



Whaleback Nordic Ski Club

Stephenville, NL

PRESENTS...

The 56th Annual



*Newfoundland and Labrador Cross Country Ski
Marathon*

Saturday, February 28th, 2026

“Come Join Our Festival of Skiers”



WELCOME TO THE 56th OUTFITTERS NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CROSS COUNTRY SKI MARATHON AND FESTIVAL OF SKIERS

Whaleback will be going all out to make this a memorable event with fun and festivity; courses for younger skiers to ski, and intermediate courses for those who want a leisurely day on the trails, with lots of food and refreshments and souvenir items. And for the racers, we have a full, grueling 42 km distance in two laps, a challenging race on a superbly prepared course and the usual medals and trophies up for grabs.

In the following pages you will find all the information you need to plan your race strategy and develop your pre-race training program. If you are not a hardened marathon racer but want to have a pleasant weekend on the wonderful west coast you will find all the information you need as well.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee and all Whaleback members, welcome! Come and join us for the 56th Outfitters NL Cross-Country Ski Marathon and Festival of Skiers.

<i>Karla Swift</i> , Chief of Competition and Event Co-Chair	<i>Ivan MacDonald</i> , Event Co-Chair
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Course Descriptions (Pay attention to the signs along the way, especially at turns and intersections. All courses will be marked clearly.)

***Visit whalebacknordic.com (“Photos” tab) for a virtual tour of the 21k course.**

Five courses will be offered to skiers and they will be known as Bunny Rabbit (2.5 km), Jackrabbit (8.0 km), Junior (12.0 km), Veterans (21.0 km) and Masters (42 km). All courses will start in a reverse or counter-clockwise loop of the Foxtrot and/or Percy’s Path and finish at the chalet.

Bunny Rabbit Course (2.5 km)

The Bunny Rabbit Course will be one counterclockwise lap of the 2.5 km Fox Trot trail. The course features gentle rolling terrain with one short uphill and one short downhill. Younger skiers should be accompanied by an adult.

Jackrabbit Course (8.0 km)

The Jackrabbit Course is a relatively flat course and will be groomed for skating and classic. After leaving the start line at the chalet, ski the Fox Trot in a counter-clockwise direction to the intersection of Percy’s Path, then continue counter-clockwise on Percy’s Path back to the Foxtrot, then right again and along the Foxtrot to the intersection of the Raven’s Ridge or main trail, turn left and continue straight, down Herringbone Hill. When you go down Herringbone Hill you will continue on the trail until you come to a U-turn. Make the U-turn and then continue until you make a left turn onto the Bunny Hop/Beavertail Flat and proceed straight for about 30 metres, then bear right and continue straight until you join the Raven's Ridge main trail. Continue skiing until you arrive at the Snowy Owl Intersection. Make a left turn and continue on Ravens Ridge. At the 5.0 km mark, you will climb the Saddleback (30 metres vertical climb) then continue to the Rendezvous Intersection. Here is a Refreshment Station where you may want to take a break and hydrate. Then you keep on STRAIGHT over gentle terrain with more downhill than uphill and lots of time for recovery to the Racer’s Edge, a nice steep downhill with a slight left turn at the bottom and then straight on to the finish at the chalet.

Junior Course (12.0 km)

At the start you will leave the stadium area and proceed in a counter-clockwise or reverse direction on the Fox Trot and ski to the intersection of Percy's Path, turn right and continue on Percy’s path until the intersection with Raven’s Ridge where you will turn left onto Raven's Ridge and proceed to Herringbone Hill. When you go down

Herringbone Hill you will continue on the trail until you come to a U-turn. Make the U-turn and then continue until you make a left onto the Bunny Hop/Beavertail Flat and proceed straight for about 30 metres, then bear right and continue straight until you join the Raven's Ridge main trail. Continue skiing until you arrive at the Snowy Owl Intersection. Take the right turn to proceed along the Snowy Owl Loop which will exhibit undulating terrain with twists and turns as well as some demanding ups and downs. Continue the gentle roller coaster ride on this loop until you reach the high point of land atop Heart Rate Hill. When finished the Snowy Owl loop, take a right to proceed on Raven's Ridge. At the 9.0 km mark, you will climb the Saddleback (30 Metres vertical climb) then continue to the Rendezvous Intersection. Here is a Refreshment Station where you may want to take a break and hydrate. Then you keep on STRAIGHT over gentle terrain with more downhill than uphill and lots of time for recovery to the Racer's Edge, a nice steep downhill with a slight left turn at the bottom and then straight on to the finish at the chalet.

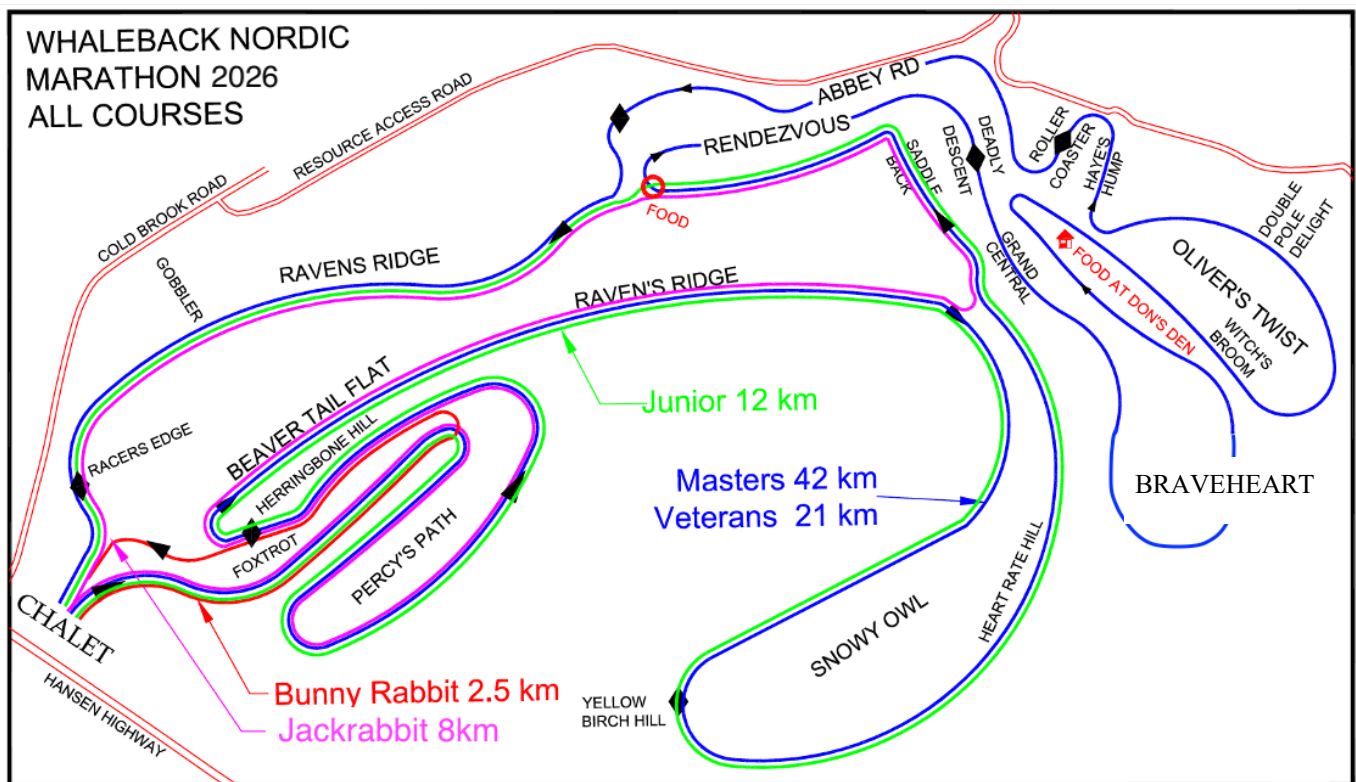
Veterans Course (21.0 km)

At the start you will leave the stadium area and proceed in reverse on the Fox Trot and ski to the intersection of Percy's Path, turn right and continue on Percy's path until the intersection with Raven's Ridge where you will turn left onto Raven's Ridge and proceed to Herring Bone Hill. When you go down Herringbone Hill you will continue on the trail until you come to a U-turn. Make the U-turn and then continue until you make a left onto the Bunny Hop/Beavertail Flat and proceed straight for about 30 metres, then bear right and continue straight until you join the Raven's Ridge main trail. Continue until you arrive at the Snowy Owl intersection, take a right and proceed along the Snowy Owl Loop which will exhibit undulating terrain with twists and turns as well as some demanding ups and downs. Continue the gentle roller coaster ride on this loop until you reach the high point of land atop Heart Rate Hill. Upon finishing the Snowy Owl loop keep right to continue on Raven's Ridge. At the 9.0 km mark, you will climb the Saddleback (30 metres vertical climb). At the 10 km mark you will make a hard right turn onto the Rendezvous trail where **a refreshment station** awaits. Then proceed on to the Birches Intersection via the Rendezvous. Turn right at the Birches. To get the adrenalin flowing you will immediately encounter a pleasant downhill followed by a demanding, test-your-edges careen down Deadly Descent. *Reduce your speed* on this hill as there is a hard left turn at the bottom. Once at the bottom, you will ski through flat terrain for about 1.5 km proceeding along Braveheart. Proceed along the route; you will weave through the forest along Chickadee Hollow before meeting Don's Den Food Station at the beginning of Oliver's Twist, a gentle, 2.7 km loop which will give you a chance to rest before you run "face-and-eyes" into Hayes Hump - a steep climb 4 km from the finish. The Hump levels off and then finishes you off with another short exhausting climb. Now that your legs are filled with lactic acid you should be wobbly when you start careening down through the

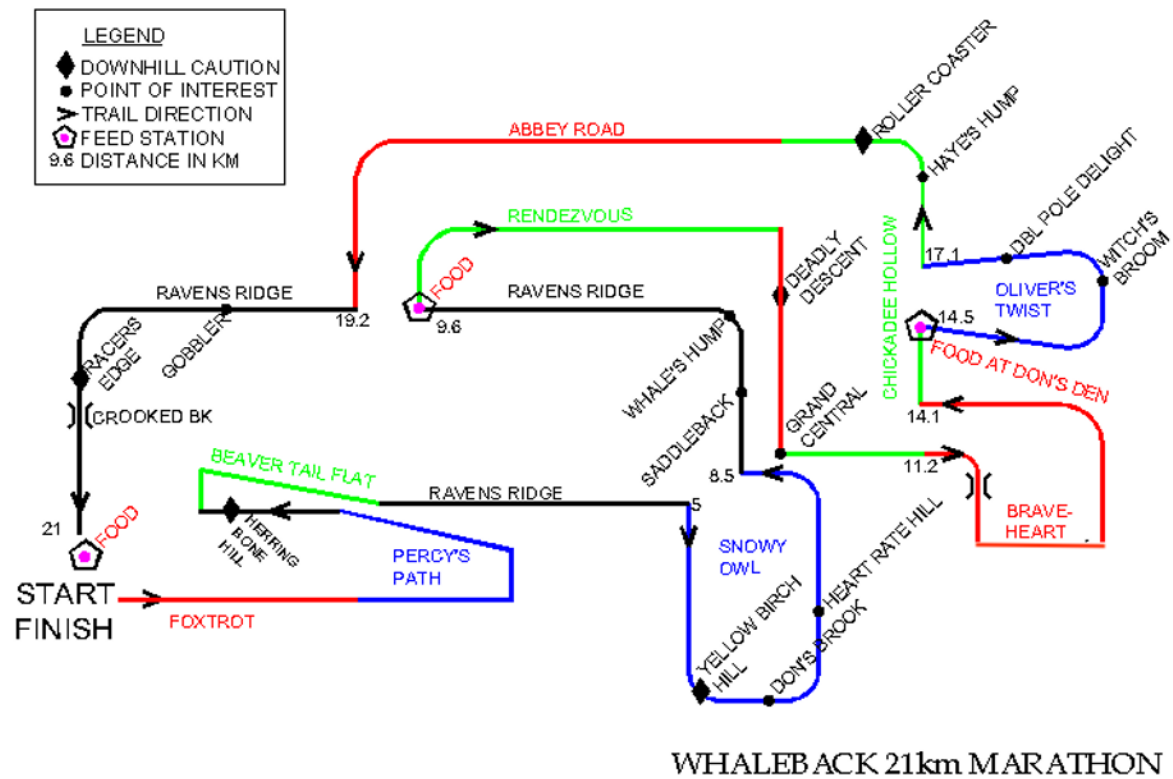
roller-coaster section of Chickadee which is punctuated with short steep pitches and some free climb followed by skate-able climbs to the top of yet another hill. If conditions are fast, use caution in this section. Once through the roller-coaster, you will intersect Abbey Road (3 km from finish). Turn right from Abbey Road onto Raven's Ridge and continue back to the finish at the chalet over gentle terrain with more downhill than up and lots of time for recovery.

Masters Course (42.0 km)

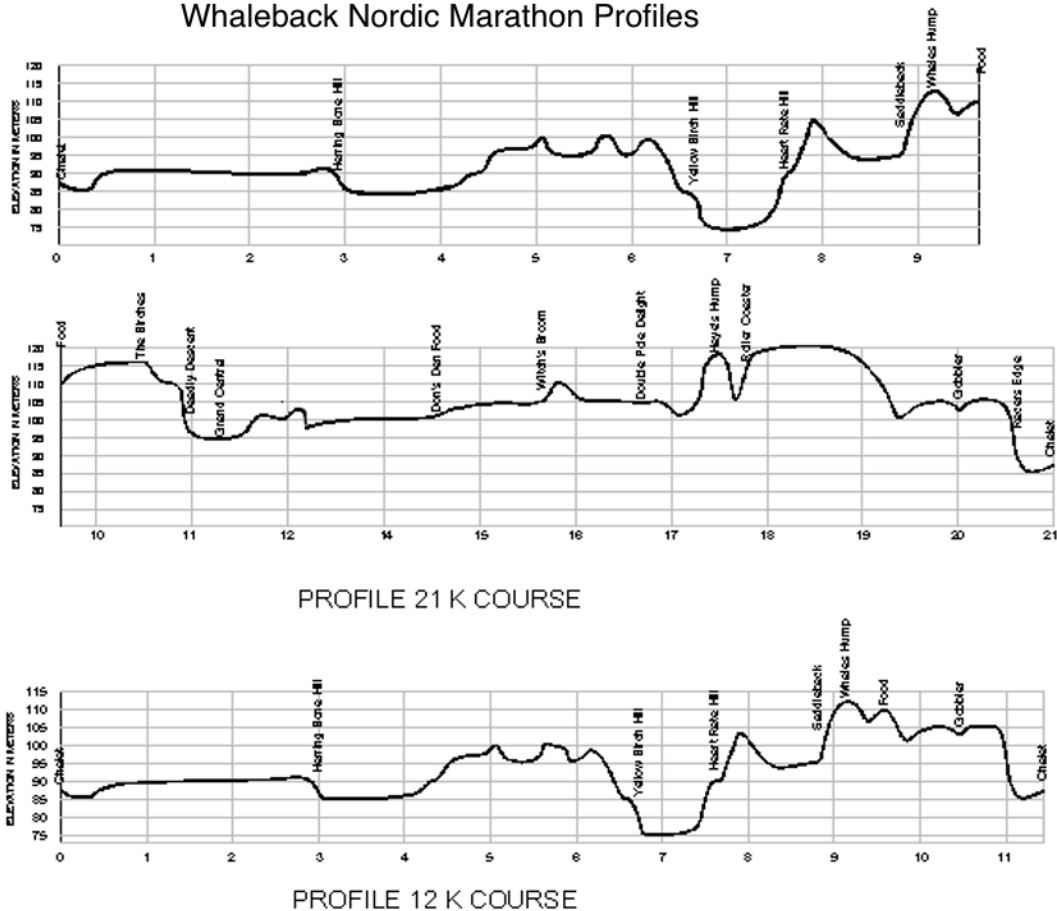
Follow the directions for the Veterans Course outlined above. Once the Veterans Course has been completed, have some refreshments and head out on another 21 km lap of the course.



A “Metro” map of the 21 km route with key points displaying kilometers skied.



Whaleback Nordic Marathon Profiles



General Information

Chief of Competition: Karla Swift

Technical Delegate: Bruce Legrow

Chief of Course: Carter Powers

Chief of Timing: Patrick Brewer

Event Title: **The Outfitters, 56th Annual NL Cross-Country Ski Marathon**

Time & Location: Saturday, February 28th, 2026 (Sunday in case of inclement weather). Whaleback Nordic Ski Park. Stephenville Route 490 and Cold Brook Road.

Distances: 42km (21km x2); 21km; 12km; 8km; and 2.5km

Registration: All registrations must be done on Zone 4 at the link below.

<https://zone4.ca/register.asp?id=41069>

Deadline for Banquet: **Wednesday, 25 February, 11:59pm**

Deadline for Ski Event: **Wednesday, 25 February, 11:59pm**

Late Registration: Late registration will not be accepted. Unregistered skiers who arrive Saturday morning up to 9:00 am may be permitted to ski, but will not be issued an official bib nor have a time recorded.

Eligibility: This event is open to all skiers of any ski club registered with Cross Country Newfoundland and Labrador and/or Nordiq Canada. Skiers who are not members of a registered club are welcome, but are not eligible for any trophy awards.

Bib Distribution: Check-in and distribution of **Bib Numbers** and **Timing Chips** will take place at Whaleback Nordic ski chalet on Saturday morning from 9:00 am to 10:00 am.

10:00 a.m. **Classic 42km skiers:** Any skier planning to complete the 42 km course by Classic Technique must alert the Chief of Competition prior to 9:00 a.m. on race day, February 28th. **Classic Skiers registered for 42km will start 1 hour ahead**

of everyone else; anticipated **start time 10:00 a.m.**

Classic 21km skiers: Any skier planning to complete the 21km course by Classic Technique has the option to start 1 hour ahead at 10:00am. You are requested to alert the Chief of Competition if you choose to start early.

Bunnyrabbit 2.5km skiers: all Bunnyrabbits planning to complete the 2.5km course will also start at 10am.

10:15 a.m. Remaining Skiers should be assembled near the chalet; warm drinks and light snacks will be available before the event; all bibs and chips must be picked up before 10:00.

11:00 a.m. Mass start for all remaining Marathon Event Skiers

2:00 p.m. Marathon Course (42km) skiers must be starting their second lap by 2:00pm; **Lap lane will close at 2:01 pm.**

Refreshments: Refreshments will be available at 2 points along the route (Rendezvous Intersection and Don's Den) as well as in the stadium area. Food and beverages will also be available at the chalet before and during the marathon. Whaleback is not licensed to sell beer, wine or spirits. *(Note: We accept cash or debit/credit in the chalet)*

Banquet: Our celebration dinner starts at 6pm on the Saturday evening following the marathon at the Stephenville Lions Club Den, 2 Woodland Street, Stephenville. A hot turkey dinner and desserts will be served. A vegetarian option will be available. A kids meal of homemade macaroni and cheese with garlic bread will also be available. The banquet will go ahead even if the ski event has to be delayed to Sunday for weather conditions. The cost is \$30.00 for the turkey dinner (or vegetarian dish), \$10.00 for the kids homemade macaroni, and free for children 9 years and under.

Please make banquet reservations in advance on Zone 4 when registering so that the organizing committee can determine catering numbers **and also indicate if you have special dietary requirements.** Registered skiers can reserve

additional tickets for guests on Zone 4.

If banquet tickets are not able to be purchased on Zone 4, they can also be reserved by contacting Georgina Gaudon at **643-9540** or by e-mail at **georgina@persona.ca**. Offline reservations must be made before 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 25 February 2026.

Sponsored by:

This event is presented under the auspices of Cross-Country Newfoundland and Labrador (CCNL) & Whaleback Nordic Ski Club; Participants in **The Outfitters, 56th Annual Newfoundland and Labrador Cross-Country Ski Marathon** are encouraged to patronize our official sponsor, **THE OUTFITTERS**, based in St. John's.

Accommodations:

Below is a list of hotels in Stephenville. You are encouraged to call at your earliest convenience to make reservations. Accommodations are limited in the immediate Bay St. George Area and frequently occupied by other co-incident events.

Days Inn
709-643-6666

DreamCatcher Lodge
709-702-6961

Acadian Hotel
709-643-5176

Keyano Motel
709-643-4600

Razoolies Inn
709-283-2377

Accommodations are also available in the Corner Brook area which is approximately an hour commute to the ski park, so plan your travel schedule accordingly.

Safety:

Refreshments will be provided at marked points on the trail. Local Search and Rescue members will be available for emergency First Aid and the snowmobile patrol will be prepared for emergency evacuations, if required.

Use of HF Waxes:

Fluorocarbon waxes are not permitted in Provincial Competitions.

REPEAT NOTE: **No Late registrations will be accepted.** Unregistered skiers who arrive Saturday morning up to 9:00 a.m. will be permitted to participate, but will not be issued an official bib nor have a time recorded.

Event Categories and Fee Structure:

Fees below do not include HST or the Nordiq Canada Tier 3 Event Sanction fee of \$3 per person. Payment is by credit card only via Zone 4. A family rate of \$80 + HST is also available (banquet tickets not included),

Marathon Racing Divisions (Male & Female)

Letter	Category	Birth Year	Age (by 2026.12.31)	Distance	Fee
A	Masters 5	1956 & earlier	70 and over	21.0km	\$25
B	Masters 4	1965 & earlier	61 and over	42.0 km	\$25
C	Masters 3	1966-1975	51 – 60	42.0 km	\$25
D	Masters 2	1976-1985	41 – 50	42.0 km	\$25
E	Masters 1	1986-1995	31 – 40	42.0 km	\$25
F	Senior	1996-2005	21 – 30	42.0 km	\$25
G	Junior 2	2006-2009	17 – 20	21.0km	\$25
H	Junior 1	2010-2013	13 – 16	12.0 km	\$25
I	Jackrabbit	2014 & later	12 and under	8.0 km	\$10
J	Bunny Rabbit	2014 & later	12 and under	2.5km	\$10

****Skiers are only eligible for medals within their respective category as detailed in the table above. Skiers may choose to ski in one division above their age category and will be given an official time but will not be eligible for medals or trophies.**

Recreational Skiers: Any skier wishing to ski recreationally (i.e. not race) can choose from any of the distances offered. Bibs must be worn to ensure positive control over all athletes on the course. Participation medals will be provided for all recreational skiers.

For more information contact:

Shawn Tilley, Competition Secretary
P O Box 473
Stephenville, NL. A2N 3A3
whalebackskiclub@gmail.com

e-mail: whalebackskiclub@gmail.com

Register Online through Zone4:

<https://zone4.ca/register.asp?id=41069>

Club Trophies:

Ernie Langins trophy awarded to club with the highest participation level

Arthur Baker Memorial Trophy awarded to the fastest team (3 persons) on 42 km course

Percy Pieroway trophy awarded to fastest women's team (3 persons) on 42 km course

Note: A female can only qualify for one team on the 42 km course (cannot qualify for both Arthur Baker and Percy Pieroway trophies). Skiers must declare their club affiliation at registration. Skiers who are members of two clubs must declare a single club representation.

Medals:

Gold, Silver and Bronze in each Marathon Racing Division. Skiers are only eligible for medals within their respective category as detailed in the tables above. Participation medals will be given to all recreational skiers.

GOLD LEVEL



outfitters
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SILVER LEVEL



BRONZE LEVEL

Harvey Gale and Sons Ltd



Stephenville, NL

paintshop



**Area 6
Construction**