

Important Notice to Lake Louise Loppet Participants - 2012

New in 2010 was Banff National Park's Special Event Public Advisory Committee process.

BNP/SEPAC Conditions set for the Lake Louise Loppet 2010 & later years are as follows:

1. Work towards Zero Waste:

New compostable cups that can be placed in the compost bins at the Chateau with the orange peel, etc. Recyclable items will be deposited in the Chateau recycling bins. The loppet garbage containers will be sign-posted for Compostable, Recycling, Other. Please help us.

2. Need to reserve adequate public parking for non-participants at the Loppet:

We have requested both Chateau & Deer Lodge, as in 2010 & 2011, to permit guests to park until 4 pm Sunday. We ask that all such hotel guests take advantage of this offer. In addition, Loppet volunteers are asked to park at Deer Lodge.

We have also asked to use the parking behind the Chateau at the Brewster Stables as we did in 2010 & 2011.
- Please follow the directions on the yellow Loppet Parking sandwich board signs to the appropriate parking.

Because of the parking situation, we ask all race participants to car-pool or van-pool. We ask clubs and ski shops to organize car-pools or hire a bus. In 2009, there were over 100 participants from Calgary and 50 from Canmore.

We have requested that Parks do not plough the access road to Upper Parking Lot until 1 pm, after 20 km skiers have passed following their completion of the Telemark Loop.

3. Need to promote better that the event is in Banff National Park and at a World Heritage Site:

This has been done on the CSC website, in expanded brochures and will be included in the next print run of the colour posters.

4. Need to create & deliver specific heritage educational opportunities:

The exciting news is that in cooperation with Banff Heritage Tourism, there will be an entertaining and educational session in the 30 minutes prior to the medal awards ceremony. SEPAC is excited at the wooden ski and heritage costume event and wants to see that promoted better.

5. Need to use/demonstrate environmentally-friendly waxes and waxing techniques.

We are working with local ski shops, wax suppliers and Cross Country Alberta for info. on this.

6. Need to deliver some form of education on the history of XC skiing at Lake Louise:

This is being worked on with info. from the 2005 book "Calgary Goes Skiing – The History of The Calgary Ski Club" and other materials and photos from the Whyte and Glenbow Museums. We plan to have a brochure and, possibly, educational posters available in the future.

7. Hotel Special Deals for Loppet Participants:

Again this year, we have asked the Fairmont Chateau, Lake Louise Inn and Deer Lodge to offer special rates for Loppet participants.

Details will be shown on the Calgary Ski Club web site – www.calgaryskiclub.org and click on Loppet box.

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 January 31, 2011

- ❖ 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 following detailed survey by Loppet volunteers.
- ❖ 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 2010:
 - 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-week trial of narrow 8 ½ feet wide snowcat in January 2011. Trial and subsequent purchase of an Alpina Sherpa for 2011/2012.
- ❖ Planning meeting in February 2011 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.
 - Organizing & presenting 3 Tracksetting & Grooming courses at Lake Louise for National Parks management and staff, Chateau staff and representatives of ski clubs in Alberta and BC.
 - 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.

For more info. please contact: Alasdair Fergusson at: loppet@calgaryskiclub.org

Lake Louise Loppet Coordinator 1986 – Present

Tracksetting Coordinator 1993 - Present