

# 2019 AGM Chair Report

My first year as club president has flown by and, from my point of view at least, it was a smooth and successful year. This is thanks to the fabulous community of volunteers who donate their time and expertise to the club—from directors applying for grants, managing finances, organizing events and keeping our facilities and equipment in good working order; to event coordinators, coaches, ADP parent volunteers, kitchen support, all the way down to jack rabbit athletes helping stack firewood. I feel very fortunate to be part of a club that has so many people enthusiastically supporting it. Thank you to everyone who helps make the club what it is!

Some highlights of the past 2018-2019 season are: opening of new trails, completing the trail signage refresh, welcoming new caretakers and new board members, the development of a club management plan, and the many club events such as the tour de soup and the 31st edition of the Wetzin'kwa loppet. We have a similar set of events planned for the 2019-2020 season and hopefully the weather is as accommodating as it was last year.

With a club of our size we always have people adjusting how much time they give to the club, and for the 2019-2020 season we are seeing a few people who have given a lot over many years step back from their direct roles with the club.

Lisa Perry was our head coach for the past four seasons and is moving on to other endeavours. Thank you for your dedication and enthusiasm as head coach Lisa, you will be missed!

After many years overseeing our trail grooming operations, Brant Dahlie is passing the head grooming role on to Patrick Dumais who has been working closely with Brant to learn the ropes. Brant will continue to be involved with the club, providing support and advice on an ad-hoc basis. Thank you for your attention to detail and care for the trails Brant.

James Cuell has been a director for the past three years and is not standing for reelection this year. James has taken on a variety of important director positions—helping us maintain a successful skill development program and overseeing the organization of club events. Thank you for your thoughtful contributions to the club James.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable and safe ski season,

Ben Forsyth

October 2019

# Communications Report

Effectively communicating with club members and the wider cross country skiing community can be a challenge given people's limited attention and the many different ways of reaching people. We try to keep emails to the announcement list to important club business to avoid overwhelming your inbox with trivial updates.

Our Facebook page gets the important updates as well as more lighthearted posts like pictures and videos from coaches at practices and events, sharing posts from other cross country clubs,

etc. Last year we created a Facebook discussion group that anyone can post to with the idea being that it could be a venue for people to find people to ski with, organize car pooling etc. Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bvccsc.discussion>

The club website is the go to place for all club information—upcoming events, grooming reports, news items, program information, etc. This year we are working on making the information on the website easier to digest and search.

Last year we updated the club logos to be consistent and polished. We created an event poster template to make it easier for event coordinators to have good looking posters ready well before their event. The club created an Instagram account to have another audience to share our amazing facilities and activities with. Three newsletters went out over the course of the year keeping everyone up to date on club happenings and achievements. Perry Rath and Patrick Williston did a great job of writing up local and away race reports—even getting front page coverage in the newspaper.

With my roles of president, coach and IT support person I don't always have as much time to dedicate to communications as I'd like. If you are interested in helping with the communications portfolio—producing newsletters, updating social media, website maintenance, etc—please contact me at [ben.forsyth@bvnordic.ca](mailto:ben.forsyth@bvnordic.ca).

Ben Forsyth  
October 2019

## Membership Report

### 2018-19

Members	618
Ticket booth sales	\$13,051.05
Store sales	\$ 8,918.00

### 2017-18

Members	556
Ticket booth sales	\$9,316.85
Store sales	\$5,296.00

With the price increase of day tickets (up \$5.00 to \$15.00) this year, we saw an increase in Season pass sales and a decrease in the number of day tickets sold.

Jill Krause  
September 2019

## **Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club Nordic Centre Report for 2019 AGM**

The Nordic Centre is getting better each year. The trail improvements project, led by Kevin Kriese, continued into its third year this summer. In addition to last year's new trails (Wild Dog, One Click Right & the Wetzink'wa extension) the primary objectives have been to improve drainage and smooth out trail surfaces. The result has been better access for brush mowing and earlier skiing in low snow conditions. Much of this year's trail work focused on the Pine Creek side, especially the dog trails. Attached is a summary of recent trail and biathlon work.

The trails are in the best shape ever. There is no salvage/danger tree logging this fall so no delays are expected. As soon as we get snow covering our popular trails, we can roll it to set the base and get it skiable sooner than ever.

Our management plan provides a new strategy for our biggest asset, the PistenBully tracksetter. Rather than try to save enough money to buy a replacement tracksetter (more complex, more expensive and less suited to our trail conditions), we are implementing a proactive maintenance approach with the goal of keeping our current PistenBully indefinitely. Last year, we invested over \$40,000 in maintenance to replace hydraulic pumps and the belt. We expect to have fewer breakdowns and a longer period before the next major repairs.

Following priorities in the management plan and available funding opportunities, the club purchased a rubber-tracked skid-steer and brush mower to replace the tractor. We also plan to buy a large snow-plow attachment to allow the skid-steer to help plow the road and parking lot. Funding came from Northern Development Initiative Trust, Wetzin'kwa Community Forest and club reserves.

Last year, at our request, Wetzin'kwa Community Forest removed many of the dead trees near our trails. The logging was done in ways that protected our trails and the recreational experience. Despite the extra cost, the Community Forest made a profit and shared \$29,000 as a special grant to the club. That money is available for this fiscal year to help with some of the projects and to replenish our infrastructure/machine reserves.

Huge THANKS to:

- **Recreation Sites and Trails BC** for the awesome ongoing support for trail works and signs, especially over the last three years. Over \$15,000 of work paid by RSTBC this last year.
- **Wetzin'kwa Community Forest** for community grants (this year \$7,500 toward the skid-steer) and a share of the profits from logging adjacent our trail system (\$29,304 this year)
- **Northern Development Initiative Trust** for \$30,000 toward the purchase of the skid-steer.
- **BC Wildfire Crews** for falling danger snags and widening trails and bucking up firewood.
- **Trail groomers** for providing great skiing despite the challenges of snow and equipment.
- **Our mapping crew** (Tom Christian and Gen Perkins) for work on the new trail maps. Gen is currently loading the trails onto Trailforks!
- **Work Bee Volunteers** for transporting, splitting and stacking firewood, brushing trails and roads, repairing outhouses, scraping loose paint from the deck, feeding other volunteers, cleaning up the sign shed, etc.

Steve Osborn,  
Director – Nordic Centre Operations

Recent Improvements at the Nordic Centre

**Lodge:** panic door hardware, AED pad renewal (funded from operational funds)

**Biathlon:** Range upgraded (funded from Biathlon reserve fund)

Before



After



**Trail Improvements:** Over 20 days of backhoe work upgraded and repaired our highest priority trails. Wet weather meant some areas are not as smooth as we want but its a big improvement. Cables and signs were installed at three locations. \$15,000 paid by Recreation Sites and Trails. Balance from club .

Grading and ditching Upper Logging Road (Fuhrs)



New subgrade at wet spot on Hound Heaven near Jct I. Tractor would get stuck here and wet ground prevented early season skiing.



Ditching, culverts, and grading at Junction of Pooch Paradise and the Pup. This was a total mess before. We should be able to set this on a lower snowpack now



# **NORDIC SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **2019 BVCCSC AGM**

#### **OVERVIEW**

The Nordic Skills Development Program provides opportunities for all members of the Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club and our communities to develop their skills in Nordic Skiing and Biathlon.

Last year, our skills development programs included:

- Nordic Skiing
  - Skills Development Programs
    - Bunnies (ages 4-5)
    - Rabbits (ages 6-10)
    - Extended Rabbits (ages 7-10)
  - Athlete Development Programs
    - Bantams (10-11)
    - Midgets (ages 12-13)
    - Juvenile (ages 14-15)
    - Junior (ages 16-17)
  - Ski S'Kool Program (ages 5-13)
- Biathlon
  - Junior Biathlon
  - Senior Biathlon

## PROGRAM COORDINATION

### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



### SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	LEAD
Nordic Skills Development Program	Irene Ronalds
Athlete Development Program	Lisa Perry (head coach)
Biathlon Program	Peter Tweedie
Rabbit Program	Dawn Hansen
Ski S'Kool	Jane Vetsch

### PROGRAM SUPPORT

FUNCTION	LEAD	ROLE
Ski Boosters	Paula Bartemucci Tamarra Gillis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide support and services for families on behalf of the NSDP, including Biathlon</li> <li>Coordinate NSDP fundraising activities</li> </ul>
Training	Sandra Nash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support training for all NSDP Programs</li> <li>Develop and Implement Training policy</li> </ul>
Sponsorships/ Grants	Irene Ronalds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate program grants for the NSDP, including Gaming Grant and Viasport</li> <li>Coordinate the delivery of the Wellness Program</li> </ul>
Wax Team	Geoff Recknell/ Mark Gillis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate club wax and equipment purchases and wax support for race events</li> </ul>

## OTHER COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE	PURPOSE	REPRESENTATION
<b>Coach Management Committee</b>	Oversee Head Coach contract, hiring and performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>James Cuell</li> <li>Irene Ronalds</li> <li>Patrick Williston</li> </ul>
<b>Ethics and Discipline Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide code of conduct for NSDP coaches and athletes.</li> <li>Resolve disputes using BVCCSC Dispute Resolution Policy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not convened for 2019</li> </ul>

## HIGHLIGHTS - 2019

Lisa Perry continued as our club coach for her fourth season. Lisa is moving on to other things this next season. We acknowledge the great job she has done building our sport in the valley, particularly:

- organizing super-fun snow camps for Track Attack athletes and super-hero days for Rabbits;
- mentoring us adult coaches, many of whom are adult-learners of the sport;
- coordinating Tuesday night sprint races,
- establishing Thursday loop drills that are inclusive for all skill levels; as well as,
- incorporating mental focus training into the program.

Our Program had athletes participating in all Nordic and Biathlon BC Cup races, Western Championships, and Canadian National Championships for both Nordic and Biathlon.

## PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

<b>Skill Development</b>	2018	2019	<b>Athlete Development</b>	2018	2019
Bunnies (4 - 5 years)	21	28	Bantams (10 - 12 years)	8	15
Rabbits (6 - 10 years)	38	42	Midgets (13 - 14)	10	9
Extended Rabbits (7 - 10 years)	16	26	Juvenile (14 - 15)	5	3
<b>TOTAL Skill Development</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>86</b>	Junior (16 - 19)	5	5
			Biathlon & Bantams (10 - 11)		
<b>Ski S'kool</b>			Biathlon & Midgets (12 - 13)		
Schools	5	6	Biathlon & Juvenile (14 - 15)	(1)	
			Biathlon & Junior (16 - 19)	(1)	(2)
Student Visits	1856	1175	Youth Biathlon		
			<b>TOTAL Athlete Development</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>32</b>

<sup>1</sup> Youth biathlon total

## NSDP Finances

A significant portion of the funding for a paid club coach comes from the BC Gaming Grant, for which we are very thankful. The NSDP also raised funds through the Wellness Program and Ski Booster activities. Through the Wellness program, the BV Credit Union gave the NSDP a \$5000.00 donation in exchange for 3 sessions of skill development. The Ski Boosters raised funds through bottle drives, ski swap, concessions at races, ticket booth and the dessert night.

### NSDP Financial Summary – AGM 2019

	Total	Notes
Income		
Total Fees	26,883	
Fundraising	15,299	
Total Grants	27087	
Total Other Income	34	
Total Sponsors	125	
Total Income	<u>69,429</u>	
Expense		
Total Events	995	
Fundraising Costs	10,804	1
Total Maintenance	0	
Total Operation	52,716	
Total Other Expenses	503.00	
Total Expense	<u>65,018</u>	
Net Ordinary Income		
Other Expenses	4410	2
Transfer to Reserve Funds	4410	
Net Income	<u>0</u>	

Notes 1 Reflects accounting for Ski Swap and maple syrup  
2 \$1410 to Biathlon Reserve

The NSDP surplus this year will be spent on an espresso machine that will be used for future fundraisers.

## **NSDP Volunteers**

It is safe to say, our program does not exist without the generous commitment from our volunteers. Conservatively, this contribution is estimated to be about \$30,000 for the season.

A big thank-you to our ADP coaches and Ski Booster for this year, without whom there would be no ski program. Thank-you to Geoff Recknell and Irene Ronalds (Junior Development); Patrick Williston, Alan Baxter, Andrea Dunbar, Stephen Wickham, Josh Wimbush, Melanie Dumont (Track Attack); Helene Fleury, Ben Forsyth, Aaron Trowbridge (Extendos). Paula Bartemucci and Tamarra Gillis of Ski Boosters kept us all organized.

## **Looking Forward - 2020**

We welcome new volunteers leading our different ski programs. Rabbits will be led by Dawn Hansen. Paula Bartemucci and Tamara Gillis will look after Ski Boosters, and Jennifer Plummer continues as Race lead. Kate Kantakis will coordinate the Ski S'kool program. Irene Ronalds will continue to sit on the board and represent the NSDP.

The NSDP has not been able to secure a Head Coach for the upcoming ski season, so we are trying something new. Graeme Moore, previously Head Coach at Caledonia, has agreed to act as Visiting Head Coach for 1 weekend per month. We have also reached out to some great local ex-racers (with day-jobs) to ski with our athletes 1 night per week, and we welcome more!

## **Volunteers**

### **Director's Report for the 2019 AGM**

The operations and programs of the BVCCSC are almost entirely volunteer run and the Board has recognised the need to improve the club's approach to volunteer recruitment and retainment as well as keeping better track of volunteer efforts.

I confess that some of my ideas for acknowledging volunteers didn't gain traction this past year. So, in the spring the Board had a strategic discussion focused on volunteers. You may have noticed some changes based on that discussion: the page on volunteering is easier to find on our website (thanks to Ben) and the fall workbee was organised to make participants feel more welcomed and appreciated (thanks to Steve).

I was more successful improving our accounting of volunteers' numbers and hours. Although collecting this information may not seem important to some of you, I want to emphasize that we are obliged to provide annual data to a number of our funding partners.

We thank everyone who has volunteered over the last year and hope to see you along with new faces out in the upcoming season. Please let me know what is working and not working for you when you volunteer with the club.

Anne Harfenist

[anne@bvnordic.ca](mailto:anne@bvnordic.ca)

## **Grants and Sponsorships**

### **Directors Report for BVCCSC 2019 AGM.**

This is a new role and the main activity was working on and tracking major grants the club applies for. The Nordic Skills Development Program was successful at securing \$22,500 from the BC Gaming Grant to support a head coach and applied again for the coming year (2019/20).

Nordic Centre Operations was a grant of \$7500 from Wetzin'kwa Community Forest and applied for \$30,00 from Northern Development Initiative Trust for a Skid Steer loader. This was then approved in July of 2019.

In addition the Nordic skills program received a small grant from Kal Tire to support grass seeding "the Berminator" as well as small grants from Via sport to support coach training.

In the coming year the director will try to get a handle on all the various sponsorships the club receives. If any club sponsored activity is asking for or receiving local sponsorships please keep Kevin Kriese informed. In addition, if any club programs are considering looking for a grant contact Kevin who may be able to assist.

## BVCCSC EVENTS REPORT

### 2019 BVCCSC AGM

#### Overview

Our club hosts a number of events through the ski season that not only build a strong ski community, but also promote our club to our surrounding area. Many thanks to all the volunteers who make these events happen. You are what make this club so great.

A short summary of our events from the 2018-2019 ski season follow.

#### Masters- Drop In

Our Wednesday night Master's Drop-In promotes ski development for all levels in a fun and social environment. The program ran from the beginning of January to the end of February. Many thanks to Cobey Oliemans for coordinating this event and ensuring there was an ample supply of special treats.

#### Community Events

We offer a number of community events that promote our club to our broader community as well as offering a fun and social environment for our club members. Many of our events are season highlights for our club members. Thank-you to Leslie-Jean MacMillan for coordinating the overall program.

- **Santa's Workshop** was held December 15th with about 80 kids participating. Several families were not club members and were not familiar with the facility. Thank-you to Lea-Marie Bowes-Lyon for coordinating the event.
- **Tour du Soup** was held January 20th. Many thanks to Kathy Wilford for organizing for what has become a signature event in our ski community. This year was the biggest year yet, with over 200 people participating.
- **Women's clinic** was held January 29 and included 50 participants. Thank-you to Nellie Dow and Karen Miller for coordinating. And a special thank-you to Nature's Pantry for their support.
- **Welcome Day** was held February 10th. Thank-you to Tenley for coordinating and to McBike for providing free rental gear. More than 100 new skiers from our community were introduced to the lodge and facilities.

#### Race Committee

The Race Committee organizes our local races. These races provide a fun environment where members and out of town visitors can enjoy our trails, sometimes skiing a little harder than normal! Thank-you to Jen Plummer for leading the Race Committee this last year.

This year the club hosted the Chris Dahlie Open/Teck Northern Cup #3 as well as the Wetzinkwa Loppet. We had approximately 80 participants in the Chris Dahlie Open from 5 different clubs. The Loppet included approximately 160 participants from 6 different clubs.