

# Late February 2026 Newsletter

BVCCSC is grateful to be located on the unceded territory of the Wet'suwet'en  
*In honour of Valentine's Day, I like you= Nyunist'iy*

## An Enormous Thank-you:

We would like to express our gratitude to the grooming and plowing teams who kept us skiing during the past months of really difficult conditions. They consistently delivered great conditions in the face of wild temperature fluctuations and erratic precipitation. Thank you again for your fantastic work.

From the skiers in the BVCCSC and the many guests who came here from other areas because our trails were open and skiable.

## CALLING ALL ASPIRING SKI INSTRUCTORS:

BV Nordic needs instructors for March sessions of our Ski S'kool. This is a grade K-7 ski program that has 1300 local student visits each winter. Requirements for instructing: enthusiasm, a joy of skiing, enjoy teaching kids, a criminal record check and 1.25 hours of coaching courses. An honorarium is paid for instructing time and course work.

Sessions: Tuesdays/Wednesdays 10:00 to 11:30, 12:30 to 2:00 and Thursdays 10:00 to 11:30.

\*Instructors don't need to commit to all sessions; we are flexible to your schedule. More info: [melissa.zarecki@bvnordic.ca](mailto:melissa.zarecki@bvnordic.ca)



## UPDATES FROM THE BVCCSC BOARD & COMMITTEES:

Grooming: With continued challenging conditions, we're still skiing on pretty good trails. Our Bison crew has managed the snow in a great way & we now have four skilled & active Bison operators. The sled crew is a great backup on days when a trail needs a quick rough-up from a slightly frozen surface and the Bison is not available/appropriate. Fun Fact: In January the Bison worked about 130 hours.

Dog Trail stuff: We are purchasing additional poop trowels for more of Pine Creek. Thanks to Rec Sites and Trails BC!

Door & FireSmart: A new carport door for the machine shed is being installed to protect machinery from theft & potential embers during a forest fire.

Climate Change: This has probably been the worst season on record for Nordic skiing in BC. Ski areas started the season late, competitions have been delayed or moved, & many clubs had to close mid-season (& some have not been able to reopen). BV Nordic was the earliest of the major centres to open and continues to have some of the best ski conditions in the province.

Adaptation: Most ski areas are adjusting their grooming to make the most of the snow available: *saving snow*, shoveling bare patches, using smaller machines that handle low snow depths, & sometimes only setting a skate track due to limited depth.

What this means for Bulkley Valley: Our grooming team works hard to deliver quality skiing in tough conditions by experimenting with different grooming techniques & machines. In addition, our trail bed improvements over the last 10 years enable us to deliver good results with less snowfall. However, we were fortunate that the weather gave us snow early this season; many times, we were often only a degree away from that snow turning to rain; and then these wet periods were followed by dry and cold. The future will likely have more seasons like this ☺

WE APPRECIATE OUR GROOMING & PLOWING TEAMS~ WE APPRECIATE OUR GROOMING & PLOWING TEAMS~



THANK YOU~ MUSI CHO~ MERCI-THANK YOU~ MUSI CHO~ MERCI- THANK YOU~ MUSI CHO~ MERCI- THANK YOU~

Looking ahead: We have made significant adaptations to climate change & will continue to re-examine how the grooming system (trails, equipment, techniques) is positioned to handle winters worse than the one right now. We still have room to adapt further, but it will take more focus, as the changes are happening faster & more dramatically than imagined 10 years ago. We will be reviewing our climate adaptation strategies this spring. If you have ideas on how we can adapt to keep our skiing amazing, please share them with [trails@bvnordic.ca](mailto:trails@bvnordic.ca).



**GRANT AWARDS NIGHT:**

The club was fortunate to receive funding from the Bulkley Valley Community Foundation to support our Ski S'kool program!



BVCF's generous donation to BV Nordic



Ski coaches needed for Ski S'kool



No poop shaming this newsletter!

**MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR UPDATE:** Susan Kinkela is stepping down as membership coordinator after this season, let's give her a loppet sized thank you for her volunteer work over the years, including our season passes that save time & resource as they can be reused each year. Susan is now training her replacement: thank you Mary Lou Walker! And here's a membership update: we are now 1280 strong, of which, we have 122 *Super Supporter* pass holders.

### **MCBIKE WELCOME DAY:**

The Krause family from McBike again outfitted skiers with free rentals, volunteers welcomed skiers, served refreshments, sorted out gear, and provided guidance on the trails. Over 120 people took advantage of the event, including a group of over 35 people from Smithers Community Services Association. In great news, Megan Wilson & Adriana Almeida enjoyed the spirit of the day so much that they agreed to plan the event for next year; thank you Megan and Adriana!

### **COMING EVENTS:**

Our 37th annual Wetzin'kwa Loppet is on March 21 this year. There truly is an event for everyone: skate or classic (even skate *and* classic if you sign up for the duathlon), with distances 1 km to a 60 km ~~death march for the masochists among us~~ event.

This year encourage a friend to do the loppet for the first time as a skier or a volunteer. Registration is open for both & there's a season pass up for grabs to a lucky volunteer, sign up here: <https://bvnordic.ca/events-activities/races/wetzinkwa-loppet>  
Always check out our website for more events: <https://bvnordic.ca/events-activities/>



BC Cup at Larch Hills, how many BVCCSC skiers can you see?

**Trivia Question:** What non-human took part in the women's sprint qualifier at the 2026 Olympics? Send responses to [communications@bvnordic.ca](mailto:communications@bvnordic.ca). Those of you who are new to our trivia contest, it runs all season with winners entered in a draw for a gift certificate to one of our local business sponsors.

**Answer to previous trivia:** Beckie Scott's gold medal came two years late because 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> skiers were banned for doping. Scott then established Spirit North, a charity dedicated to improving health & education for Indigenous youth though access to sport. BV Nordic is proud to host Spirit North sessions at our trails. Scott also was on the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) executive committee but resigned when WADA went against their own policies and reinstated Russian athletes.

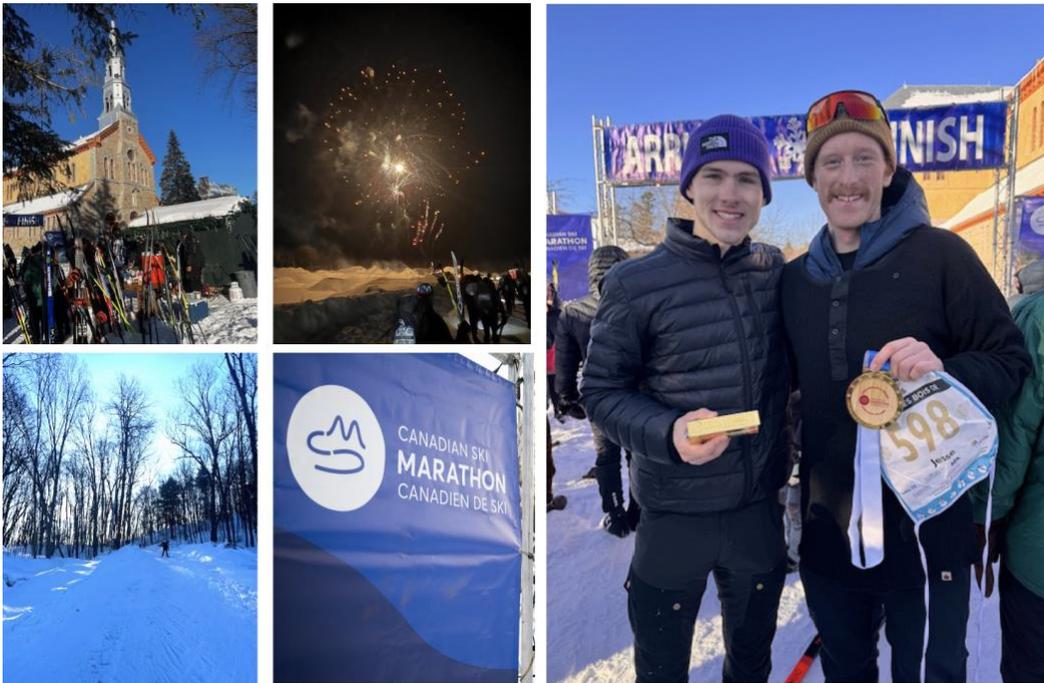


100 Club Social- you are looking at a total of 2300 years!

## BVCCSC REPRESENTS AT THE CANADIAN SKI MARATHON:

And now a special treat- BVCCSC race team alumni, Jesse Smids, recently took part in an iconic Canadian skiing event. Continue reading to hear about this test of fitness and grit-

I recently attended the Canadian Ski Marathon in Montebello Quebec. This was my third year in a row attending the event. The Canadian ski Marathon is 160 km long classic technique event that spans 2 days where you do 80 km both days. The Marathon is a large event with over a thousand participants each year. It is one of the largest ski marathons in the world and the largest in North America. There are three main categories in the full distance, and you must complete each one before you can move to the next category. The first category is Bronze where you need to carry a small backpack (around 4 kilos) and you sleep inside between race days. The next category is silver where you need to carry a slightly heavier backpack (around 6 kilos) and you still need to sleep inside between race days. Once you have done both these categories you can complete your gold. In gold, you need to carry all your gear for sleeping outside including food. For gold you must sleep outside on a bale of hay in the gold camp by a fire between race days.



Each day is broken into segments with checkpoints along the way where you grab water and food from and even get free waxing! You must meet or be ahead of the cut-off times if you want to keep skiing.

The biggest challenge with this event like all skiing events is the weather and snow conditions. This year there was plenty of snow, but we were faced with very cold weather and low temperatures reaching the mid minus 20s before wind chill. This made for easy waxing but meant you had to keep moving and could not stop for very long at each check point. This year was the first year in the sixty editions of the Canadian Ski Marathon where they cancelled the gold camp and did not let anyone sleep outside. The main reason for this was they could not get any fires to light due to the amount of wind at the camp site.

This was my third year competing which meant this year was my year I did gold. I was a little disappointed that we did not get to sleep outside but also, was not too bothered because when we finished the first day it was starting to get dark and it was already -30 with the windchill. Which meant sleeping outside in a sleeping bag was not looking super appealing.

A couple of friends and I have made this event a tradition and it is always fun and quite an adventure. The areas you ski through are amazing & you get to meet some pretty interesting people along the way.

-Jesse Smids, February 2026

Please Support Our Sponsors, we truly couldn't exist without them:

## Annual Sponsors

Annual Sponsors provide financial support to the Club.



BULKLEY VALLEY  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
*Planting Seeds for Tomorrow*



Edward Jones®



Here's  
How.



## Partners

These partners provide a wide range of support to the club including management of the trails, logistical support, and funding.



Recreation Sites  
and Trails BC



