

## Great News from Lake Louise

### Plans to make Lake Louise a World Class XC ski destination in 5 years!

Within the limits of being in a World Heritage Site and Canada's first National Park.

#### Thanks to many years effort by volunteers from Calgary Ski Club & Lake Louise Loppet.

Status of Lake Louise trails as of December 1, 2010

- ❖ Improved XC ski trails started by National Parks in 2008/09 following 8 years of volunteer trail improvements using chainsaw, pick & shovel by the Calgary Ski Club with Parks approval.
- ❖ New maps, brochures, trail signage plus new map boards and information kiosks at trailheads and "you are here" maps on the trails.
- ❖ New classification of ski trails based on measurements of slope, height difference as set out in the Trail Design Workshop 2004 by Cross Country Canada.
- ❖ New by-passes of steeper hills and new connectors to provide options for skiers of all abilities:
  - 2 by-passes on Fairview Loop to avoid steep hills at east end.
  - 2 short connectors on Lower Telemark to offer easy shortcuts for skiers.
  - New easy connectors on Upper Telemark to by-pass the "Big Hill" and "Big Bend".
  - New trail to Deer Lodge to avoid Chateau staff residences and maintenance yard.
- ❖ New levels of service for tracksetting and grooming discussed and agreed in November:
  - Increase from 2 to 3 National Park staff and sets of equipment.
  - Operational staff to be in place November 1 – March 31 (mid-April in future)
  - Trackset roadways with 10 – 15 cm compacted snow.
  - Trackset other trails when snow compacts to 30 – 50 cm to cover stumps & boulders.
  - Grooming general priorities established as follows:
    1. Upper Lake Louise (Fairview, Telemark, Tramline, 2 roadways, Lakeshore)
    2. Village and Campground trails
    3. Pipestone Trails
  - Grooming frequency will remain reactive to snowfall or snow deterioration.
  - Using all resources, it takes 3 days to groom the high priority trails in Upper Lake Louise.
- ❖ Collect Nordic Trail use data winter 2010/11 to quantify visitor use and trail preferences.
- ❖ One-month trial of narrow 8 ½ feet wide snowcat over Christmas if snow depth permits.
- ❖ Planning meeting in January to develop 5-year plan to make Lake Louise a "World Class XC ski destination" while retaining the "narrower, more intimate traditional ski trails" as befits a World Heritage Site and Canada's First National Park.
  - Extending the length of season to include the Easter Holiday.
  - Enhanced grooming to provide freshly groomed tracks prior to peak periods of visitations including weekends and holidays.
  - New trails suitable for beginner skiers following Environmental Impact Assessments.
  - Better facilities such as warming huts and "Tea House destinations" for skiers.
- ❖ Thanks are due to the Calgary Ski Club and Lake Louise Loppet volunteers over many years for:
  - Having the vision to improve XC skiing at Lake Louise in Alberta's snow-belt.
  - Advocating at National Parks meetings over 8 years for XC skiing at Lake Louise.
  - Fundraising to pay for the trail work and travel costs of the trail work volunteers.
  - Estimate of CSC legacy to Lake Louise trails is valued \$185,000
  - Seeking support of Lake Louise hotels and businesses as well as Banff-Lake Louise Tourism with knowledge gained from XC ski areas such as Aspen, Breckenridge, Yellowstone and many areas in BC.
  - Preparing comprehensive reports at the request of Banff National Park management on:
    - How to enhance the visitor experience for XC skiing in the National Park.
    - A survey of the Lake Louise ski trails with GPS, altimeter and inclinometer to determine level of difficulty of the hills.
    - A survey of signage from 75 XC ski areas visited in Western Canada & USA.
    - Operational and Marketing reports based on 25 years tracksetting experience and membership and participation in Cross Country Ski Areas Assoc. meetings.

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Lake Louise Loppet Coordinator 1986 – Present

Tracksetting Coordinator 1993 - Present