

# Castlegar Nordic Ski Club 2021 Fall Newsletter



**Castlegar Nordic Ski Club**

PO Box 3213

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[www.castlegarnordic.ca](http://www.castlegarnordic.ca)

## Introduction

Greetings to all our new and returning ski club members from your Club Executive! Ski season is once again just around the corner, and we have lots of news and updates for what we believe will be another amazing season at the Paulson Cross Country Ski Trails.

This introduction to our annual fall newsletter is usually written by our Club President, Winston Fayant, who has served as an Executive member of the Club for near 30 years! Both Winston and Dave Fitchett, our dedicated and long serving Director and Trails Manager, are retiring from their active roles on the Club Executive this fall and, although they will be greatly missed, both have committed to helping out the Club in other ways into the future.

The dedication of Winston and Dave are an inspiration and reminds us that our small non-profit Club lives only due to the contributions of its volunteers, both on the Executive and in the many hours of personal time that so many of our members donate to the Club. This is what sustains our mission of providing the highest quality recreational skiing opportunity that is affordable for families and individuals of all abilities. We have included a call for new volunteer Executive members in this newsletter and hope that some of you will consider joining our dedicated team.

This year the Executive will be placing a renewed focus on ensuring the quality and timeliness of trail grooming. Our new Lead Groomer will be Chris Anderson, who brings with him extensive expertise and lots of ideas to deliver the highest quality trail conditions to you and our visitors. We are also extremely happy to have Rolf Hartman and Simon Cretien returning to deliver our extremely important youth program. A new face around the trails will be Fred Anderson, our new Club Administrator, who brings with him some excellent business & volunteer experience. Fred will be coordinating the efforts of our amazing volunteer fee collectors, as well as serving in other roles.

Although it looks like we will again be somewhat constrained this year by the continuing Covid situation – to quote our illustrious retiring President – “How fortunate is it, that in this pandemic, cross country skiing is still a sport all skiers and families can enjoy”.

We hope to see you at the upcoming AGM in October and AND on the trails!!

*Al Skakun, Secretary/Director*

## Volunteer Workday!

A volunteer workday is planned for:

**Date:** Saturday, October 2nd, 2021

**Meeting Time and Place:** 9:00 a.m. at Viking Centre (Mud Lake Trailhead)

Volunteers are needed to: clean the Viking Centre, shelters, and outhouses, to move firewood to all the shelters and stack it, for trail brushing with brush saws, and to stain some signs. Pickup trucks or trailers to transfer firewood would be greatly appreciated! Cleaning materials and saws will be supplied by the Club. Volunteers should bring work gloves, lunch and drinking water.

If you are interested in volunteering for a few hours, a confirmation would be appreciated for planning purposes. Email [castlegarnordicski@gmail.com](mailto:castlegarnordicski@gmail.com)



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## 2021 Annual General Meeting



The Castlegar Nordic Ski Club 2021 Annual General Meeting will take place:

**Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

at **Kinnaird Hall**

2320 - Columbia Avenue, Castlegar

Start Time: **7:30 p.m.**

**Please pre-register** with name(s) & phone number by email to: [castlegarnordicski@gmail.com](mailto:castlegarnordicski@gmail.com)

As we did last year, the Club Executive has decided to proceed with a physically distanced Annual General Meeting. To help ensure the safety of all attendees the following measures will be in place:

- Meeting pre-registration is requested to estimate total number attending.
- Masks will be required when entering and exiting the meeting hall.
- Seating will be spaced and attendees will be asked to remain seated as much as possible.

**Agenda:** In addition to the regular AGM standing agenda items (Budget, Registrations, Trails & Infrastructure, Grooming, etc.) topics will include:

- Election of all Club Executive Table Officers & Directors
- Changes to Membership and Day-Use Fees and payment methods
- Introduction of 2021 Staff Members: Head Groomer, Club Administrator, and Skier Development Coordinator and Coaches
- Expected operational requirements related to Covid
- Questions and Answers – Topics from the Floor

A **Door Prize** of one Adult Membership will be awarded at the meeting.

***We hope to see you there!***

## Club Executive Vacancies



It is critical for our long-term resilience and success that we have an executive board that reflects the diversity of our membership and has expertise in specific areas to insure the operation of our organization. To this end, we are looking to recruit additional Executive members as Directors with responsibilities in the areas of marketing, managing our social media presence, human resource management, record keeping, and fundraising, as well as for the position of Club Secretary.

We are looking for enthusiastic individuals who are willing to volunteer their time to act in the best interests of our club. As a recognition for the hours of personal time that Executive volunteers dedicate to the Club, a complimentary season pass is offered. If you would like to participate in decision-making and building the future of our Club in an Executive role, please submit a short summary of your background and availability, or if you'd like more information, please email us at [castlegarnordicski@gmail.com](mailto:castlegarnordicski@gmail.com)

## 2021/2022 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 grooming equipment costs.

Please visit our website *Membership & Fees* page at <https://www.castlegarnordic.ca/membership-fees/> for information on ways to renew your membership. Online membership registration and payment options will be available starting in October. The deadline for early bird reduced membership rates is October 31<sup>st</sup>.

The proposed 2021/2022 Annual Membership Fees and Day-Use Fees (payable by non-Club members at either trailhead) will be follows:

2021/2022 CNSC Annual Membership Fees		
Membership Type	Regular Fee	Until Oct. 31
Adult (19-79)	\$85	\$80
Family <sup>1</sup>	\$160	\$155
Junior (7 to 18 yrs.)	\$30	\$25
Student <sup>2</sup>	\$50	\$45
Child (6 yrs. & under)	Free	Free
Senior (80 yrs. & over)	Free	Free

2021/2022 CNSC Day-Use Fees (Non-Club Members)	
Category	Fee
Adult	\$15
Family <sup>1</sup>	\$30
Junior (7 to 18 yrs.)	\$5
Student <sup>2</sup>	\$5
Child (6 yrs. & under)	Free
Senior (80 yrs. & over)	Free

<sup>1</sup> 'Family' is defined as immediate family members living within the same household.

<sup>2</sup> 'Student' is defined as enrolled in full-time academic studies.



## **Registrar's Report**

2020/21 – quite the year and one for the record books! Total Club membership reached 1222, more than twice the previous season, and well above a peak of 860 that we reached in 2013/14. Welcome to all 515 new members, we hope that you enjoyed the trails and will be back this year. Thanks to all that renewed their membership, 87% compared to our normal renewal rate of 50-60%. In terms of trends, we saw the percentage of those under 50 increase a bit, as well as those from outside the Castlegar area. My thanks to our local partners that collect registrations and distribute badges: Mallard's Source for Sports in Castlegar, Gerick Sports in Trail and Powderhound in Rossland. As always, we would like to improve the registration process – let us know if you have any suggestions.

Online membership registration and payment options will be available starting in October. Check out our Membership & Fees website at: <https://www.castlegarnordic.ca/membership-fees/>

Have a great 2021/22 ski season!

*Greg Richards, Registrar*

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## **Youth Skier Development Program**

The Skier Development Program team is looking forward to another successful year. We welcome Simon Cretien back for a more robust involvement in the coaching role and have Rolf Hartman back to lead the program administration and help with coaching. Bronwen will have to step back this season as she has other commitments, but we hope to have some of her valuable contributions to the planning and delivery.



The program will likely start first thing in the new year and registration information will be put on our website, and sent to last years participants, as soon as plans are finalized; hopefully in the beginning of November. As always, if anyone has interest in becoming a coach or supporting the program in any way, please contact Rolf Hartman or Jim Guido. The Club Executive continues to vigorously encourage this program and will support any new coaches with any available training.

Program ages and groups will be determined as registrations are received and will be dependant upon the level of coaching support we can gather. Stay tuned for the program information and register early so we can plan for another high participation, fun oriented and healthy outdoor activity.

*Jim Guido, Treasurer*

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## **Viking Centre, Shelters and Covid-19**

As shown in 2020/2021, the exceptional cooperation by the Club Executive, volunteers, trail groomers, Club members and visitors made for an open and wonderful ski season. The BC "Return to Sport" safety plan gave critical guidance as to the steps needed to continue operations. The demands of keeping everyone safe under challenging circumstances were met, and the importance

of our cherished Nordic skiing activity was highlighted resulting in the busiest season we have ever had!

Requirements for the continued operations of the Paulson XC Ski Trails are very similar to last year. The details can be reviewed on the CNSC website at: <https://www.castlegarnordic.ca/covid-19-safety-plan/>

In a nutshell, the following guidance will need to be followed:

- Stick to the well-known physical distancing rules: 2 meters.
- Sign in at the Glenmerry and Viking trail heads.
- Follow the flow pattern and entry/exit doors at the Viking Centre.
- Wear a mask when entering the Viking Centre and when interacting with others.
- The maximum capacity of Viking is 17. Stay within one of three marked areas with your family or “bubble” when you are there to eat or warm up. Limit your stay so others can have a turn.
- By calculation, the trail shelters have a maximum capacity of 11 but, in reality, skiers want to cluster around the wood stove. Given distancing needs, it is reasonable to limit occupancy in all the shelters to 8 skiers.
- Keep your personal bags, equipment and supplies in your car, not in the Clubhouse.
- Thank a volunteer!

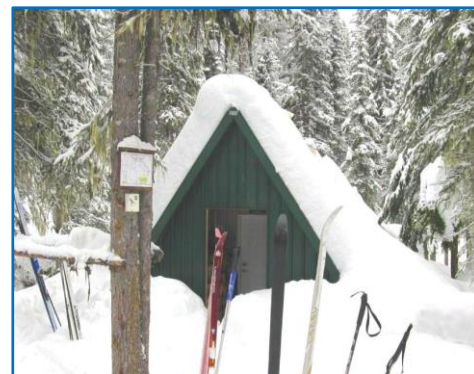
We are all looking forward to an excellent ski year once again! Happy trails!

*Jonathon Underwood, Director*

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## **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. Volunteer fee collection is critical in meeting our costs and keeping our membership fees low. As we did last year, to ensure we have coverage during peak times at both trailhead entrances, the volunteer shifts will be 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.



Our cabins are also a key part of the excellent skiing experience provided to our membership and guests. Many volunteer hours are given to prepare the cabins for the upcoming season. Thank you to those who came out this past season and in previous years. To ensure our cabins and outhouses are maintained throughout the season, we are continuing our cabin warden program. This involves keeping the cabin and outhouse clean and well stocked throughout the season. For the most part, it is a once-a-week process. Wardens can be individuals, family groups, friend groups etc. A kit is provided, and it is a fairly simple process. Personal masks, gloves, and sanitizing supplies are provided.

If you are interested in volunteering for one or more days of fee collecting or for all or part of the season as a cabin warden, please send an email to [castlegarnordicski@gmail.com](mailto:castlegarnordicski@gmail.com) Our Club Administrator will be contacting volunteers and setting up schedules in October. Thank you!

*Kathy Sykes, Vice President*

## Trails and Infrastructure Report

A grant from Columbia Basin Trust has allowed the Club to continue with our plans to upgrade our infrastructure and sections of the trail system.

On the eastern section of the trail system, 8 kms of trails have been upgraded. Brush has been removed on the east section of Rossland/Paulson. Major upgrades to the trail surface including brush removal have been completed on sections of Gloryview and Ivar trails. The majority of work was carried out on the Norwegian Trail northeast of Glenmerry Shelter. This included the rebuilding and widening of the trail surface. Grass seeding is still to be completed.



Norwegian



Rosslund-Paulson (E. of Glenmerry)



Gloryview

Funding was also received for the removal and replacement of the old wooden bridge on the Mud Lake meadow. A steel bridge has been purchased and installation is expected this fall providing that weather conditions are favourable, and machines are available.

The Sentinel Unit Crew from the BC Wildfire Service was onsite this year and used the area for training the crew in the use of chain saws. This resulted in a number of snags being felled throughout the trail system and cut for firewood which is a great benefit to the Club.

BC Timber Sales has graded 13 km's of roads in the western section of the ski trails this summer. Grading of these roads has resulted in a significant amount of brush being removed and the widening of the road surface in some areas. This will reduce the amount of brushing required over the next few years.

Finally, the Club hopes to complete some widening and improvements to the highway access road junctions into the Mud Lake parking lot before the snow flies, again contingent on equipment availability.

*Dave Fitchett, Director / Trails Manager*

## Reminder: Free Ski Trails App for your Smart Phone

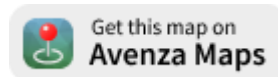
By downloading the free *Avenza Maps* application and the georeferenced Paulson Ski Trails map to your smart phone, you can track your location at any time while out on the trails! This app does not require cellular service or internet access to function.



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.



Once the *Avenza Maps* app is installed, from your phone, click on the Avenza Button or scan the QR code below to load the Trails map:



For more information on our trails, maps, and installing the trails app, visit the Club's website *Trails & Maps* page at: <https://www.castlegarnordic.ca/trails-and-maps>



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

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

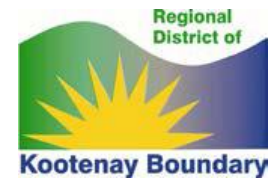
- Atco Wood Products Ltd.
- BC Timber Sales
- Castlegar Cardlock Co-Op
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Custom Dozing Ltd.
- Destination Castlegar
- Genex Marketing
- Gerick Sports, Trail
- Kootenay Dirty Diggers
- Mallard's Source for Sports, Castlegar
- Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
- Mitchell's Supply Ltd.
- Playmor Power Products Ltd.
- Powderhound, Rossland
- Recreation Sites and Trails BC
- Regional District of Central Kootenay
- Regional District of Kootenay Boundary
- Rocky Mountain Agencies (ESSO)
- Safeway, Castlegar
- Tim Hortons, Castlegar
- 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
Kathy Sykes, Vice President	250-365-5776
Jim Guido, Treasurer	250-365-7231
Greg Richards, Registrar	250-304-1829
Al Skakun, Secretary/Director	250-608-3015

### **Executive Directors:**

Dave Fitchett	Carol Andrews
Edith Falkenberg	Jon Underwood
Tiffany Muncaster	

### **Skier Development Coordinator & Coaches:**

Rolf Hartman, Simon Cretien

**Historian:** Conrad Brattebo

### **Mailing Address:**

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Canada V1N 3H5

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### **Website:**

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