

RA SKI-MAIL APRIL 1, 2021

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WEEKLONG 2022 – SUNSHINE VILLAGE, ALBERTA

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Jan. 29 – Feb. 5, 2022

COST: We're working on that. Stay tuned.

The RA Ski & Outdoor Club is planning next year's week-long ski/snowboard trip. We have decided to stay in Canada and have picked the most progressive resort ever, in the magnificent Rockies. We hope that you will be as excited about this particular adventure as we are.

In addition to amazing slopes, Sunshine Village Ski Resort promises to promote a friendly and inviting atmosphere where friendships can be nourished, mental health can be enhanced, and sunshine is ... well ... a given. ☀️

Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't delay!  
For all the details about the trip, click on the link below.

<https://youtu.be/U0Z1FcGk32Q>

We'll be flying Ottawa-Calgary on a WestJet's kids-free flight:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4SkoJy3D0M>

CYCLING – ICE CREAM CRAWL

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Saturday July 3.

Meet: RA West wing lobby doors at 9:15 a.m. for departure at 9:30.

We will visit 20 of Ottawa's best ice cream stores, including Stella Luna Gelato Café in old Ottawa South, the Beachconers in Britannia, and the Sundae School in New Edinburgh. We suggest fasting the day before.

Trip Leader: Mergatroid McGillicutty

## DOWNHILL SKI SEASON EXTENDED!

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Fortunately, Camp Fortune and other local ski hills, including Mont Tremblant, have combined to purchase an entire shipload of high-density thermal blankets, which will arrive shortly after the Suez Canal reopens. All remaining snow will be covered with a heat-proof layer, and preserved until every skier is vaccinated. Then the hills will reopen, hopefully for the July 1 weekend.

All passes will be honoured every day, 24 hours a day.

See you all at the lifts.

## CAMP FORTUNE TO BECOME CANADA'S LARGEST SKI AREA

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Camp Fortune will be expanding next winter, to become the largest downhill ski area in Canada. Over the summer, all of Gatineau Park's cross-country trails and parkways will be converted to downhill runs, adding over 200 km of trails to Camp Fortune's existing network of runs. The cross-country trails will all be widened (except for the parkways), and wherever there is an uphill on a cross-country trail, a ski lift will be added.

The added ski runs will make Camp Fortune larger than Canada's former largest ski area, Whistler-Blackcomb, which has a mere 200 km of ski trails.

## AN EXCITING NEW PRODUCT

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In an effort to create new and exciting Toys-for-Boys, girls too, a ski manufacturer and a kayak manufacturer have combined forces and come up with a new product having the best features of both kayaking and skiing. The trade name for this new product has been officially registered and is known as KAYAsKi, an eye catching name which within and of itself is also an eye catching logo.

Basically this is a two person sit-in craft similar to a kayak but articulating in the central area similar to an OC Transpo Bendi-Bus and has a pair of molded-in ski like runners under each segment. The key to the successful development of the KAYAsKi was a serendipitous spin off of the discovery of a new super strong yet flexible polymer permitting a smooth rather than an accordion like joint between the two segments. Not to be confused with the four-man bobsled which is confined to a narrow track, the KAYAsKi will be able to whisk daredevils down any ski slope regardless of terrain, be it bumpy, smooth, wide or confined. It's a go anywhere craft capable of exciting speeds and G-force thrills.

Directional control via foot rests is the responsibility of the front passenger. Speed and braking are the responsibility of the rear passenger who, at the moment, has no idea what the hell he's going to do because so far he has nothing to do it with. Yes, there are still some bugs to be ironed out, but bear with us, we're working on them. You might say they're up the peak without a pedal. Them's the breaks.

Getting to the top of the hill can be a little tricky. To facilitate this maneuver a stabilizing device inside the KAYAsKi is activated to lock the two segments into a rigid unit. One person then grasps the front handle and gets on the 'first' lift chair and the second person grasps the rear handle and gets on the next lift chair. Once at the top the front person releases his end and the rear person pushes the KAYAsKi forward over the departure hump as he arrives and unloads. The two then trade seats for the next run down because the front lift person is predictably all kinked up from awkwardly hanging on to the front of the KAYAsKi on the ride up.

Well that's a brief summary of the exciting new KAYAsKi and I encourage you to head out to a nearby Mike'sMegaMart, home of 'Sports-for-Sports', where you can see the all new KAYAsKi just in time for the 2021-22 winter season, (2021 - 22 1/2 in NFLD).

Accessories available:

- Air bags, single or double
- First aid kit
- Health card holder(s)

Happy KAYAsKiing.

#### THINGS I DID DURING THE COVID LOCKDOWN

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- Cleaned my skis.
- Spent the days admiring my skis.
- Watched TV wearing my ski boots, skis, ski jacket, helmet and goggles.

#### RA SKI CLUB TO GIVE BEGINNER XC LESSONS!

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Date: December 30-31, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20 (cash only, no bitcoins please.)

MEET: RA west wing lobby at 8:45 a.m. for departure at 9.

The RA Ski Club used to give cross-country ski lessons, but we haven't done that for a number of years. However, next winter we will offer a weekend of cross-country ski lessons for beginners. We will use as a basis the book, "Backcountry Skiing Adventures – Avalanche Skill Training and Crevasse Rescue – Steep Skiing Clinics." Bring an avalanche shovel, avalanche detector and 20 feet of rope.

Course conductor: Tom Wiley

### WHY DO I TELEMARX?

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If you want to draw attention on alpine skis or snowboard, you need to be REALLY good. If you want to draw attention on telemark skis, you just need to make it down the hill.

### TEST YOUR SKI KNOWLEDGE

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The first person to answer all questions correctly wins the Grand Prize. We will whisk you away by electric scooter to the Almonte fair, where you will be a judge in the best artichoke competition.

1. Which Canadian won an Olympic Gold medal in moguls?
  - a) Justin Trudeau
  - b) Justin Bieber
  - c) Doug Ford
  - d) Jennifer Heil
  
2. Which cross-country ski area has the shortest length of ski trails?
  - a) Gatineau Park
  - b) Val David/Far Hills XC Ski Centre
  - c) Mont Sainte Anne XC Ski Centre
  - d) Sir John A. MacDonald ski trail
  
3. Which Canadian ski hill has the most runs?
  - a) Camp Fortune
  - b) Vorlage
  - c) Whistler Blackcomb
  - d) Pakenham
  
4. In 1956, in Cortina Italy, Lucille Wheeler won Canada's first ever Olympic medal (a bronze) in alpine skiing. How many days did she ski that winter?

Answers in our next Ski-Mail.

### RA SKI Q&A CORNER

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The RA Ski club reached into its mailbag to answer some ski-related questions from our members.

1. Q: Is there an advantage in buying shorter downhill skis?

A: This is an easy question to answer. The RA ski club downhill program runs a weeklong trip, a weekend trip, as well as a couple of day bus trips to St-Sauveur and Mont Tremblant. In addition, we have a mid-week meet'n'ski, where once a week we carpool to a different local ski hill.

2. Q: I want to take up snowshoeing. Should I buy aluminum snowshoes or ones made of a composite material?

A: Excellent question. The RA Ski Club has a strong snowshoe program, led by Doris Dallaire. Our schedule includes both weekends and weekdays, and we car-pool to local trails including Mont Cascades, the Greenbelt, Gatineau Park, Wakefield and a moonlight outing to Mer Bleu.

3. Q: Sometimes I have difficulty getting my cross-country boots to clip into my skis. Do you have any tips?

A: Yes. Sometimes I have the same problem with my boots, and the fix is easy. The RA Ski Club has an extensive cross-country program, and we go out every week, alternating Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons. Most of our outings are in Gatineau Park, but several times we ski elsewhere, such as Nakkertok and Montebello.

#### SPORTS CORNER

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#### OTTAWA SENATORS WIN THE 2021 STANLEY CUP

The Ottawa Senators hockey team announced today they have won this year's Stanley Cup, even though the series won't be played until July. The Sens owner Eugene Melnic announced the win, and said that the Sens deserve to win it more than any other team, since they haven't won the cup since 1927.

The Sens win will eliminate the need to play the 357 playoff games, and thereby not exposing players to the COVID-19 virus. Also, during the COVID pandemic, players don't like playing hockey any more, because of the close contact. They'd rather go skiing, since on a ski hill it's easy to physically distance.

#### RA SKI HEALTH CORNER

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#### Today's Dieting Tip

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If you eat other people's food, it's their calories so it doesn't count.

Today's Exercising Tip

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I discovered a shortcut today. If you put your Fitbit in the dryer, you can get a head start on your steps. I had 3,800 steps in before I put on my pants!

SEE PREVIOUS APRIL FOOLS SKI-MAILS

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To see all our previous RA Ski Club's April-Fools Day Ski-Mails, from 2008 to 2020, go to [www.raski.ca](http://www.raski.ca), and click on "Apr. Phools" on the lower left-hand side, in the "Stay Informed" box.

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