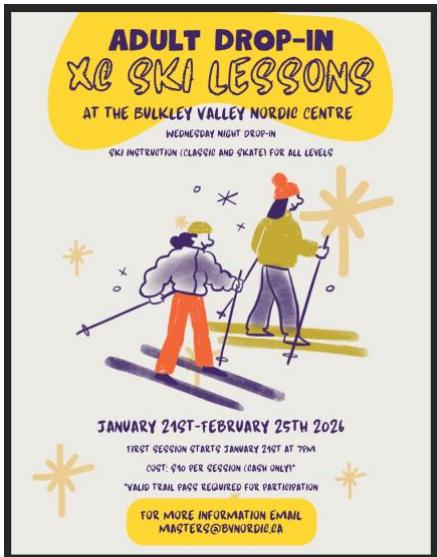


# Early January 2026 Newsletter

BVCCSC is grateful to be located on the unceded territory of the Wet'suwet'en  
*In honour of the Smithers Man's Shed, try the phrase, "I care for you" = Nkesiy*

## GET BETTER AT XC SKIING:

Wishing you could have taken part in the BV Nordic masters sessions? Well, there's still a way to get better at cross-country skiing this season, & it's affordable and easy: adult drop in lessons! Another session is happening at BV Nordic- Wednesdays from January 21<sup>st</sup> to February 25<sup>th</sup>. Lessons start at 7pm and are \$10 per session. No need to register in advance. After the lesson, there's snacks, warm drinks, and a chance to socialize in the lodge. We hope to see you there!



Above right: combined master's group lesson on New Year's Eve. It was a great turnout & nice to meet skiers from the other groups. A big shout out to Coach Andrea & the masters program!

## COMING EVENT:

Cross country skiing and BV Nordic can be for everyone. Do you know someone with accessibility challenges? Consider bringing them to the Nordic centre to try sit-skiing. This can be for folks who are permanently unable to ski, or who are injured but still want a workout. Saturday, January 10 (1pm to 4pm), see contact info below before coming out.



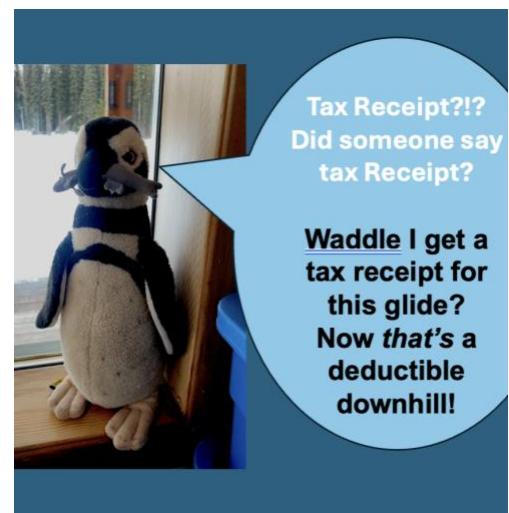
## NORDIQ CANADA CLUB FUNDRAISER:

This year BV Nordic is fundraising for a special project that will add value to our club for decades by enhancing our **ski playground/skills park**. With enough funds, we are ready to construct the playground this summer! (Did you know that many grants require that we contribute a portion of the total cost? By helping with fundraising, you also help us secure grants that keep membership fees low).

**What is a ski playground?** Imagine an excavator making a small mountain range with cool features. Cover it in snow to ski or sled on. Add props (e.g. arches, flags) & practice skills. Think of our very popular toboggan hill (also to be enhanced) & quadruple the fun & skill development.

Check out [Nordiq Canada's website](#) for visuals of ski playgrounds. Let the FUNdraising begin! Contact [andra.nadeau@bvnordic.ca](mailto:andra.nadeau@bvnordic.ca) (Grant, Sponsorship & Fundraisers Director) for more details.

\*\*\*\*[Click here to donate!](#)\*\*\*\*



## THANK YOU, SMITHERS MEN'S, SHED:

BVCCSC extends a heartfelt thank you to the Smithers Men's Shed for their incredibly generous donation of time & skill. Our lodge is now home to beautifully crafted benches & storage units that members will enjoy for years to come. These pieces are expertly built & designed for durability and perfectly suited to our busy ski lodge.

The Men's Shed movement began in Australia three decades ago and has grown into a global model for community building, skill-sharing, and social connection. The Smithers Men's Shed, launched in 2024, is a proud part of this tradition, with 23 members, it brings together men of all ages & backgrounds.



As a not-for-profit organization, the Smithers Men's Shed has raised significant funds to purchase tools, equipment, and supplies. Their work taps into an often underutilized pool of experience: retired tradespeople, hobbyists, professionals, and lifelong learners, to contribute their skills in meaningful ways. The impact of the Men's Shed extends beyond woodworking. Locally they have partnered with local schools, senior centres, the archery club, and individual community members who have specific needs. In Smithers alone, their projects have included making access ramps for the local Pride group, wheelchair ramps, tool totes with students at EdGE, & garden boxes for a local senior's group.

Men's Sheds help combat the isolation that many men experience, fostering a sense of purpose, belonging, and friendship. Their motto is Connection, Camaraderie, and Community. Men's Sheds are also active in Terrace, Vanderhoof, and Fraser Lake, strengthening communities across the region through collaboration and shared expertise.

The Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club is deeply grateful to be one of the beneficiaries of this inspiring work. The benches and storage units in our lodge stand as a reminder of what can be achieved when community members come together with generosity, skill, and a shared desire to give back. To learn more about the Smithers Men's Shed or to get involved, visit: <https://www.smithersmensshed.org>

## WHAT WOULD THE NEWSLETTER BE WITHOUT SOMETHING ABOUT DOGS?

A kind and conscientious dog skier reported that they collected 14, yes 14, separate poop piles over only two kilometres of our trail. That's because, guess why? Skiers are skiing while behind them, their dogs are secretly pooping.



## BVCCSC HOSTS NORTHERN SKIERS FOR THREE RACES:

Close to 100 skiers from all over the north participated in the Teck Northern Cup / Chris Dahlie Open & BC Winter Games Trials On January 3/4. Skiers, young & older, from Terrace to Mackenzie were greeted by enthusiastic volunteers & skied in well-groomed conditions on state-of-the-art courses.

Saturday's interval start classic race included a BC Winter Games Trials qualifier for skiers born in 2011 and 2012. 13 youths raced around the Northern Lights trail vying for eight spots on the Zone 7 team. An exhibition sprint relay was held in the afternoon with teams of two sprinting around the stadium. Sparkles, cheering and smiles definitely dominated this race. Sunday's mass start skate race was somewhat of a nail biter with many skiers crossing the finish line at the same time, lunging for the win.

These races could not happen without the dozens of volunteers who worked as parking attendants, groomers and course markers, stadium setter-uppers, bib managers, announcers, chefs and coaches!



Our next race is the 37th annual Wetzinkwa Loppet on Saturday, March 21. If you would like to participate, you can register now at [Zone 4](#). If you prefer to volunteer, we welcome your help and you can sign up [here](#).



Finley Gagnon showing excellent ski form on course



Junior skiers: BVCSC, Caledonia (PG), Nechako Nordics (Vanderhoof)  
Photo: Michaela Jelen



Photo finish: Elliot Cullen & Adrian Wickham lunging for the line!  
Photo: Sacha Fleury-Allen

Article Submitted: Helene Fleury

## SEVEN BV NORDIC SKIER RACE AT OLYMPIC TRIALS:

Just before the holiday season, seven BV Nordic junior skiers raced at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games Trials at Sovereign Lake (December 14-16), competing against Canada's top skiers! For all the members of our team, this was the biggest race they have ever competed at.

There were two distance races (10k)-one classic & one skate- and a skate sprint qualifier and heats on the final day. The 10k course was definitely tough with a 1.5 km hill at the beginning, some fast & curvy downhills & steep hills interspersed. Needless to say, there weren't many places to take a breather.

Alex, Amelia, Avafei, Elliot, Finley, Sacha, and Sonny all skied well and demonstrated grit, determination and courage on this difficult course (at altitude no less). Alex, Elliot and Sonny raced in a field of over 80 male skiers while Amelia, Avafei, Finley and Sacha raced with over 40 female skiers.



Sacha



Finley



Avafei



Elliot



Alex



Sonny



Amelia

The sprint course was exciting to watch right from the stadium and three of our racers who stayed to race that day qualified for quarterfinals. Finley and Avafei were in a heat with Sonja Schmidt and Jasmine Drolet; Sacha competed against Alison Mackie. While our BV Nordic skiers did not make the Olympic team (!), their fierce and older more experienced opponents did. Sonja, Jasmine and Alison were confirmed on the Canadian Olympic team that day.

Our BV Nordic skiers should be very proud of this accomplishment that came from a ton of work since the spring (or since their time in the Jack Rabbits program, really). And of course, they could not ski well without Andrea, our amazing head coach and the incredible wax team led by Sandy with the excellent help of Diana, Ben and our collaborators from other small BC Clubs.

*Article Submitted: Helene Fleury*

## FOR YOUR LISTENING PLEASURE:

[Click to listen to the Teck Northern Cup 2026 interview](#)

[Click to listen to early season BVCCSC news](#)

## GROOMING QUESTIONS:

We have heard some questions about why we groom when we groom, check out all the wisdom here:

<https://bvnordic.ca/trails-and-facilities/grooming-faq/>

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

Fantastic news on the **club membership** front: BV Nordic, as of today, has 1259 season pass holders! It wasn't very long ago that only two clubs in BC had over 1,000 members. This year we have nine clubs so far: Sovereign Lake (1983), Caledonia (1791), Kimberley (1705), Telemark (1356), Bulkley Valley (1259), Overlander (1071), Nelson (1042), Revelstoke (1026), and Black Jack (1016). And Golden and Larch Hills are not far off (902 and 887, respectively). Cross-Country BC gave us special notice: "a special shout-out to Bulkley Valley for breaking their all-time membership record, currently sitting at 1259 members. For those that are wondering, Smithers has a population of ~5,400."

## COACH ANDREA:

Congratulations to **Amelia Wells** from **Strathcona Nordic Ski Club** who is representing Canada at the upcoming Olympics. Our own Coach Andrea played a large part in her development, having coached Amelia for well over five years. Aren't we lucky to have her (look no further than asking anyone in the masters programs) all to ourselves at BVCCSC!



**Far left:** Coach Andrea and Amelia Wells

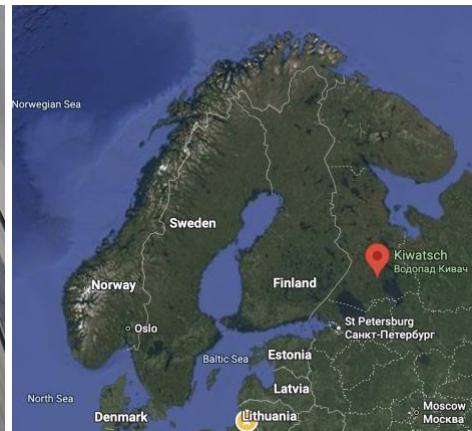
**4<sup>th</sup> from left:** Gabe Glenhill, also coached by Andrea, now representing the UK on the World Cup circuit



Amelia Wells, at U23 World Champs

**Trivia Question:** Archaeological evidence places the invention of skiing at what date?

Send your response to [communications@bvnordic.ca](mailto:communications@bvnordic.ca)



Answer to previous trivia: *Marathon skate* describes keeping one ski in the track & pushing off with the other ski.

Those of you who are new to our trivia contest, it runs all season with winners entered in a draw for a gift certificate to one of our local business sponsors.

**Please Support Our Sponsors, we truly couldn't exist without them:**

## Annual Sponsors

Annual Sponsors provide financial support to the Club.



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**Here's  
How.**



## Partners

These partners provide a wide range of support to the club including management of the trails, logistical support, and funding.



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