

## **RA SKI-MAIL APRIL 1, 2024**

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### **WEEKEND 2025 UPDATE**

We're still working on the destination, but it will be somewhere in Europe, either France or Austria. European trips are now very expensive, but we've figured out a way to keep the cost down.

We will be flying with a company that provides the airplane, but not the pilots. For the pilot, we are accepting any people who know how to fly a plane, and if you don't, we're accepting people who kinda know how to play Mario Kart or Grand Theft Auto. If there is no one on board with those qualifications, we will take anyone who has a driver's license. Just go up to the cockpit for the first leg of the flight for tryouts.

To keep costs down even more, they are not providing any meals, but are charging you to eat your own food. \$2 for a bag of chips and \$5 for a sandwich. Also, it will cost 37 cents every time you look out the window.

### **CAMP FORTUNE ECLIPSE PRECAUTIONS**

Due to the total eclipse on April 8, Camp Fortune has announced that night skiing will start at noon and all skiers must wear headlamps so they don't run into each other.

### **GATINEAU PARK TO CLOSE APRIL 8 DUE TO ECLIPSE**

Gatineau Park to close on April 8, 2024 due to solar eclipse

The NCC has posted a notice on their website that Gatineau Park will be closed at noon on Monday, April 8, 2024 due to the solar eclipse occurring later that afternoon.

A spokesperson for the NCC states that the risk to park users when the skies suddenly darken will be too great and that the park will be closed for safety reasons. The spokesperson also states that animals coming out of winter hibernation may be confused by the dark sky and act irrationally, putting humans at risk. Also, there will be no park staff available during the eclipse to respond to emergencies as park operations will cease during the eclipse event and all employees will be ordered to stay indoors to avoid the hazard. The NCC apologizes for the inconvenience but adds it is for the safety of park animals and park users.

### **CAMP FORTUNE TO INSTALL SPEED CAMERAS**

Camp Fortune has announced a surprise in store for next year's ski season- one that Ottawa motorists are becoming familiar with.

Clifford Marshall, Camp Fortune's Manager of Operations, has announced that the use of speed cameras on ski hills has become necessary due to the excessive speeding by some skiers on runs like Canadian and Heggveit. While most skiers obey the "rules of the snow", Mr. Marshall said that some skiers feel they can just go as fast as their skis will allow. "Some people even put wax on their skis to make them go faster" said Mr. Marshall incredulously. The idea to use speed cameras on a ski hill came to Mr. Marshall when he got nabbed for speeding in his car on the way to Camp Fortune. "It struck me that I was given a fine for going more than 50 km/hr in my car, while I know that skiers going down runs at Skyline go much faster than that....and they are not even wearing seatbelts !!"

Mr. Marshall said that speed cameras will be mobile and operated by "ski hill officers" who will have the latest technology to record the speeding skier and can capture their RFID signal, thus allowing fines to be

immediately imposed. When asked if speed cameras on ski hills was just another cash-grab, Mr. Marshall said, "We want skiers to enjoy spending an arm and a leg, not breaking an arm and a leg"

## **DH SKI-TECHNOLOGY REVOLUTION**

Using AI-engineered, carbon fibre and LED technology, a new UK-Austrian start-up is set to take the ski industry by storm in 2024-25. Described as the mood-ring of skis, the Skibrella brand telescoping downhill skis will adjust to the skier's feelings and conditions by expanding from 130-200cm, and illuminating the snow under your skis, all this using a fob inside your mitt.

John Nutington of Wright-Enzain Enterprises also pointed out the advantages of being able to pack the skis in carry-on luggage. "We've solved the packing hassle and increased your range of skiing options, all in one go!" Coming to a ski store near you.

## **LATEST IN CROSS-COUNTRY SKIS**

Cross country skiers will see a major change in ski technology coming next year. Rossignol is introducing an electric ski that will have similar features to that of e-bikes and e-scooters and even have e-vehicle technology like GPS and regenerative charging. The "e-ski" will have a motorized track mounted on the underside of the ski, similar to that of a snowmobile, that will have the ability to power skiers at speeds of 10 km/hr or higher, and with battery life of up to 8 hours with intermittent use. Going uphill with power assist, and re-charging of the batteries while going downhill will be possible with this technology and kits will even be available to insert the electric track in the space that skin skis use on the underside of the ski. Pricing has not been announced yet but this will be a game-changer for the cross-country ski industry.

## **NEW HIGH-SPEED CHAIR FOR CAMP FORTUNE**

Plans were announced by Camp Fortune today for a new high-speed chair to the top of Meech which will load at Skyline. Time from end-to-end on the lift will be 6 seconds, making it the highest-speed lift in North America. Because the trail through the woods is rarely open, and the alternative is a circuitous route through Humdinger and up Pineault chair, the new chair will save skiers and especially boarders much time and effort.

A toll will be used to fund the new "407 to Meech". In keeping with modern practices, however, this toll requires no cash. Readers will read your Fortune RDIF card automatically as you pass each tower. It is hoped skiers do not jump to avoid tolls. Costs are still being refined, but it's expected to cost less than a day-pass at Mont Tremblant to ride the new chair.

## **CALYPSO WATERPARK PROPOSES WINTER ACTIVITIES**

This year, ski areas faced an extremely short season. Many resorts have branched into multi-season activities: mountain-biking, water slides, mountain coasters and zip-lines.

On the flip-side, what is there to do if a traditional waterpark-only is feeling the pinch of an extremely short summer season?

One local waterpark, Limoges' Calypso Waterpark, has big plans to become a winter hub of activities. The park has an aggressive Fall 2024 renovation plan.

Many of the slides will be refrigerated and covered in natural and man-made snow from mid-December to early-April. Flat-water features will be frozen to accommodate cross-country skiers and ice-skaters.

### Alpine

Get ready for an adrenaline rush! Skiers can line up and race down the eight undulating slides of the Fast Track in challenges of 2-8 racers at a time. Be the first to pass the checkered flag at the bottom! Next to the Track, individual racers can shoot out of the starting Tube and plummet down from the dizzying heights in a straight drop of the single Adrenaline run.

Canyon Rafting – Get ready to experience a heart-racking rush of thrills and chills as you ski down tight turns and high side-walls.

Family Twisters – Whirl around twists and turns and duck into short tubes as you descend through the winding curves. Family Twisters offer 4 different super fun and colourful descents... with just the right amount of wow! to please the whole family!

### Cross-Country

Cross-country skiers can jump onto the groomed classic and skate-ski tracks of the Kongo Expedition loop. Ski around deserted islands, past caves and waterfalls, and watch out for the exotic animals, reptiles and sneaky primates along the way! After a few trips around the Expedition, XC skiers can trek across the frozen beach to relax in the sun on the shore, and have a picnic lunch in the sun chairs. Bar service will be available on the weekends.

### Skating

Jungle Run and Challenge – the calm currents will be frozen over to a smooth surface and open to ice-skaters to explore frosty caves, frozen waterfalls, and other surprises lurking as they skate by. Skaters can hop over to the Jungle Challenge to test their agility as they skate around a pond full of obstacles such as logs, water lilies, crocodiles and other surprises.

Funtana – At the center is a majestic castle offering a frozen oasis of fun for youngsters. The splash pad will become an ice pond for the little ones to skate under the tunnels and around the creatures.

### Ice Climbing

Boomerango and Zoomerang – the centre of the vertical walls at the end of these slides will offer ice-climbers exciting encounters with sheer ice faces. Once reaching the summit, simply move to one side and shoot down the slide to the bottom to begin again!

## **SEE PREVIOUS APRIL FOOLS SKI-MAILS**

To see all our previous RA Ski Club's April-Fools Day Ski-Mails, from 2008 to 2022, 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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