



## Message from the President Bob Rogers



Well it's official, the season is upon us. This week marks the start of chipping the debris on many of our trails. The drainage work and trail building is done for



the year. Many thanks for all the volunteer hours it took to make this happen. Ron and I had a slash burn that gave off enough heat to delay the start of the season by a couple of days.



The ski swap and AGM have happened already and memberships are coming in steadily. To top it all off, I went out my back door last night and the gear fairy had left me fifteen boxes of skis, boots, poles, and snowshoes. Now I just have to mount, wax, and label them all for the rental room.

We have a great club for people volunteering their time and expertise as can be seen by the large number attending our volunteer dinner in the spring( about 130 last season). We do have an urgent need for someone with a financial background to take



over the club's treasurer position. Also needed are a couple more instructors (we'll teach you how and you don't need to be an expert skier) for the school program. With almost 1100 members out there, I'm sure we can fill these spots. Don't be shy and contact Ron or me to get more details.

It's good to see a lot of people out and about, hiking and biking on our trails during the off season. I look forward to seeing all our skiers and snowshoers out there again this winter, hopefully a little earlier than our usual December 7th start.



Last year was another season of good news at the Telemark Nordic Club. We saw more people using our cross country, biathlon and snowshoe facilities than ever before. There were about 27,000 day visits in total. A record number of season passes were sold. This led to better financial results, and improvement.

Events such as the Kelowna Apple Loppet, the BC Special Olympic Snow Sport Championships and the British Columbia X-C Championships were well attended, and profitable. All of the programs, including the Race Team, Biathlon Team, Ski League, School Program, Special Olympics and Adult Ski



Lessons grew. Many of the participants in these programs are youth, so we are developing a generation who will enjoy Nordic winter sports for years to come. The 200 volunteers, who organize and run the events and programs, are the reason why Telemark exists. Hold your head up high for making a difference!

We are seeing growth in most areas at Telemark, but



the two that really stand out are in skate skiing and snowshoeing, with many participants buying season

passes, day passes and rentals. The amazing thing is, as much as we are growing, and getting better, the ski and snow trails rarely seem crowded.

The 2013-2014 season was helped out by an early opening, and a normal closing date. Except for a couple weeks in January the snow levels were excellent, and held very well. When we have snow our experienced grooming team lay down excellent tracks, however their job becomes difficult with wet snow or a lack of snow. The grooming team's efforts will be aided this season by the purchase of a Piston Bully groomer, to replace our Bombardier groomer. This better quality machine should lead to lower maintenance costs and lower grooming costs (\$275 an hour). A Kubota machine that can be used in the summer with tires and in the winter with tank type



tracks, was purchased. It will be used with our Ginzu groomer for smaller grooming tasks. Also, money was spent to improve sections of our trails. This should help to provide an earlier opening date.

Other improvements that took place over the off season are: the completion of a new 5 year plan that will map the path to improvement, upgrades to Glenrosa Road pavement to make the 10 km drive from West Kelowna safer, the installation of weather sensors around the stadium to show weather information in real-time on [www.telemarknordic.com](http://www.telemarknordic.com), a plan to make the chalet wheel chair accessible which should be completed by opening day and new digital snowshoe trail maps that can be uploaded to your smart telephone. We are also moving ahead with the construction of a new children's park and dog friendly snowshoe trails. However, these may not be completed this season. cont'd...



Most of the program directors and staff are coming back this winter. You can see a complete list of program and department heads, with their contact information, on the website. We are seeing growth in the number of animals on the property. There are more moose, mule deer and an elk.



Also, we had thousands of skier and snowshoe visits last year and only one injury of note, a sprained ankle. So in general, you can feel safe when you and your family come to Telemark.



*If you are satisfied with your experience at the Telemark Nordic Club please tell your friends, neighbours and co-workers about our non-profit sports club!*





As you have likely already read elsewhere in the newsletter, this has been a year like no other as far as trail improvements. Although no new ski trails were added, a great deal of work was done on the existing trail system.



The most significant work that was completed under the able guidance of Eric Rayson, our grooming coordinator, included raising the trail bed of portions of Fern Creek and Roller Coaster, creating ditches and installing culverts – all to improve a significant drainage problem

that has become worse over the last few years and created a very wet area in our lower trail system.



Along with this work, we have been working on cutting out brush and small trees and bushes on either side of many of our inner trails including Squirrel, Roller Coaster, Forest Lane, Rabbit and Summer Road. This left us with many piles of brush that were chipped over a week long period.



In addition, stadium berms have been smoothed out and improved, sharp corners on Rabbit and Easy



There is probably even more that has been completed than I am mentioning but the bottom line is that our trails should be in the best shape ever for the upcoming season. We have included a number of pictures that show some of the major areas where work has been done.



Street have been widened and the entrance to the valley bottom near the beginning of Fern Creek has also been smoothed out and widened.



In addition to Eric and his crew, I would like to thank Scott Anderson and Rod Heater for the many hours that they have donated to our club on trail work this year.



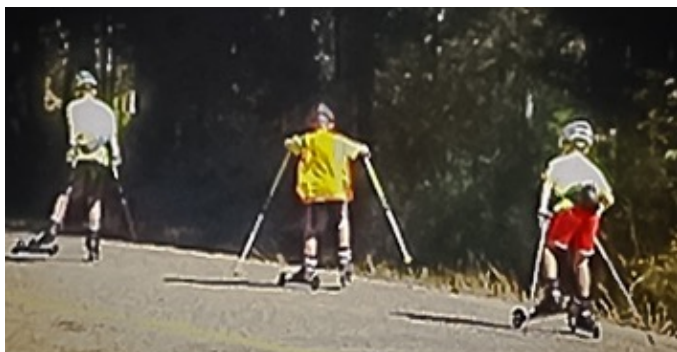
As we eagerly await the snow to start falling at Telemark, the athletes are working hard at dryland training once/week for the young athletes and three



times per week for the elite (TR2) Team. For the season just passed we had over 40 athletes participating in 19 different race locations over the 14-week race season. Leading the athletes were our Head Coach Adam Elliot, supported by part-time assistant coach Corrie Allen and 6 parent volunteer coaches, all of whom are NCCP



certified. In addition, there were over 100 parents and Club members helping out with travel, fundraising, and staffing for our 2 Telemark races. It is inspiring to see the level of support for our race athletes. Thank you all.



**Our Head Coach, Adam Elliot**, is entering his 7th year as Head Coach. His coaching skill and reputation is growing. In addition to mentoring our eager young athletes, he also:

- ♦ *Is the Head Coach of BC Provincial Development Squad.*
- ♦ *Was selected to the Canadian National Coaching Team and spent 2 weeks last February in Italy at World Junior Championships.*
- ♦ *Has been selected to the BC Provincial Coaching Team for Canada Winter Games in Prince George in March this year.*
- ♦ *Has been selected to be the Head Coach for BC Provincial Ski Team for Ski Nationals 2015 in Thunder Bay, Ont. in March.*



Congratulations, Coach Adam. We are all proud to have such an accomplished and respected coach here in Kelowna for our small racing team!



...and how are the athletes doing? Extremely well! Our team continues to overall perform well Provincially and Nationally, finishing 4th overall in the province last year.

Specific recognition goes to several athletes who have earned selections onto other teams:

- ✦ *Gareth Williams placed 4th overall in his age group at Ski Nationals 2014 in Cornerbrook, Nfld.*
- ✦ *Gareth Williams was selected to the 2015 Canadian National Talent Squad.*
- ✦ *Both David Walker and Gareth Williams are on the BC Provincial Ski Team for the second consecutive year.*
- ✦ *Madeleine Ertel is on the BC Provincial Development Team.*
- ✦ *Ben Shipley, Matt Shipley, and Ian Williams made the BC Provincial Talent Squad.*

We are excited to get started on this year's ski season. The first race of the year will be at Sovereign Lake on December 6/7. This is the Canada Winter Games qualifier and we have 2 athletes competing for one of 5 spots on the BC XC team. Following the Sovereign Lake race are 15 gruelling weeks with at least one race every single weekend. We are hosting BC Championships again this year on the weekend of February 21. We hope you take time to come out and cheer on our athletes, several of whom will be leaving the following week to compete for Gold in Ski Nationals in Thunder Bay.



### Five Year Plan

During the spring and summer months a committee consisting of, Rod Heater, Barry Allen, Ron Earle, Scott Anderson, Rebecca Tyson, Cathy MacKenzie and myself developed a new Five Year Plan for Telemark. Details of this plan can be found on the Telemark website. It was a very rewarding exercise for all of us and I would like to thank all committee members for volunteering their time and for their input.

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