

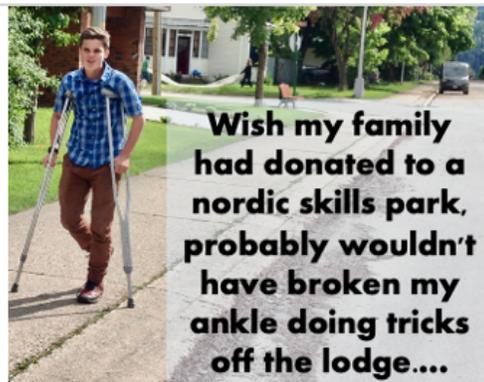
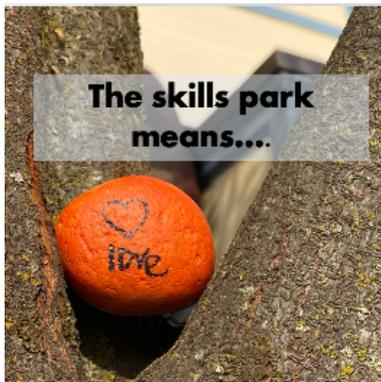
/Late-March 2026 Newsletter

BVCCSC is grateful to be located on the unceded territory of the Wet'suwet'en
The month of March, Lhok iXhts'iy uzī in Witsuwit'en, means Fresh Water, Fish Moon

LAST CALL: NORDIQ CANADA, SKILLS PARK PROJECT:

We have SEVEN days left to donate to Nordiq Canada's fundraiser for our ski playground/skills park! Support our club's ability to meet the needs of our youngest members, and a tax receipt is involved.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/nordiq-canada/p2p/Annual-Club-Fundraiser-26/page/bv-nordic-club-fundraiser-2026-ski-playground>



CECIL REID MEMORIAL SIGN:

A big thanks to JoAnne Reid for the background research, and to Dave Pellow, for erecting the very special Cecil Reid memorial sign last week. It was a touching moment for everyone involved as the sign was erected at BV Nordic to memorialize a founding father of BVCCSC. Starting in the 1960's, Reid's labour and vision led our club to be the incredible community it is today. Take time to read the plaque (mounted on the side of the groomer shed) and then look around the stadium, you will see his work in every direction that meets your eye.

CHRIS DAHLIE MEMORIAL CUP 2026 RECIPIENT- ALI HOWARD

Presented at the Loppet was the 2026 Chris Dahlie Memorial Cup, which was awarded to Ali Howard, a long-time community builder and the BV Cross Country Ski Club's Director of Events. Humbled to join the foundational members of the club who have also won this award, Ali is recognized for her dedication to helping organize safe, fun, and inclusive events, by rounding up the numerous volunteers needed so often during the ski season; these events range from the Wetzin'kwa Loppet and McBike Family Day to the StoryWalk, Winter Solstice event and Holiday Hustle. Through her business, Nature's Pantry, she also generously sponsors events and numerous volunteer appreciation awards, celebrating the people who repeatedly answer her call to help make it all happen; The Loppet alone took 71 volunteers to make the event a success.

Ali says her favourite part of the sport is how it brings people together—whether welcoming newcomers at McBike Family Day or rallying dozens of volunteers for the Loppet. Her energy, generosity, & love of skiing exemplify the spirit of Chris Dahlie, whose legacy honours those who grow & sustain the sport of cross-country skiing in the Bulkley Valley.



Chris Dahlie won the Western Canada Ski Jumping Championship, held in Smithers in 1935.



Board member Malcom Johnson presenting the 2026 Chris Dahlie Memorial Cup to Ali Howard



BVCCSC President Tammy Woods & JoAnne Reid at the unveiling of the beautiful sign in honour of the late Cecil Reid

BV NORDIC BIATHLON:

On March 6-8, 5 youth and 7 adults from the BV Nordic Biathlon Club travelled to Prince George to compete in the IBU (International Biathlon Union) Regional Event, Biathlon Canada Western Canadian Championships & Odlum Brown BC Championships. Over 150 athletes competed and competitions were broadcast live on the Biathlon Canada YouTube channel. If you want to catch up on the races and hear some interviews by some of our athletes, you can still watch them by accessing the YouTube page. Many of our athletes were featured in the broadcast so I suggest giving it a view! Our athletes all did an incredible job in their races, and it really put a cherry on top of a spectacular season.



Photo Credits: JAMES DOYLE PHOTOGRAPHY (excepting group photos, bottom left: Britt White, bottom right: Rosie Williams)

Biathlon Continued: The following weekend members of the BV Biathlon Club attended the second annual *Tour Du North*, a fun weekend of races held between clubs in the north. This year's races were to be held in Quesnel and Prince George on the Saturday, and then Vanderhoof and Burns Lake on the Sunday. Unfortunately, like many other places in the province this year, Quesnel was unable to host due to lack of snow. But the races went on and we were able to enjoy a fun weekend at the other venues. The purpose of these races was to get the clubs together and build community in races that combine abilities, practice skills, and spend time getting to know the various ranges. Points were given out for costumes; BV Biathlon showed up with all vintage gear. I'm sure a few people who recognize the pieces we were able to gather! *-contribution thanks to Britt White*

MONT STE ANNE XC SKI NATIONALS:

See full results: <https://zone4.ca/event/2026/ARMw1X/>

The Bulkley Valley Nordic Cross Country Ski Team achieved one of its strongest national championship showings in recent memory, with outstanding performances and a renewed sense of team pride. Fifteen athletes represented BV Nordic in a field of 750 competitors from across Canada and New England, the club's largest presence at Nationals in years. Over six days of racing, the Smithers-based team showcased resilience and adaptability amid some of the most demanding conditions ever seen at the event. Day 2 brought an overnight ice storm that left the courses nearly unrecognizable by morning. Skiers faced unpredictable trail conditions described as "quicksand made out of hail or tiny Styrofoam balls".



Shots of BV Skiers at Nationals 2026

Despite the challenges, team morale remained high. "Nationals 2026 were a resounding success, and I couldn't be happier," said head coach **Andrea Stapff**. "Athletes really rose to the occasion, bringing out their A game and achieving beyond their expectations. I'm very proud of each and every one of them; they did themselves, their families, their team, and our skiing community proud."

For new competitors like **Amelia Moore**, the experience was both memorable and rewarding. "It was overall such an amazing experience to share with so many great teammates, coaches, waxers, and family and friends," she said. "The cheering and support from everyone was incredible, just such a fun experience. Thank you to everyone who made it possible." Veteran racer **Elliot Cullen** shared similar enthusiasm. "My Nationals were tons of fun, filled with crazy weather and unexpected surprises," he said. "My favourite part was seeing all my friends from across the country and meeting new people my age. It was an awesome experience to share with such cool people."



Teja Stevens



Finn Rosenburger



Avafei Clark
8th - U18 Sprints

© Jocelyn Jeffrey 2026 (@jocjeff@gr)



Benji Wickham

© Jocelyn Jeffrey 2026 (@jocjeff@gr)



Amelia Moore

National Championship fields are huge, U16 pictured here, was typical for what our skiers were racing in.

Behind every successful race effort was a dedicated support team of wax technicians, drivers, cooks, and volunteers. Staff credited the group's experience and careful preparation, including individualized training plans developed since summer, as key factors in the team's performance. As one parent pointed out, "this sport is a true test of mettle, good planning, and grit. Getting an athlete to the national championships in prime form, healthy and ready to perform, is an achievement in itself."



Ethan Rosenberger



Coach Andrea & Elliot Cullen



Adrian Wickham, Sonny MacLean



Amelia Moore
1st U16 Sprints



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR COFFEE FUNDRAISER FOR OUR BULKLEY VALLEY NORDIC SKIERS WHO COMPETED AT THE 2026 NORDIQ CANADA SKI NATIONALS IN QUEBEC CITY!

YEAR OF BIRTH AGGREGATES

1st 2010 Amelia Moore

Team Sprint

2nd Challenge Girls A Final (Avafei Clark, Amelia Moore)

Individual Sprint; Classic

1st U16 Girls Amelia Moore
7th U16 Boys Elliot Cullen
7th U18 Boys Sonny MacLean

Individual Sprint; Classic

1st U16 Girls Amelia Moore
9th U18 Girls Avafei Clark
9th U16 Boys Elliot Cullen
20th U20 Men Sonny MacLean

Interval Start, Classic

3rd U16 Girls Amelia Moore
5th U16 Boys Elliot Cullen
9th U18 Girls Avafei Clark

Sprint Qualifier, Skate

16th U20 Wom. Finley Pearce-Gagnon

Sprint Finals, Skate

1st U16 Girls Amelia Moore
8th U18 Girls Avafei Clark
9th U16 Boys Elliot Cullen
12th U18 Girls Sacha Fleury-Allen
14th U18 Boys Adrian Wickham
20th U16 Girls Veya Stevens

Mass Start, Skate

1st U16 Girls Amelia Moore
7th U16 Boys Elliot Cullen
7th U18 Boys Sonny MacLean
11th U20 Wom. Finley Pearce-Gagnon
15th U18 Boys Adrian Wickham
17th U18 Girls Avafei Clark

37th WETZIN'KWA LOPPET RECAP:

Bright skies, perfect grooming, and more than 250 skiers made the 37th annual Wetzin'kwa Loppet one of the Bulkley Valley Nordic Club's biggest successes to date. Supported by over 70 volunteers, the community event welcomed racers aged four to 78, for distances ranging from 1 to 60 kilometres. Chief of Competition Robbie Dunbar credited both conditions and community spirit for the smooth weekend. "We couldn't have asked for better weather or better volunteers," he said. "Everyone pitched in to make it a joyful celebration of the season."



The event set a record in the skiathlon; 30 competitors completing the mixed skate-and-classic course. Known as one of the province's friendliest loppets, the event featured lively aid stations & popular free chili lunch. Many participants raved about warm drinks and candy out on the trails.

First-time adult participant, Gentianne Graham, praised the welcoming atmosphere: "I absolutely loved the community feel of the race; great vibes all around! Everyone was so positive, and the course was beautiful and well-groomed. You could tell the organizers did an amazing job." Volunteer Gabby Price won the weekend's appreciation draw, a 2026/27 season pass. Dunbar summed up the spirit of the day: "Events like the Loppet wouldn't be possible without volunteers sharing their most precious resource, their time."

Citizen ski races, like our Loppet, are events where we can all challenge ourselves to personal goals; often just showing up at the start line, and finishing are admirable feats. Above and beyond that, there were some impressive achievements on Saturday: Fynn Stasiuk, 17 years old, won the 60 km skate race in 3:09; that is an incredible pace. His sister, Mila, also skied the 60 km, she's 15 years old, and she covered the distance in four hours. One does wonder what Georgie and Kelsey are feeding their kids at breakfast. Alex Woods and his daughter, Kate also did the 60 km, doing classic category, finishing in 4:24 minutes. It was also so impressive to see well over a 100 Bunnies, Jack Rabbits, and Track Attack skiers out racing with friends. These kids were laughing, taking jumps, stopping for snacks, and surviving the first 300 metres of the hectic mayhem that is a mass start event, but who doesn't love costumes and cookie medals?

1000 KM CHALLENGE:

Remember the 1000 km Challenge? We will have more details soon, but here are some highlights: There are two distance skiers for 2025/26 that have smashed all previous club records. MRS is now well over 2200 km, and Gill Baker skied over 120 times this season, all classic. She is not on the km chart and does not keep track of her kms only the times skied. She is probably around 1500 km and the season is not over yet. Both these club members are amazing! Thank you Theresa for making them homemade bagels! MRS might stand for: Miles of Relentless Skiing, Man of Remarkable Skis, Machine of Remarkable Stamina, or maybe just Mr. Relentless Skier?

LOOKING FOR SMITHERS ACCOMMODATION:

Michaela here, mother of the BV Nordic Satellite family from Vancouver Island (Amelia & Ella Moore are the athletes, Sean is the dad/satellite coach, & Winston, our four-legged family member, rounds off the crew). Last fall, we were incredibly grateful to benefit from the house-sitting opportunity at Christmas holidays, and we are

hoping to spend another longer stretch in Smithers this summer. Our rough plan is to be in town from about July 15 to August 10, and we are wondering if there might again be a house that will be vacant during this period and in need of responsible, ski-family occupants. We are also happy to do a house swap if anyone is interested in spending some time on Vancouver Island and would love to connect with any families who might be keen.



My name is Winston, I am the Moore/ Jelen Family Dog, and I am asking on behalf of our whole family about a house sit this summer, please see above!



Gill Baker, skied over 120 times this season, all classic



Sweet & true graffiti at the BV Nordic Centre Lodge



MRS- still going strong at over 2200 km

Trivia Question: Name one of my (your Communications Director) top three favourite TV shows or movies. Hint: check my meme choices! Answers to communications@bvnordic.ca. This is your 2nd -to-last chance enter the prize draw for a local gift certificate.

Answer to previous trivia: the Vassa Loppet in Sweden had 61 000 participants across 14 events

VIDEO FUN:

Check out this video of the start of our 37th Wetzin'kwa Loppet: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1CJeLaQip1/> You should be able to watch even if you don't have a Facebook account.

Check out this fun video of the race team descending: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1NfqdHQWYW/> This video has received 87 000 views, thanks to being shared on Snowseekers, and Tourism Smithers!



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