing event enjoyed by all those who participated! **New this season: the bunnies skied around Houseboat Bay before playing at the SnowKing Castle themselves!**

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

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

Bunnies A: Harper Makohoniuk

Bunnies B: Leo Osburn

1A: Claira Wowk

1B: Scarlett Simmons

2A: Georgia Udesen
2B: Vinh Bui-Nguyen
3: Graeme Wood
4A: Zak Benning
4B: Elliot Yorke
MA: Hugo Tremblay

This year, we had 16 volunteer coaches, 7 assistant coaches, and 2 junior coaches (see list below):

Coaches: Elaine Weng, Sarah Beattie, Mike Argue, Damon Benoit, Sophie Mahon, Jason Yorke, Gary Magee, Laura Stewart, Kelly Slack, Benjamin Israel, Julie Ward, Levi Bruce, Steve Kokelj, Jeremy Sears, Shelley Browne, Lisa McShane

Part-time coaches: Oyuka Bernabe, Kate Kyle, Petter Jacobsen, Raynor Look, Mark Ishack, Ariel Holmwood Bramwell, Flora Camuzet

Assistant/Junior coaches: Neve Mahon and Leah McShane

The Ron Seale coaching award went to Julie Ward whose commitment, dedication and passion has been an inspiration to this program for the past several years.

This year's coordinator was Rosie Benning

Biathlon - Submitted by Marie-Eve Raymond

The 2022/2023 biathlon season welcomed new coaching staff on its team. This year we had in attendance at regular practices Doug Lockhart, Marie-Eve Raymond, Sean Harrop, Brendan Green, Rosanna Crawford and official Belinda Whitford. This is a record number of coaches which was met with a great deal of new participants. This year the team was composed of 16 athletes, 6 of which were new to the sport. 4 athletes from Yellowknife were selected to participate in this year's Arctic Winter Games hosted in Wood Buffalo, representing the Northwest Territories in the sport of snowshoe biathlon and ski biathlon.

Athletes participated in multiple events this year, we hosted training clinics with Brendan Green and Rosanna Crawford, during which athletes practiced their range approaches and standing athletes practiced their techniques. We hosted weekly fun races, held on Sundays, during which parents came out to learn about and understand how different races are set up and run. We participated in a Polar Cup hosted in Hay River as well as one hosted in Yellowknife.

Adult Ski Lessons 2022/23: Submitted by Jenn Stranart

Instructors: Jenn Stranart, Rob Matthews

Novice Classic Lessons:

This year, we opted to split the adult lessons into Introduction to Cross Country skiing and Novice classes. The idea was that those who were total beginners would be separated from those that had some knowledge but were still beginners.

As this was the first year that we did this, there was some confusion/uncertainty about which class to take. Those that chose this class generally had been skiing for at least a year or so but had not taken lessons. They also consistently were nervous about hills.

The classes went very well and the students were able to progress quickly as there was no need to start with the absolute basics. All were confident hill skiers and more efficient by the end of the lessons.

Intermediate Classic Lessons:

These lessons were done over the Christmas break. Conditions/temps were reasonable for effective lessons.

Beginner Skate Lessons:

As cold temps and skate skiing are not good partners – we decided to hold drop-in skate lessons when the temperatures were above -15 or warmer.

This year we were blessed with fantastic snow and temps in November.

I had a list of interested skiers and would email them all when the conditions were looking favourable. We ended up getting in 5 lessons in Nov/Dec and taking advantage of the great conditions.

Learn to Frostbite 50

The Learn to Frostbite 50 is an offering for people who want to increase their endurance, learn trails around the YK bush, how to dress and snack for cold-weather, break their personal best longest ski week after week, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY truly enjoy being outdoors this winter.

Each week, for the 12 weeks preceding the Frostbite 50, participants received information and maps of one recommended short (fast) skis, an indoor workout (not requiring any specialized equipment), a motivational interview with a former Frostbite 50 skier, and most importantly a map for a recommended long weekend ski. The group skis took us into the bush around Yellowknife and introduced skiers to their new favorite

wilderness trails. Over the program, there were approximately 12 group skis (6 shorter and 6 longer). Several of the longer skis were more remote and skidoo supported.

We also hosted several in-person strength and stretching sessions at the YK Ski Club chalet. Other highlights include glide waxing tutorials, opportunities for indoor cross-training, new friends, motivation to ski all winter in all weather conditions!

Organizers: Sara Wong and Bernadette Knox

Ski at School

The ski at school program had another successful year of welcoming school classes to our trails with coach support.

Organizers: Bernadette Knox and Beth Cowan

Ski Parents: Submitted by Laurence Rivet-Jaque

Ski parents is a group that met during the ski season to take turns caring for each other's children while going for a ski. The group met on average once a week normally on Thursday mornings during the season. Laurence Rivet-Jaque coordinated the program. There was little participation in the program this year. Only a small number of families were interested and it was a challenge to have enough attendance every week.

Facilities Report

John Stephenson, Facilities Director

The Northwest Territories public health emergency was ended by the GNWT in March 2022. On April 11, 2022 the Yellowknife Ski Club Board removed the Proof of Vaccination requirements and the COVID-19 control plan. Restrictions on gatherings had been in place since March 2020. 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. As with most places in our community there has been a continued relaxing of masking and other controls on gatherings.

There were no major projects undertaken on YKSC facilities this year.

There were many bookings in 2022/23 including summer activities of weddings, Circus Camp, 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 YKSC Programs and Events. YK Multisport Club used the Chalet for their running and biking events and Frostbite 50. Stanton Hospital Foundation use the Chalet for their popular fundraiser run called the Mud Run. Joint Task Force North used the Chalet for their annual adventure fitness race of canoeing, running and obstacle courses.

The City of Yellowknife through the Facilities Clerk have assisted YKSC with the administration of bookings for a fee. There was a City Strike in early 2023. During this time the Facilities Director and the Treasurer, Tania Hercun provided volunteer continuity in the administration of bookings. Thanks to Tania for her help in all aspects of Chalet management and maintenance.

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

J & R Mechanical, DT Electric, Kavanaugh Brothers Ltd (garbage removal and sewage pump out), WB Water Services (water delivery), Ollerhead Locksmiths, Tundra Transfer (water tank cleaning), Thyssenkrupp Elevators (elevator servicing), Arctic Alarm, 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.

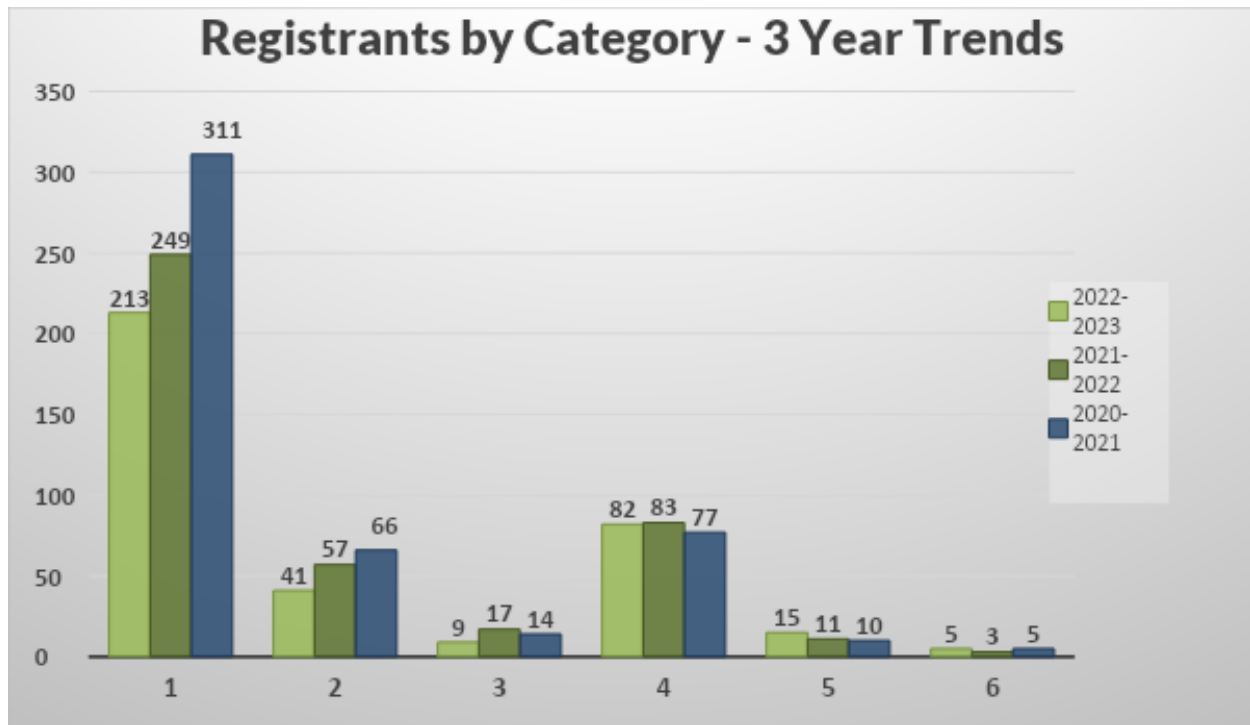
Registrar Report

Mark Cliff-Phillips, Registrar Director

The Yellowknife Ski Club had another successful membership campaign during the 2022-2023 ski season. Overall membership of 676 members was a decrease from the 710 members last year but remains well above our previous annual averages prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our five-year average annual membership is now 635 members, which eclipses the average membership of 512 members for the preceding five years (2013-2014 to 2017-2018). The club welcomed 121 members who indicated that they were new to the club.



The club had 82 families taking advantage of the family membership rates, with a larger average number of members registering per family this year. Individual memberships included 213 adults, 41 youth, and 9 individual child registrants (see Figure below). In addition to those members, 15 families and 35 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 40 individuals and groups purchasing day passes. Please remember that if you have friends or family who want to try skiing at the club, they can register online!



Volunteer Report

Alyssa Titus, Volunteers Director

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 2023 award recipients are:

- Wooden Ski (long service) – Clair Littlefair
- Double Poler (outstanding adult) – Julia Gyapay
- Stellar Snowflake (outstanding youth) – Sophie Mahon
- Herringbone (outstanding company) - Overlander Sports



Special mention and thanks to all of our 2023 award nominees who have gone above and beyond for the club: Makoa Kokelj, Leah McShane, Levi Bruce, Oyuka Bernabe, and Barren Ground Coffee.

On rare occasions, the Yellowknife Ski Club recognizes long-serving volunteers as lifetime members of the club. The current list of lifetime members includes Sharon Firth, Blair and Linda Dunbar, John Stephenson, Kevin Hodgins, Brian Latham, and Bob Reid. This year, we welcome John Argue to this special group. Thank you, John.

Communications Report

Ella Wray, Communications Director

The 2022/23 was a happy return to 'normal' after many pandemic years and a chance to welcome members back to our chalet for socializing from bunnies to day users all the way to adult ski lessons.

The Communications position includes monitoring and responding to two email addresses, info@skiyellowknife.com and ykskiclubcommunications@gmail.com, monitoring and updating the Club's Facebook page, and creating, writing and coordinating all advertising for the Yellowknife Ski Club. It also includes maintaining and updating the Club's website skiyellowknife.com and creating and sending out a weekly newsletter emailed via Mailchimp to keep new and seasoned skiers abreast of all things to do with the Yellowknife Ski Club and cross-country skiing.

The newsletter includes graphics done using Canva, to which we maintain a subscription, intended to increase our visibility and keep people interested in the sport. Five banners with new club photos and the latest Ski Club logo were created this year to update the look of the newsletter. They were used as newsletter headings on a rotating basis.

Advertising for the 2022/23 Ski Club events included a new addition to the Snow Show, a Pumpkin Patch! This new addition brought extra attention to the event from the media, increased turnout, and made for some fun advertising.

A big focus of our advertising this year was the Yellowknife Gold Loppet. Advertising including radio advertising on True North FM and Cabin Radio, (including some free advertising courtesy of True North FM -Thank you True North FM!) web banners on



cabinradio.com, posters all around town, advertising on our website, and advertising on social media. 2023 was a record number of registrants, 470 this year compared to 330 in 2022. Evidence of the power of advertising!

Additionally, we did a big 'Spring Skiing' advertising push in March/April 2023 with the goal of increasing membership. Advertising encouraged residents to become Yellowknife Ski Club members with the promise that our trails are best enjoyed in the spring. The radio ads and posters created were deliberately done to allow them to be used in subsequent years.

The Yellowknife Ski Club Facebook page grew slightly this year from 1,283 to over 1,400 followers. We also increased the number of subscribers to our newsletter to almost 1100.

Treasurers Report

Tania Hercun, Treasurer

Due to our strong membership, an increase in chalet rentals, and uncompleted budgeted maintenance this year, we had a strong financial year with a net income surplus of \$65,077. The annual revenue for the year was \$315,795 and the total expenditure was \$250,717. As of April 30, 2023, the club has a total of \$200,122 in cash assets and \$172,439 allocated to the Capital Reserve Fund. In the upcoming year we will allocate \$75,000 from our income surplus over the past 4-years to trail upgrades.

The Fees & Charges Policy was updated on May 15, 2023. Changes included an increase to some program fees and increases to chalet rental fees. The rental fees now include cleaning fees to simplify administrating chalet rentals.

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 for the next 2 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 2022-23 Balance Sheet, the 2022-23 Income Statement and the 2022-23 Budget. These documents were approved at the May 15, 2023 board meeting.

**Yellowknife Ski Club
Balance Sheet As at 04/30/2023**

ASSET

Current Assets		
Chequing - TD 5202820	158,082.85	
HP Account	14,248.99	
TA Account	13,794.86	
Biathlon Account	3,264.90	
Trails Fundraising	10,730.00	
Total Cash		200,121.60
Savings - TD 5213881	26,029.92	
GICs	146,408.61	
Total Capital Reserve Fund		172,438.53
Accounts Receivable	12,040.78	
Total Receivable		12,040.78
Prepaid Expenses		945.23
Total Current Assets		<u>385,546.14</u>

Capital Assets		
Net - Building	577,270.37	
Net - Building Furnishings	4,384.99	
Net - Snow Machine	10,525.85	
Net - Trail Equipment	5,377.07	
Net - Rifles	0.00	
Net - New Maintenance Shed	52,578.97	
Net - Timing Equipment	1,330.75	
Total Capital Assets		<u>651,468.00</u>

TOTAL ASSET 1,037,014.14

LIABILITY

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

TOTAL LIABILITY 554,702.77

EQUITY

Equity		
Retained Earnings - Previous Years	417,234.00	
Current Earnings	65,077.37	
Total Equity		<u>482,311.37</u>

TOTAL EQUITY 482,311.37

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY 1,037,014.14

**Yellowknife Ski Club
Comparative Income Statement**

	Actual 05/01/2022 to 04/30/2023	Budget 05/01/2022 to 04/30/2023	Difference
REVENUE			
Revenue			
Membership Registration	71,560.00	60,000.00	11,560.00
Programs	106,785.29	105,375.00	1,410.29
Events	25,333.15	22,770.00	2,563.15
Fundraising	17,130.00	3,000.00	14,130.00
Donations	4,105.00	2,500.00	1,605.00
Building Rental	62,003.17	27,000.00	35,003.17
Trail Use	2,195.00	1,000.00	1,195.00
Interest Revenue	1,643.15	500.00	1,143.15
City of Yellowknife Grant	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00
In Kind Donations	40.00	2,000.00	-1,960.00
Total Revenue	<u>315,794.76</u>	<u>249,145.00</u>	66,649.76
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>315,794.76</u>	<u>249,145.00</u>	66,649.76
EXPENSE			
Expenses			
Communications/ Advertising	1,878.98	4,500.00	-2,621.02
Accounting and Legal	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Amortization Expense	33,528.01	40,000.00	-6,471.99
Building Maintenance	3,011.93	14,000.00	-10,988.07
In Kind Chalet & Trail Fees	1,650.00	0.00	1,650.00
Volunteer / Fundraising Reco...	105.00	500.00	-395.00
Events	23,984.63	23,095.00	889.63
Insurance	12,251.00	14,000.00	-1,749.00
Interest & Bank Charges	546.89	100.00	446.89
Janitorial	5,193.92	8,500.00	-3,306.08
Licenses / Memberships	7,300.00	6,000.00	1,300.00
Office Supplies	569.68	230.00	339.68
Admin & Booking Fees	9,798.40	5,000.00	4,798.40
Programs	98,551.88	114,586.00	-16,034.12
Fundraising Expenses	1,134.79	0.00	1,134.79
Trail Maintenance	16,260.77	14,940.00	1,320.77
Alarm Monitoring	793.16	1,000.00	-206.84
Electricity	9,883.38	6,800.00	3,083.38
Elevator	1,866.34	1,800.00	66.34
Fuel/Heat	12,526.99	15,000.00	-2,473.01
Garbage	3,828.54	1,000.00	2,828.54
Telephone & Internet	1,906.96	2,000.00	-93.04
Water	4,146.14	3,000.00	1,146.14
Total General & Admin. Exp...	<u>250,717.39</u>	<u>276,551.00</u>	-25,833.61
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>250,717.39</u>	<u>276,551.00</u>	-25,833.61
NET INCOME	<u>65,077.37</u>	<u>-27,406.00</u>	92,483.37

**YK SKI CLUB BUDGET
2023-24
FINAL**

	2022-23 Actual	2022-23 Budget	2022-23 Diff	2023-24 Budget
REVENUE				
1 Membership Registration	\$71,560.00	\$60,000.00	\$11,560.00	\$60,000.00
2 Fundraising	\$17,130.00	\$3,000.00	\$14,130.00	\$3,000.00
3 Donations	\$4,105.00	\$7,500.00	\$1,605.00	\$7,500.00
4 Building Rental	\$62,003.17	\$27,000.00	\$35,003.17	\$60,000.00
5 Trail Use	\$2,195.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,195.00	\$2,000.00
6 Interest Revenue	\$1,643.15	\$500.00	\$1,143.15	\$1,000.00
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	\$40.00	\$2,000.00	(\$1,960.00)	\$50.00
10 Events	\$25,383.15	\$22,770.00	\$2,563.15	\$24,770.00
11 Programs	\$106,785.29	\$105,375.00	\$1,410.29	\$99,400.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$315,794.76	\$249,145.00	\$66,649.76	\$277,720.00
EXPENSES				
20 Accounting & Legal	\$0.00	\$500.00	(\$500.00)	\$500.00
21 Amortization	\$33,528.01	\$40,000.00	(\$6,471.99)	\$40,000.00
22 Building Maintenance	\$3,011.93	\$14,000.00	(\$10,988.07)	\$26,700.00
23 Communications/Advertising/We	\$1,878.98	\$4,500.00	(\$2,621.02)	\$4,775.00
24 Volunteer / Fundraising -expense	\$1,739.79	\$500.00	\$1,239.79	\$500.00
25 Admin & Booking Fees	\$9,798.40	\$5,000.00	\$4,798.40	\$8,000.00
26 Insurance	\$12,251.00	\$14,000.00	(\$1,749.00)	\$15,000.00
27 Interest & Bank Charges	\$546.89	\$100.00	\$446.89	\$100.00
28 Janitorial	\$5,193.92	\$8,500.00	(\$3,306.08)	\$9,800.00
29 Licenses/Memberships	\$7,300.00	\$6,000.00	\$1,300.00	\$6,500.00
30 Misc. Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
31 Office Supplies	\$569.68	\$230.00	\$339.68	\$500.00
32 Trail Maintenance	\$16,260.77	\$14,940.00	\$1,320.77	\$18,350.00
33 In-Kind Chalet Rentals	\$1,650.00	\$0.00	\$1,650.00	\$1,000.00
UTILITIES				
34 Alarm Monitors	\$793.16	\$1,000.00	(\$206.84)	\$800.00
35 Electricity	\$3,883.38	\$6,800.00	\$3,083.38	\$9,000.00
36 Elevator	\$1,866.34	\$1,800.00	\$66.34	\$1,800.00
37 Fuel/Heat	\$17,576.99	\$15,000.00	(\$2,473.01)	\$15,000.00
38 Garbage	\$3,828.54	\$1,000.00	\$2,828.54	\$3,500.00
39 Telephone & Internet	\$1,906.96	\$2,000.00	(\$93.04)	\$2,000.00
40 Water	\$4,146.14	\$3,000.00	\$1,146.14	\$4,000.00
41 Events	\$23,984.63	\$23,095.00	\$889.63	\$27,730.00
42 Programs	\$98,551.88	\$114,586.00	(\$16,034.12)	\$108,561.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$250,717.39	\$276,551.00	(\$25,833.61)	\$304,116.00
NET (REVENUE minus EXPENSE)	\$65,077.37	(\$27,406.00)	\$92,483.37	(\$26,396.00)
CAPITAL RESERVE FUND				
Contributions	\$26,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$0.00	\$26,000.00
Expenditures		\$10,300.00	(\$10,300.00)	\$13,300.00
NET CHANGE	\$26,000.00	\$15,700.00	\$10,300.00	\$12,700.00
MEMBERSHIPS	676	650	19	650