

RA SKI-MAIL APRIL 1, 2022

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2023 WEEKLONG SKI TRIP

Sat. Jan. 28 – Sat. Feb. 4, 2023

The Weeklong Ski Trip for 2023 has been organized early this year, to beat the rush. It will take place at world renowned Thunder Bay Ski Resorts.

The resort boasts 2.5 locations for downhill skiing and 4.25 world class XC venues for classic and skate skiers. Snowshoers will find trails galore to suit their fancy, all within walking distance of the resort or further into the bush, should you prefer back country.

Andrea and Marg will greet you at the airport and have lined up friends and family to drive you to the Camp (a Thunder Bay term, but don't let it fool you), located on the shore of Lake Superior.

Lodgings will spoil you with a spectacular view, comfy beds, a hot tub, and wood-fired Finnish sauna followed by a roll in the snow. (Not to be confused with a roll in the hay.) Gourmet meals will be provided for breakfast and dinner, with take-away lunches that will always include a hot beverage to help thaw out your frozen facial muscles. Andrea has offered to serve as Chef. Please note that she loves to ski and hates cooking.

Each participant will be gifted with a fur lined toque and mitts to help ward off the -40°C temperatures that are customary in January and February.

An added bonus is that since the weeklong coincides with a full moon, we can take part in a Thunder Bay tradition: a moonlight, midnight swim in Lake Superior. Make sure to pack your swimsuit!

In the interest of transparency, this camp/resort is Marg's home and there is a slight shortage of bedrooms. To best serve our needs, ALL participants will be housed 3 to a room. Over the years we have noted that our dear ski friends, who shall remain nameless (J,E,L), have managed to make very cozy rooming arrangements in every venue we have visited.

Register early to take advantage of the early bird discount at only \$5212 per threesome.

DAY DOWNHILL BUS TRIPS

Due to the smaller registration numbers for the day bus trips lately, your hard-working executive has developed an ingenious plan to be sure the trips will go ahead next winter regardless of numbers.

To avoid weekend crowds as always, we will meet on Sunday evenings at the Buckingham Golf Course where we will be met by members of the Buckingham Snowmobile club. They will ferry us to the base of Mont Tremblant in time for first run.

We will have breakfast at the summit lodge, ski a run on the north side, a run on the Edge, a run on Versant Soleil and then follow Nansen to the base where our shuttle drivers will meet us for the return trip. We should be home in time for a late dinner. With the price of fuel this service is a bargain at only \$150 per person, lift tickets included!

CAMP FORTUNE AGREEMENT REACHED: SNOWBOARDERS VS SKIERS

Ever since snowboards were invented, there has been a controversy about letting snowboarders onto ski hills. Alpine skiers consider snowboarders as reckless dolts, whereas the snowboarders consider alpine skiers to be uncool dudes. Although many of the snowboarders ride in full control, I think most of us who ski on two skis have at some time or other been run over by a snowboarder.

Camp Fortune has tried to tone down this controversy by having a mediator meet with representatives of the snowboard and alpine ski communities. After a series of meetings, a compromise was reached and agreed to by the two groups.

Starting next ski season (winter 2022-2023), snowboarders and alpine skiers will alternate the use of the ski hills. For the 2022-2023 season, only snowboarders will be allowed at Camp Fortune. The following winter (2023-2024), Camp Fortune will only allow alpine skiers on the hill.

No more collisions, and no more grumbling between alpine skiers and snowboarders. It's a win-win for everyone.

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW AT MOUNT TREMBLANT

With restrictions lifting, things will be returning to normal at Mont Tremblant. During the pandemic, did you enjoy lower numbers on the slopes, shorter lift lines, and the smaller crowds in Le Grand Manitou and the North side's La Fouchette du Diable? If so, then this April 1st, Mont Tremblant is delivering you Big News!

TREMBLANT EATS NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

We are very excited to finally launch our new Tremblant Eats program on the mountain!

If you're hungry on a big day on the slopes, look no further.

Go to Tremblant Eats within in our Tremblant app to place your order. Your food will be skied to you wherever you are on the mountain! It comes in a easy-to-open, lap-box so you can eat on the lifts or in the gondola!

Watch the video on our website for more details.

What are you waiting for – it's that easy!

CANADIAN RESORTS TO ENFORCE SPEED LIMITS - WILL U.S. FOLLOW SUIT?

Some RASkiers to be affected?

In a bid to reduce on snow collisions and create a controlled environment during peak periods, a number of North American resorts will be implementing speed limits on selected runs next season. If the trial proves successful then all runs will move from a green, blue and black rating to a speed limit rating.

The \$15 million government led initiative for 2023/2024 season will include speed enforcing on snow patrol with hand held speed radar guns in select locations.

Green runs will be 10-20 km per hour (6 to 12 mph), intermediate blue runs will be 25-35 kph (15 to 21 mph) hour and black groomed runs will be 35-65 kph (21 to 40 mph). Those caught skiing or riding slower or faster than the dedicated speed limits will be fined. Is this a mere revenue making scheme or genuine safety concerns?

Ungroomed off-piste will not be limited with speeds, slow or fast. There is talk, however, of a future ski and snowboard license to ski off-piste.

While this initiative remains optional for Canadian resorts in 2022/2023, it is believed that select Aspen Skiing Co. and Alterra Mountain Company resorts (e.g. Tremblant) plus a handful of independents are already signing up for the trial.

USA resorts under the Vail brand may also consider implementing the speed policing, though it is not yet known if it will be trialed in the 2023 or 2024 season

MYSTERY SOLVED

My Scarpa TX-PRO telemark boots came with a small tube of grease. It's to keep snowboarders from sticking to your skis.

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 drone to the Carp fair, where you will be a judge in the best kale competition.

1. Who was the first Canadian to win a gold medal at a winter Olympic Games held in Canada?
 - a) Justin Trudeau
 - b) Justin Bieber
 - c) Nickelback
 - d) Alexandre Bilodeau

2. Which Canadian ski hill has the highest altitude?
 - a) Camp Fortune
 - b) Vorlage
 - c) Sunshine Village, Alta.
 - d) Pakenham

3. How far apart are cross-country ski tracks?
 - a) 3 metres
 - b) 3 centimetres
 - c) 3 millimetres
 - d) 17-30 centimetres

4. The Peak2Peak gondola is Canada's longest ski lift, spanning 2.7 miles to join two of BC's most famous peaks, Blackcomb and Whistler. The gondola has an unsupported stretch of 1.9 miles. Who was the foreman who supervised the construction?

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: How long should my downhill ski poles be?

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've always wanted to go downhill skiing in Europe. Will the RA Ski Club's weeklong trip next year be in Europe?

A: Excellent question. The RA Ski Club has frequently gone to Europe, and our European trips have always been popular. In the past we've skied in France, Austria, Switzerland and Andorra. For a few years we also ran summer ski trips to Chile.

- 3.Q: I just bought some cross-country skis that are 80 mm wide. Will they fit in cross-country ski tracks?

A: The RA Ski Club has an extensive cross-country program, and we go out every week, alternating Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Most of our outings are in the Greenbelt, Ottawa, or Gatineau Park, but several times we ski elsewhere, such as Nakkertok or Montebello.

SPORTS CORNER – PARALYMPIC ALPINE SKI RESULTS

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Canadian women surprised everyone in the downhill ski races at the Paralympics in Beijing. Here are the final results for the Canadians:

- Women's Slalom Standing: Michaela Gosselin 51.60
- Women's Slalom Sitting: Katie Combaluzier 1:09.75
- Women's Downhill Standing: Mollie Jepsen 1:21.75
- Women's Super-G Standing: Alana Ramsay 1:16.84

Congratulations to our Canadian skiers! We're proud of you!

HEALTH CORNER –QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY A DOCTOR

Q: How can I calculate my body/fat ratio?

A: Well, if you have a body and you have fat, your ratio is one to one. If you have two bodies, your ratio is two to one, etc.

SEEN ON A COVID MASK

Ski Dad: Like a regular dad but way cooler.

SEE PREVIOUS APRIL FOOLS SKI-MAILS

To see all our previous RA Ski Club's April-Fools Day Ski-Mails, from 2008 to 2021, go to www.raski.ca, and click on "Apr. Phools" on the lower left-hand side, in the "Stay Informed" box.

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