

RA SKI-MAIL APRIL 1, 2023

Editor-in-Chief: Glen Campbell, publicity-2020{at}raski.ca

Weeklong Editor: Mr. Campbell

Sports Editor: G. Campbell

Lifestyle Editor: Glen

Downhill Editor: Bob Cavan

Cross-Country Editor: Jane Hilliard

2024 DOWNHILL WEEKLONG

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Sat. Jan. 27 – Sun. Feb. 4, 2024

Cost: \$1049 double, \$1249 single, taxes included.

Payable by cheque or credit card. (No bitcoins please.)

We'll ski the biggest ski hills in two provinces! Two ski hills for the price of one!

We'll ski three days at Asessippi Manitoba, and three days at Ochapowace Saskatchewan, with a day in between for travel.

As our skiers in the club are getting old and gray, we are starting to get complaints that our weeklong ski trips always go to hills where the runs are too long and hard. So, this year we've chosen two hills that are a bit easier, but are still the biggest ski hills in their province.

Asessippi is the biggest ski resort in Manitoba. 15,200 centimetres of vertical. That's 3/4 as high as Camp Fortune! Asessippi is located west of Winnipeg, close to the Saskatchewan border.

Ochapowace is the east of Regina, and is Saskatchewan's biggest ski resort. 16,700 centimetres of vertical. That's even bigger than Asessippi!

The high cost of our weeklong trips has been another complaint we hear, so to keep the cost down we have arranged for snowmobiles to move us from one ski area to the other.

Two more ski hills to check off your bucket list!

2024 CROSS-COUNTRY WEEKLONG

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Jan. 12 – 19, 2024

This just in! For our first time, the RA Ski Club is having a cross-country ski weeklong trip!

Inspired by the video widely seen on the RA ski Facebook page, we will travel to Norway and ski at the Sjusjoen Cross-country ski centre for 5 days, followed by 2 days learning about reindeer herding practices. Trip option: a reindeer-pulled sleigh ride to discover what Santa does in the winter months post-Christmas!

Registration begins April 1.

DUFFY DUALS MOGULS

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Roger Duffy, RA Ski's mogul champion, has entered the Duffy Duals Mogul competition at Camp Fortune on April 1. His duals mogul partner, Bob Cavan, was reluctant to join Roger in this extreme event but recent practice sessions at Mont Ste-Marie has given him some confidence that he may survive the event.

Roger's motto, "You only live once, so your last day might as well be on skis" might come true as he is quoted as saying, "These are the last moguls I will ever do".

While the double diamond Duffy run at Camp Fortune is not named after Roger, he feels he must show up and compete to uphold the family name. The Duffy name will continue on at Camp Fortune after the event – with or without Roger.

SAT. JUNE 17 – XC SKI & GOLF, ANDERSON LINKS

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Unlike downhill skiing, you don't need snow to cross-country ski. As long as you have nice grass, cross-country skiing is just fine. So, we are combining two of our favourite past-times - skiing and golf. We'll golf on our cross-country skis. Downhill skiers can join us, as we need some volunteers to drive the golf carts that carry our gear while we ski the fairways.

You don't have to be a good golfer to join us, as we are only playing for fun. As long as you know which end of the club to hold, you meet the requirements to join us. Also, you don't need to be a good cross-country skier either, as the fairways are relatively flat, and you don't pick up much speed skiing on grass. As long as you know that the skis go binding-side up, you can join us.

This trip is organized by Doris Dallaire, a one-time expert downhill skier who was very anti-cross-country skiing at the time. However, once she retired from downhill skiing due to injuries, she became a passionate XC skier who now cross-country skis year-round in the Ottawa area.

If you want to join us, let Doris know by June 10, so she can reserve tee-times. Contact her at social-2020{at}raski.ca

There is no rain date, as cross-country skiing on wet grass is easier and even more fun.

QUEEN ELIZABETH MISSES OUT ON SKIING AT VORLAGE

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It's unfortunate that Queen Elizabeth II passed away recently. She was planning to abdicate once she reached 97, and let Prince Charles take over. At her age, she had enough of doing queenly duties like cutting ribbons and shaking hands. So, she decided it was time to tick off the items on her bucket list: bungee jumping, parachuting, zip-lining, and snowboarding.

She was looking forward to learning to snowboard at Vorlage, a ski hill she had heard was known to be family oriented. She wanted to see what real families were like, as her family was dysfunctional, most of whom she felt were a bunch of useless twits.

Quebec's Premier Legault was excited about the Queen's visit, and to make her feel welcome and more comfortable, he decreed that during her 3-day visit, cars would switch to driving on the left-hand side of the road. Realizing that this would be a problem for many drivers, he would make the transition gradual. For the first day, just the trucks.

CAMP FORTUNE SKI SEASON IS EXTENDED

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Good news for downhill skiers!

Camp Fortune is tired of being beaten by St-Sauveur, which year after year is the first ski hill to open in Eastern Canada, and the last ski hill to close down (May 8th last year). So, Camp Fortune announced today that this spring, Camp Fortune will stay open for skiers until July 3rd, and will re-open for the 2023-24 season on August 15th.

Don't put your skis away yet!

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 snowmobile to the pristine, snow-covered Carp Dump where you will have the ski hill all to yourself for the whole morning.

1. Which Canadian ski hill was the first to open in 2022-23?

- a) Vorlage
- b) Mont Ste-Marie
- c) Sunshine Village, Alta.
- d) Camp Fortune

2. Which ski hill is the most northern one in the world?

- a) Vorlage
- b) Mont Ste-Marie
- c) Tremblant
- d) Calabogie
- e) Northcape Alpine resort in Norway

3. How will we be getting to next year's weeklong ski trip in Europe?

- a) OC Transpo
- b) Uber Eats
- c) Via Rail
- d) True
- e) False

4. Jean-Luc Brassard won Canada's first-ever freestyle medal, a gold, at the winter Olympics in Lillehammer in 1964. When he flew home to Canada, who was the pilot?

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: Will I ski faster with longer skis or shorter ones?

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 really enjoyed the RA Ski Club's weeklong trip to Zermatt in 2010. Can we go back there again?

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: How far apart are cross-county 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.

4. How long should my cross-country ski poles be?

A: If you think you're going to fall when cross-country skiing, sit down on your skis and roll to the side.

WORLD CUP SKIING RESULTS

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Canadian men and women surprised everyone at the final downhill races at Soldeu, Andorra by how well they did. Here are the final results for the Canadians.

- Women's Slalom: Amelia Smart 56.79
- Men's Downhill: James Crawford 1:27.35
- Men's Super-G: Jeffrey Read 1:24.78
- Women's Giant Slalom: Valerie Grenier 57.22

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

SECRET TO A LONG MARRIAGE

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Reporter: How long have you two been married?

Wife: 72 years.

Reporter: What is the secret to being married so long? Is it because you always ski together?

Wife: No, it's because he refuses to die.

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 2022, 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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