



Trails Committee Report for 2020

What a year! For our 30th season, we dealt with both the virus and record crowds it delivered to the trails. After the panic of finding the parking lot full to overflowing, our staff soon found their rhythm and every record for the number of skiers and snowshoers was broken: most per day, most per week, most per year. And our revenues followed suit.

Having some inkling of what was coming from reports around the province in the fall of 2020, we knew that interest in outdoor activities including skiing and snowshoeing would be high but we didn't have any idea how high. We hired extra staff to get ready and to deal with Covid infection concerns but even so we weren't fully prepared for the wave that followed. People kept coming and kept coming back!

By the beginning of the season we have seen a 90% increase in membership compared to last year and an equivalent increase in membership revenue. At the Trails gate, again compared with last year, we have seen *as of Feb 27th* :

- 64% increase in skiers
- 100% increase in snowshoers
- 66% in night skiing
- 150% increase in rental revenues
- 100% increase in day pass revenues

Apart from the relatively crowded trails and the sheer number of smiling faces glad to be out of the locked down city, other highlights of the season include the big increase in the lighting display around the lake and the big increase in lessons given by our staff. Serena and Roy somehow managed to squeeze in 100 short duration lessons. And Family day was a big success once again: together we donated over 300lbs of food and raised \$2200 for the Kamloops Foodbank.

Two free snowshoe days sponsored by Sportical and Play Kamloops. Both sessions were very successful.

Unfortunately, the promising start we made on social events last season came to a stop because of the virus but the stuffie trail continues for the younger crowd and the socially distanced full moon Wolf Howl in February was a big success thanks to our Night Man Roy.

The increase in numbers on the trail also led to an increase in the number of accidents, mostly as a result of simple falls. All were dealt with promptly by our staff.

A copy of our Annual Trails report to Recreation Sites and Trails BC for 2019-20, which is required under the terms of our contract, can be found on the club web site and the report for the season underway will be available in October.

The work of maintaining the machines and setting the tracks sometimes seems never ending and we owe a huge vote of thanks to the crews. This year they included: Thomas Bennett; Lee Card; Tim Cole; Ryan DeVisser; Mike Fleury; Peter Findlay; Luc Guilherme; John Hutchings; Chris Jones; Jason Ladyman; Denis Loewen; Dana Manhard; Keith McIntosh; Michel Peron; Garry Plant; Peter Prochotsky; Bill Rideout; Tomas Ruberg; Mike Scarff; Kerry Spear; Mike Stewart-Smith; Klaus Voss; Peter Voss.

There is also the job of maintaining the trails in the summer. This involves lots of volunteers. Klaus Mey coordinated the work and Tim Cole and his crew dealt with many fallen trees and debris on the snowshoe trails.

Building maintenance is another job that our volunteers take pride in accomplishing, and last fall the trail shelters were renovated all with new roofs and some with new footings.

This year we have more “promotion” again thanks to the efforts of Vesta, Chelsea and Tourism Kamloops.

I want to thank our staff for their sustained efforts over the season and for representing us so well. Chelsea was appointed Trails Manager in the fall and was faced with the immediate task of preparing Covid protocols. She has been supported by Paul DeVries who helped with the physical alterations in the Day lodge, our new “Mr. Nights” Roy Langdon, Michael Lanyon, Rachel Komori, and Eden Saari. Serena Lindsey was recruited to teach lessons to the public and to help Shelley Davidson with S’Kool Ski. Roy Davidson also assisted with the short durations public ski lessons.

In conclusion, I want to acknowledge the work of the other members of the Trails Committee:

Tim Cole; Luc Guilherme; Chris Jones; Klaus Mey; Garry Plant and Klaus Voss. Lisa Palechuk retired from the Committee at the end of last season.

Alan Vyse

March 1st 2021



And one last number! We have seen 363,509 customers in the last 30 years. And climbing!