

Castlegar Nordic Ski Club 2019 Fall Newsletter



Castlegar Nordic Ski Club

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www.castlegarnordic.ca

President's Message

As of this writing, cool weather has arrived and some snow is in the extended forecast, which we hope will persist and accumulate for the start of another great ski season!

The trails and cabins are in the best shape we have seen in a long time. Cabins have been cleaned, maintained and stocked with firewood and many days of trail brushing and machine work have put the trails in excellent condition for early track-setting when the snow arrives. A big thank-you goes out to all our club members and executive volunteers for their huge efforts!

Many positive things are happening in the club. We will be increasing the number of volunteer Directors on the Executive (up to 10) to share workload, build our capacity and encourage ideas. Two new Directors – Kathy Sykes and Edith Falkenberg – have been appointed and we hope to recruit more individuals with energy and great ideas, as Kathy and Edith have already brought to us.

We are also excited to announce the return of the Youth Skier Development Program and our new Program Coordinator – Nicole Hergert! We will be looking to recruit another coach, but we're very happy that the program will get restarted with the younger beginner levels at least. On another important front, we are extremely pleased that our skilled Trail Groomers - Chris Campagnaro, Anna Boland, and part-time groomer Chris Sykes - are back this year and that volunteer Ski Patrollers Edith Falkenberg, Chelsea Marshall and Aven Briggs have also confirmed their return as ski patrollers.

Several other positive changes are in the works – new strategies for fee collection, cabin wardens, a new club website, marketing ideas and more – Please read on in the newsletter for more information on some of these new initiatives.

Finally, I hope all club members will consider coming out to the Fall General Meeting (FGM) on November 14th to hear about club events and to provide input and recommendations. This year we are planning to dedicate a larger part of the general meeting to a Q&A with the club Executive and for discussion with the members.

See you at the FGM - And on the trails of course!

Winston Fayant, Club President

Registrar's Report

Membership for last season (2018-19) slipped again and we ended up at 588 members. A healthy number, but well down from our total in 2013-14 of about 860. Our registration numbers through Zone4 have stabilized around 60%, which means that our local partners still play a significant role in helping the Club. Thanks to Mallard's Source for Sports in Castlegar, Gerick Cycle in Trail and Powderhound in Rossland for their continued support. Any suggestions for improvements to the registration process are welcome – just let any of the executive know.

A reminder that on-line registration is the preferred method for membership registration and is available at: <https://zone4.ca/register.asp?id=21789>

Thanks to all members for your support, and to all volunteers for their special efforts. Have a great ski season!

Greg Richards, Registrar

Trails and Infrastructure Report

An early snowfall and significant winds in October resulted in numerous trees blocking access throughout the trail system. Volunteer crews have been very successful removing the downed trees and cutting brush to ensure access is ready for the track setters. A faller has been working throughout the trail system to remove a number of danger trees. Also, an excavator has upgraded the trail surface and removed brush and small trees on the Connector, Pine, and Huckleberry trails. Grass seeding of disturbed areas will be completed early next summer.



Construction of the Snowberry shelter is now complete after a few remaining minor works were carried out this summer. A group of volunteers has cleaned all the toilets and shelters and hauled in a good supply of firewood.

A Big Thank you to the approximately 30 volunteers who helped complete a number of tasks this fall!

Dave Fitchett, Director / Trails Manager

Fee Collections and Cabin Wardens

Castlegar Nordic Ski Club is a non-profit organization that relies on volunteers to provide an exceptional ski experience to our membership and guests. In order to do this, we require funds beyond our membership fees to support the costs associated with the running of our hill. Fee Collection is critical in meeting our costs and keeping our membership fees low. We are taking a different approach to this activity this year to ensure we



have coverage during peak times and that both trailhead entrances are covered. The shift is 10am to 2pm. If a member or guest volunteers for 4 days or more, they will receive a free ski pass for the following ski season. All volunteers will be trained on the position before their shift.

Our cabins are also a key part of the excellent skiing experience given to our membership and guests. Many volunteer hours are given to prepare the cabins for the upcoming season. Thank you to all that have come out this year and in the past. To ensure our cabins and outhouses are maintained throughout the season as well, we have adopted a cabin warden program. What this involves is keeping the cabin and outhouse clean and well stocked throughout the season. A kit is provided, and it is a fairly simple process. Two of our cabins have been "adopted" - Glenmerry and Snowberry - and we are looking for wardens for the remaining four cabins. For the most part, it is a once a week process. Wardens can be individuals, family groups, friend groups etc.

If you are interested in volunteering for one or more days for fee collection or for all or part of the season as a cabin warden, please contact Chris and Kathy Sykes at 250-365-5776. Please leave a message with your return number if we are not home.

Kathy Sykes, Director

The Youth Skier Development Program is Back!

This 2019/2020 ski season we welcome the return of the Youth Skier Development Program. After 3 years off, the program is back, cultivating a love of cross country skiing in the next generation. Ski development programs help children and youth develop important lifelong skills and ensure the future of the sport and the club. Classes will run from the Viking Centre on Saturday afternoons and we will be opening registration for new skiers in November - watch our website or come out to the Registration Day and Ski Swap on November 16th.



For this program to be a success we need the support of club members. Please spread the word to families with children aged 4-8.

Calling all Coaches!

Do you love Nordic skiing? Are you interested in coaching in our skier development program? Have you coached before? Have you never coached before but are interested in supporting the program?

We are looking for volunteer coaches for the 2019-2020 Ski Development season. Interested youth and adults will require a criminal record check. The club will provide training.

We are also looking for a qualified Head Coach to lead the coaching program. This will be a paid position.

If you are interested in registering for the program or coaching, or if you have any questions about how to support the program, please contact Nicole Hergert, Program Coordinator at castlegarskibunnies@gmail.com

Nicole Hergert, Youth Skier Development Program Coordinator

2019/2020 Membership and Day-Use Fees

Our Club depends on fees to cover trail grooming and track-setting costs and to support the maintenance of our incredible trail network and user facilities. 70-80% of the Club's annual revenue from fees is spent on trail grooming and equipment costs. Membership and day-use fees remain unchanged from last year.

The 2019/2020 Annual Membership Fees are as follows:

Annual Membership Fees		
Membership Type	Regular Fee	Until Nov 16, 2019
Adult	\$75	\$70
Family ¹	\$145	\$135
Junior (7 to 18 yrs.)	\$30	\$25
Student ²	\$50	\$45
Child (6 yrs. & under)	Free	Free
Senior (80 yrs. & over)	Free	Free

¹ 'Family' is defined as 1 or 2 adults and their children, less than 19 years of age, living at home or enrolled in full-time academic studies.

² 'Student' is defined as 19 years of age or older and enrolled in full-time academic studies.

Please visit our website *Membership* page at www.castlegarnordic.ca/content/membership for information on ways to register, however the recommended method for membership registration is through the Zone4 website at: <https://zone4.ca/register.asp?id=21789>

Please consider volunteering during registration and please provide us with your email address so you can receive Club updates, newsletters and notices of volunteer work parties and other events. We keep emails to a minimum and will not share your email address or personal information.

Day-Use Fees (Non-Club Members)	
Category	Fee
Adult	\$10
Family	\$20
Junior (7 to 16 yrs.) or Student	\$5
Child (6 yrs. & under)	Free
Senior (80 yrs. & over)	Free

Members of the Blackjack Ski Club and the Nelson Nordic Ski Club receive a 50% discount on the above day-use fees.

Social Media

The Castlegar Nordic Ski Club is now on Social Media! You can find us and Like us on Facebook and on Instagram. We also want to see you in action at the hill! Tag us in your skiing adventure pictures #CaslegarNordicSkiClub or #CastlegarNordic

<https://www.instagram.com/castlegarnordicskiclub/>



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Sports---Recreation/Castlegar-Nordic-Ski-Club-340823180074856/>

Edith Falkenberg, Director

Trail Grooming Feedback

In addition to an amazing trail network, phenomenal snow conditions and a supernatural environment, our high quality trail grooming and track-setting make the Paulson Cross-Country Ski Trails the exceptional recreational treasure that it is. We count ourselves lucky to have the competent and dedicated Trail Groomers that we do - Chris Campagnaro (Lead Trail Groomer), Anna Boland and Chris Sykes.



A primary goal of the Club is to provide an opportunity for individuals and families of all abilities to try Nordic skiing and to enjoy a healthy, safe and affordable outdoor winter recreational experience. To this end, the Club sets Trail Groomer schedules and priorities to ensure the beginner and shorter loop routes are track-set before intermediate and advanced trails. Our Trail Groomers work hard - sometimes long hours - grooming, tracking, clearing obstacles and ensuring the safety of all our members and visitors. The Club Executive provides direction and sets the Groomer's priorities.

If you appreciate the excellent job our Trail Groomers do, please let them know! If you have any concerns or suggestions regarding track-setting, trail priorities, or other aspects of Club operations, please contact Winston Fayant, our Club President, or another member of the Club Executive. Happy skiing!!

Fall General Meeting - Thursday, November 14th, 2019

The Castlegar Nordic Ski Club invites all members and prospective members to the annual Fall General Meeting to be held as follows:

Date: Thursday, November 14th

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location: Castlegar & District Community Complex, 2101 - 6th Avenue, Castlegar

This year the Fall General Meeting will include an open Q&A discussion forum for attendees to ask questions and provide input to the Club Executive. There will also be a motion to amend the Club constitution and bylaws to increase the number of volunteer Directors from 4 up to a maximum of 10. If you have interest, energy and ideas to contribute, please plan to attend and put your name forward.

Door Prize Draw: A free season membership pass will be awarded to one lucky meeting attendee! We hope to see you there!

Registration Day and Ski Swap - Saturday, November 16th, 2019

This is your opportunity to register for a season's membership or the Youth Skier Development Program, as well as sell or buy ski equipment for the coming season.

Location: Kinnaird Hall, 2320 Columbia Avenue, Castlegar

Club Memberships & Skier Development Program Registration: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
(This will be the last day to purchase your 2019/2020 membership pass at the reduced rate.)

Registration Day and Ski Swap (Continued)

Ski Swap:

- Gear drop-off is from: **9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**
- Open to buyers from: **10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**
- Pick up of unsold items from: **12:00 noon to 12:30 p.m.**

Details: Entry fee is \$2.00 and a 15% sales commission goes to the Castlegar Nordic Ski Club. Any unclaimed items after 12:30 p.m. will be considered a donation to the Club.

2020 Fun Troll Loppet - Saturday, January 18, 2020

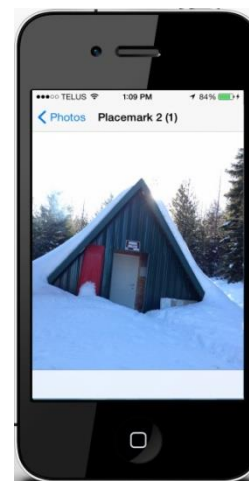


Mark your calendars! The hugely popular annual fun "Troll Loppet" is planned for Sunday, January 18th, 2020. This is a fun participation event, not a race, however your time will be available at the finish. Please check our website for updates and registration details closer to the date of the Loppet.



Reminder: Free Ski Trails App is Available for your Smart Phone!

By downloading the free *Avenza Maps* application and the georeferenced Paulson Ski Trails map to your smart phone, you can track your location at any time while out on the trails! This app does not require cellular service or internet access to function.



The *Avenza Maps* app is available for both iPhone and Android phones and uses your phone's built-in GPS to precisely track your location with a moving dot in real time! The app also provides a number of other features including the ability to zoom in or out on the map, drop and label placemarks, attach photos and record your track, distance and speed information and more. For more information on installing the app and downloading our trails map, visit the Club's website *Trails& Maps* page at <http://www.castlegarnordic.ca/trails-map-0>

Thank You to all our 2019 Partners, Sponsors and Supporters!

A big thank you to all our local sponsors & supporters for their continued commitment to our Club!

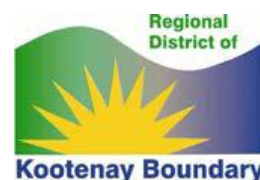
Atco Wood Products Ltd.
BC Timber Sales
Castlegar Cardlock Co-Op
Columbia Basin Trust
Custom Dozing Ltd.
Destination Castlegar
Gerick Sports, Trail
Helm Consulting
Mallard's Source for Sports, Castlegar
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Recreation Sites and Trails BC
Regional District of Central Kootenay
Regional District of Kootenay Boundary
Rocky Mountain Agencies (ESSO)
Yellowhead Road & Bridge Ltd (YRB)

Columbia
Basin **trust**



BCTS
BC Timber Sales
Kootenay Business Area

Recreation Sites
and Trails **BC**



Club Contact Information:

Executive Officers:

Winston Fayant, President	250-365-3527
Jim Guido, Vice-President	250-365-7231
John Pinckney, Treasurer	250-365-6689
Greg Richards, Registrar	250-304-1829
Al Skakun, Secretary/Director	250-608-3015

Executive Directors:

Dave Fitchett	Edith Falkenberg
Lou Bouliane	Kathy Sykes
Jon Underwood	

Skier Development Coordinator: Nicole Hergert

Historian: Conrad Brattebo

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