

December Newsletter

The 2024 -2025 ski season is well underway, and Ski Friends are off to a great start! The conditions have been terrific, and The Pipestone Express has opened. I would like to extend a HUGE shoutout to Larry Kopstein. Larry has devoted numerous days evaluating applicants for membership. I am please to report that based on Larry's recommendation, your Ski Friend Board has welcomed eleven rookies into the program .

I indicated in the October newsletter the importance of taking good care of our rookies. Sven Gebhardt and Nancy Ruiter have successfully put in place a mentorship program to ensure they are properly integrated into Ski Friends. This includes a 'go- to' person or mentor for each rookie for guidance. I am pleased to confirm that most rookies have been assigned mentors. Having said that, we shouldn't just leave it to the mentors to integrate rookies. All Ski Friends should be counted on to support them as well. Lessons have already been begun (Jeff from Jasper was awesome!) and blue/ green training is well underway.

The uniform situation isn't as dower as originally feared. Linda Hall-Cardiff was able to secure uniforms for all new members. As for future uniform purchases, Ski Friends will now be integrated into the LLSR ski jacket purchase program. Two benefits of this approach include receiving discounts LLSR receives from HH regardless of order size. It also allows for more flexibility. Rather than doing bulk orders like we've done previously, we will follow LLSR process and order on 'as needed' basis. For example, our plan is to recruit more members next season, but our current inventories on the more popular sizes are low to non -existent. So, this year we will only order the sizes and number of jackets we need (to accommodate new members). Next couple of years I expect that some of our existing jackets will need to be replaced. Eventually, we will need to create a process to manage those jacket replacements just like LLSR does with theirs. HH doesn't expect the design of the jackets we currently have to change anytime soon.

As for jacket repairs, zippers specifically, please text Linda Hall- Cardiff at 403-852-7299 to arrange for repairs. Zipper repairs are currently free of charge.

A reminder also to all to support your Day Leaders with feedback following your ski day. Lake Louise management does listen.

Looking for some 'talking points' to share about Lake Louise and surrounding area? In the Resources/Heritage Information tab on our website is a variety of interesting information about the Lake Louise Ski Resort and the Bow Valley. I encourage you to browse through the information , especially the revised General Tour Information document as it provides lots of useful information to share with your guests. If there are any other topics or articles you would like added to these resources, please contact Margaret McQuiston, Heritage Coordinator at mmcq@telus.net.

On behalf of the board, I want to extend my best wishes to all over the coming holiday season. Appreciate all that you do.

Andrew

