

Whaleback Times

18 December 2023



Happy December!

It's been a busy summer and fall with lots to look forward to this winter. Despite any changes that each year brings, the one thing that never changes are the amazing volunteers. Here's a snapshot of all the great work and activities that have happened since our last season and some updates on what to expect this upcoming season. All together now: 🎵 I'm dreaming of a white Christmas...." 🎵

Whaleback Website

If you haven't been there in a while, check out our refreshed website (nice work Kylie!):

<https://whalebacknordic.com/>

Whaleback Disc Golf Park

Thanks to the unrelenting efforts of Darrell Chipp and the Bay St George Disc Golf Association, the first season of the Whaleback Disc Golf Park was hugely successful. With lots of support from the Town of Stephenville and many community sponsors, the course received hundreds of plays each month and was ready to host provincials in September. Combined with planned work as a result of an Active Living Grant received in the spring, the development of the course has greatly improved the Foxtrot trail. I've lost count of the loads of fill that were spread on the trail! There were also culverts installed and a good amount of brush clearing. I've got to say that disc golf is such a fun way to enjoy our trails in the off-season. Just ask Bruce!



Trail Improvements

As mentioned above, the Foxtrot had a lot of TLC this summer that has already proven beneficial given the number of skiers out last weekend when we had an early snowfall! I'd like to highlight a few other organizations that contributed:

- Marine Contractors and Glynn Pike for the generous donation of ClassB fill.
- The Town of Stephenville for donating culverts and Eddy Services for transporting them to the ski trails. Thanks also to Mike Whalen and Johnnie White for making this happen.

Work was also completed on a couple of downhill turns on Braveheart (pictures below) and it should be very safe and skiable in all conditions. The stumps have been removed on Heart Rate Hill and we installed a culvert at the top of Heart Rate Hill. Finally, Olivers Twist (a fan favorite!) had some leveling done by an excavator.



New Signage

Another change you'll notice this year is new signage on the trails. This initiative was made possible through an Active Living NL Grant and the efforts of Ivan MacDonald, Dave King and Doug Fowlow. Many people commented on the need for new signage in the survey so let us know what you think.

Fundraising

This fall we really put the "fun" in fundraising ;) First, thanks again to our JR parents who contributed to the bake sale at the Open House. All those yummy treats sold fast!



Next was a Murder Mystery party. What a fun night spent with outlaws, ranchers, scallywags (Susan Lane, lol) and detectives at the "Gravestone Saloon". The Wild Strawberry Crêperie and Café stews did not disappoint, yum!! Big thanks to Wendy Brake and Georgina for helping put it all together. Can't wait to do it again (details to follow in early spring).

Most recently, Lori Deeley lead a wreath making workshop that was an absolutely beautiful night. Shoutout to her helper John Deeley and the behind-the-scenes assistance from Francis Bourgeois. The wreaths were all gorgeous! I'm thinking this needs to be an annual event.



Lastly, thank you to those members who regularly donate recyclables in the club's name at the depot. A reminder that caps have to be removed from bottles prior to dropping them off.

We are always open to new fundraising ideas so let us know if you have an idea or wish to help out in some way.

Looking ahead to the 2024 season....

Early Bird Membership Prices

Early bird pricing on membership is available up to and including 31 December 2023. Zone 4 remains the only method of registering again this year: <https://zone4.ca/register.asp?id=33431>
Here are a few notes:

- Nordiq Canada and CCNL have increased their fees by \$2-\$3 per person
- Our membership fees are inclusive of HST and Nordiq Canada/CCNL fees
- If you select a family membership, enter the personal information for the first individual then click on Add Second Person. Enter the second person's information and in the Membership Type section choose Additional Family Member Ski/Snowshoe. Continue this process until all family members are entered.
- Payment methods include credit card through Zone4, debit card at the chalet or e-transfer to whalebackskiclub@gmail.com.

Jackrabbit Program

Registration for our JR program this year will be through Zone 4 (ready now!). We hope this will make it a more streamlined process for parents. As before, children do not need to be a member to join. We are so thankful to have Megan leading the program again this year! Just a reminder that JR is from 1:30-2:30 every Sunday. After skiing, Jackrabbits are welcome to get together in the chalet for hot chocolate and snacks.

New Activities

Stay tuned for more details but here is a sneak peak at some of the activities we are working on beginning in January:

- Family Friday Nights: hoping to have pizza supper at the chalet, followed by a group ski
- Ladies Nights: about one Thursday evening per month we'll have a ladies night consisting of instruction, group ski and food/beverages in the chalet afterward.
- Moonlight Ski: this was a popular event a few years back so if the schedule and moon phase align, we'll try it again!
- Candlelight Ski: another popular event that we hope to bring back this year

Cross Canada Challenge

We are challenging our entire membership to ski across Canada and back for a total of 15,000 kilometers. Details below. Thank you Bruce for leading this initiative, it's going to be fun!

- The event will run from January 1st to February 28th.
- Once you have skied 50kms you enter your name on the registration sheet posted in the chalet and record your kms.
- You will continue to record your distance in segments of 50kms.
- You may enter as an individual, with your skiing partner or as a family.
- A map of Canada will be posted in the chalet and updated regularly so everyone can see our progress. Maybe we'll "visit" some friends of the Whaleback along the way!
- Every participant will have their name entered for a chance to win a ski membership for next season.
- Limit of one entry per person.
- Everyone is encouraged to participate

Chalet Operating Hours

Once our season begins here are our intended chalet operating hours:

- Monday - Friday: 12:00pm - 8:00pm (Foxtrot lights will be on every weekday until 8pm)
- Saturday - Sunday: 10:00am - 5:00pm

You will be notified of any skiable conditions and the opening of the chalet via e-mail, Facebook posts and notes on our website.

Whaleback Sponsorship Program

The club will continue the sponsorship program again this year and are looking for participating businesses in the Bay St. George area. Details are the same as last year with three levels of sponsorship available with varying degrees of marketing, signage and inclusion of day passes.

- Gold, \$750
- Silver, \$500
- Bronze, \$250

A big thank you to our first confirmed sponsor of the season: **The Paint Shop**

Hope to see you all soon and in the meantime, Merry Christmas!

Karla