

Fall 2017 News

Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club

Improvement projects for our lodge, trails, signs and technology

WOW! There is a LOT happening at our Bulkley Valley Nordic Centre. Attached is a summary of projects completed and underway. These projects are supported by almost \$85,000 of received or committed funding and some awesome club members who stepped up to manage the projects.

Work Bee - Saturday September 9 starting at 9:30 am

This is the work bee for getting firewood into the lodge so many hands will be appreciated. We will also be tearing up the old carpet on the main floor to get ready for new flooring that will be installed. Lunch will be supplied. Bring your work gloves!

We also need:

- -one or two trailers to move firewood
- -one wood splitter
- -a few people with chainsaws

Email Kevin (billeterridge@gmail.com) if you can help with these items

Pencil in Sunday October 15 as a work bee that might be needed for some hand clean-up on this fall's trail works. Stay tuned.

Harvesting underway next to Nordic and hiking trails

Last year we had to close some ski trails due to risk to skiers and groomers from falling trees. The beetle-killed pine trees are becoming a greater risk each year and so this year we would have had to close many more trails. The club has been working with Wetzin'kwa Community Forest and other stakeholders on plans for salvage harvesting in a way that addresses much of the risk. **Wetzin'Kwa has started road construction and timber harvesting in the vicinity of the Chris Dahlie ski trails and the hiking trails.** Wetzin'Kwa will post trail closure notices on affected trails and on the mapboards at the Nature Trailhead, the Dahlie Creek Trailhead, the Seymour Lake Trailhead and Seymour Ridge Trailhead.

BV XC Ski Club Annual General Meeting

Our AGM is coming up. Probably Friday October 6. An official notice with confirmed date and location will be posted on bvnordic.ca and emailed to members at least two weeks before the meeting. A nominating committee will be established soon to recruit up to 11 candidates for AGM's election of directors. Last year we made do with 6 directors but more would spread the work around and allow the club to function more effectively. Please consider volunteering as a director. Organization, communication and/or finance skills are really useful but not essential. A director can provide leadership for a program or they might be able to provide a voice for an under-represented segment of our membership, (e.g. dog trail skiers). Contact a current board member. You don't have to wait for the nominating committee to contact you.

Want to know more? Contact Steve Osborn, secretary@bvnordic.ca

Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club 2017 Projects at the Nordic Centre

Lodge Improvements

Roof: Replaced shingles, added insulation and improved attic ventilation. Also replaced timing hut shingles. Project managed by Wally Lesawich. Work done by BV Roofing, Thermax and Wally.

Ceiling: Finished in wood with sound dampening and new LED lighting. Project managed by Brant Dahlie. Work done by Brant Dahlie, Dennis Courtliff, Dave Bustard, Marc Granlin and Bryan Swansberg. Upgraded lights will be installed by His Electric.

Flooring: rubber flooring purchased for lodge and biathlon hut. Prep and installation in the fall. Kevin Kriese and Brant Dahlie will coordinate volunteers to prep the floor and a contractor to install the flooring.

AED: Automated External Defibrillator has been installed at the lodge. Robbie Dunbar made the application to Heart and Stroke Foundation and coordinated training.

Funding:

- \$25,000 Federal Gas Tax Grant (2017), through Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
- \$5,000 Wetzin'Kwa Community Grant (2016)
- \$20,900 from BC Government Grant (2017)
- AED donated by Heart and Stroke Foundation

Trail Maintenance and Improvements

A new [Trail Plan](#) (developed by Kevin Kriese and approved by the board and Rec Sites and Trails) sets out goals and strategies for annual maintenance, improvements and potential expansions, subject to funding. Maps designate Early Season Trails, Trail Repairs and Potential New Trails. The plan includes provisions for a network of trails that can be groomed and skied early in the season and during low snow years.

Due to great support from Rec Sites and Trails and from Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest, significant improvements will occur this fall. The club has also ordered a roller that can be used with a snowmobile to get an early start grooming in low snow conditions. The project is being managed by Kevin Kriese. Machine work will be supervised by Brant Dahlie.

Funding:

- \$10,000 Wetzin'Kwa Community Grant (2017)
- \$10,000 from Recreation Sites and Trails BC for equipment hire plus 12 culverts
- \$4000 from BC Government Grant (2017)
- \$6,000 from Club trail maintenance budget
- Grant application pending for additional trail improvements

Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club 2017 Projects at the Nordic Centre

New Maps and Signs

Digital mapping of trails updated. Trail names reviewed and revised by naming committee. New map brochure drafted and trail signs designed. Dog trail information signs will be added. Maps will be printed and signs will be installed in late fall. Project managed by Peter Tweedie. Work being done by local contractors and volunteers.

Funding sources:

- \$5,000 in 2017 and \$5000 in 2018 from Recreation Sites and Trails BC
- \$2,000 from Club funds
- Grant application pending for additional signage.

Info Tech Improvements

The club's email and digital storage systems are being set up to use tools on G Suite for non-profits. The website's software will be updated to improve security and backup system. Internet will be provided to the timing hut to support changes to the Zone 4 timing system. A power feed to the weather station and a webcam will be installed if feasible. An automated grooming report system will be adopted subject to funding for the ongoing expense. Work on this project is being done by Ben Forsyth with involvement from Steve Osborn, Lisa Perry, Mark Gillis and others as necessary.

Funding:

- Up to \$2000 from BC Government Grant (2017)
- Possible business-sponsorships for automated grooming reports

More?

We have several other project ideas that are in the exploration/planning stage:

- Roof for biathlon targets
- Machine shed replacement
- LED light conversion

Contact Steve Osborn (secretary@bvnordic.ca) if you want more information about any of the active or proposed projects; especially if you want to explore ways that you can help our club maintain and improve the Nordic Centre.