



Nordic Centre Report for the 2023 AGM

This last year was another awesome year of skiing and lots of work done to provide that great skiing experience. Our focus last year has been on maintaining and improving our machines, buildings and trails. The club is fortunate to have a skilled team of individuals who do the snow grooming, off-season trail work, trail planning, repairs, grant applications, and administration. We are always on the lookout for people who want to join the team as a volunteer. Contact Jan at GM@bvnordic.ca if you are interested.

Machines

Our primary tracksetter is a 19-year-old PistenBully Edge. It gets a lot of tender loving care but maintenance costs are high and as it ages, there is an increasing risk of major failure. The board of directors recognizes that getting a new or newish tracksetter is a club priority. We submitted two applications for large grants (one unsuccessful and one still pending). Other grant opportunities will require us to have at least 50% in savings before we can apply. Last year's fee increase, the club fundraiser and some program surplus allowed us to create a \$65,000 reserve fund toward a new machine. So we still have a long ways to go if we want at least 50% towards a new (over \$500,000) or newish (\$300,000) tracksetter. You will be hearing more about our tracksetter acquisition plans in the future.

Our small machine fleet is used for early season / low-snow conditions and for refreshing the trails or supplementing what the PB is able to do after snowfalls. They also serve as our only backup if the PB has downtime.

Our snowmobile fleet consists of a 2023 Ski-Doo Skandic that performed very well last year, a 2015 Skandic that is near end-of-life but still usable, and our brand new Taiga Nomad electric snowmobile that we received this summer. The Nomad was donated by Corry and Harvey Tremblay to support a greener future. We are excited to start using it and learning its capabilities.

Buildings

Last year was the first season of using the fully finished tracksetter garage and sled-shed. It is a gamechanger for the operation and for maintenance of our valuable grooming equipment. Take a look at the article [Thanks for the New Garage](#) for pictures and a list of generous funders and supporters.

The Regional District of Bulkley Nechako awarded the club a \$45,000 grant from the Canada Community-Building fund. This summer, that grant made it possible for us to make some floor and foundation repairs to the wax hut and improvements to the old machine shed. It was amazing how Glentana Construction managed to deal with some unique challenges.

Trails

Trail planning addresses future maintenance, improvements and potential expansion. The [Trail Plan page](#) of our website has a link to the most recent trail plan (November 2022).



We have a long list of trail improvements that we would like to do, but most will need to wait until we find grants and/or budgets to fund them. Fortunately, the major trail issues on Pine Creek Trails were addressed last year, thanks to generous member contributions. This summer's trail-work focused our limited budget on culvert repairs, danger trees and minor improvements. Annual trail mowing was delayed by the fire season but was completed recently, thanks to the talented volunteers running our skid steer and brush saws. New lights were added to the stadium and some burnt out trail lights have been replaced.

Recreation Sites and Trails BC is our partner in managing the trails. They provide generous support for maintenance and other projects. RSTBC is also responsible for making decisions on authorizing new trails. This year, we requested authorization for some new trails that were identified in our trail plan. Here is the current status as of September 29, 2023:

- Adventure trail – Approved and we have funding from a CN Grant. Work will hopefully start soon on this narrow trail for kids through the forest near the lodge.
- Dog trail addition – Rejected. Our proposal for a swamp trail was turned down for several reasons including safety and ecosystem values. The trail plan has some other dog trail ideas but getting past the concept stage will require volunteers who are willing to lead the process of trail design, tracksetting capacity assessment, approval applications, fundraising, and construction supervision.
- Swamp bypass trail. – under review. The Club submitted an authorization request for a new trail near the Pine Creek 5 km cutoff. This is intended to replace a section of Pine Creek trail that was permanently closed because of a dangerous swamp crossing.
- Valley View Connector – under review. The Club submitted an authorization request for a short connector near the end of Down the Mountain to the end of Valley View. This will create a loop that will improve grooming efficiency.

Our Team

The Nordic Centre's trails and facilities are kept operating by the talented efforts of a few employees (general manager and PistenBully tracksetters) and many volunteers including the Corduroy Crew of snowmobile operators, the snow plowing crew, the work bee helpers, those who keep the lodge and buildings clean and those who tackle the unseen work of finances, registration, ticket checking, grant writing, etc..

At the risk of missing names, here are some of the key people at the Nordic Centre:

- Jan Wengelin, general manager
- Patrick Dumais, senior PB operator
- Kelsey Stasiuk, senior PB operator
- Bryan Swansberg, PB operator
- Sean Fraser, PB operator
- Kevin Kriese, Trails Coordinator (planning & summer trail-work), brushing, plowing, snowmobile grooming
- Geoff Recknell, brushing, snowmobile grooming



- James Cuell, brushing, snowmobile grooming
- Cam Schley, plowing, snowmobile groomer, PB trainee
- Michel Poulin, caretaker / furnace feeder, plowing, general upkeep
- Gen Perkins, caretaker / furnace feeder, general upkeep
- Dick Harrison, snowmobile groomer
- Francois Dupuis, snowmobile groomer
- Brant Dahlie, building repairs, PB maintenance, awesome source of knowledge and advice

If you want to be part of the Nordic Centre team of volunteers, contact Jan Wengelin (gm@bvnordic.ca) to explore the small or large role you can play.

Steve Oborn
Director, Nordic Centre Operations