

a The Larch Hills

Ski Club

Written for and distributed to members of the Larch Hills Ski Club

January 2001

17th Annual Reino Keski-Salmi Loppet

The Reino Keski-Salmi Loppet's affiliation with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC and Yukon continues to be of benefit to both. The Foundation supports us in some of our printing costs and we, in turn, are a vehicle for the raising of funds for the Foundation - this year \$16,000+! Thank you to all of you who so diligently raised pledges and helped boost the Heart Fund in aid of education and research into Canada's #1 killer. Well done!

The RK-SL is fortunate to have a good number of sponsors who with donations of money, goods, or both, are instrumental in helping make our event the class act it is. Tim Hortons and Rossignol are our major sponsors, thus they are on the bib; Salmon Arm Savings and Credit Union support us with a generous cash donation; Far West gives us two jackets per year to raffle off which gives us some cash to help defray expenses; Wearabouts, Swix/Fischer, Salomon, and Olympia Cycle and Ski all contribute goods/prizes; Outright Fabrications, Tourism Shuswap, Mission Hill and Gort's Gouda are very supportive; and, of course, our very own Skookum Cycle and Ski supports not only the loppet but the Larch Hills Ski Club throughout the ski season! Remember all these fine folks that help make our event a great success and be sure to mention to them, when you can, your appreciation of their involvement in the Reino Keski-Salmi Loppet.

Pentti Vakeva

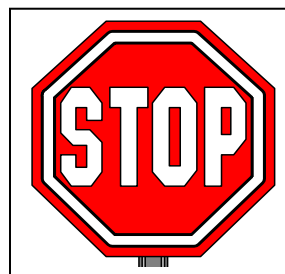
Blaine Carson writes: Pentti Vakeva will be missed by many, and in particular by his fellow Tracksetters. He was an inspiration to all with his dedication to The Larch Hills Trail System and his constant efforts to improve the skiing. He was either flying around the Hill on skis or in the Penttimobile, but he always had time to talk to you. One of his very last messages to us was a demonstration of how to remove snow and ice from the tracks of the old Snow Trac, now known officially as the Penttimobile. That was Pentti. He didn't believe in telling you how to do something, he showed us!

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The club is looking for a way to honour the memory of Pentti in an appropriate manner whether it be a trail named for him, a structure or perhaps an event. We would like to get ideas from members on what you think would be most fitting. Contact Dave Wallenstein if you have any suggestions. 832 7740

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//////DRIVER ALERT!



Please watch for Logging Trucks on Edgar Road!

Tolko Industries will be logging north of Mara Meadows (east of the main ski area) until "break-up", around the middle of February.

Loaded logging trucks will be driving down Edgar Road past the sharp corners at Ole & Gullan Hansen's place. Loaded trucks turn left at Grandview Bench Road-Edgar Road junction (the corner with all the mail boxes) to head downhill to Highway 97 near Grindrod. **Please drive defensively!** A sign has been posted by Tolko near the Edgar Road-Grandview Bench Road junction.

While we're on the subject of safety

New signs have been put up on the portion of the Ski Out above Larch Hills Road asking people to Stop and Walk across the road. This is for their own safety. Several youngsters have been seen crossing the road at this point without stopping. Please remind your children of the danger, and of course let's set a good example for them. Does anyone have any other suggestions as to how to prevent this dangerous practice?

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**Larch Hills Ski Club Annual General Meeting**  
 Tuesday, March 6, 7:30 p.m., Salmon Arm  
 Community Centre: Room 2

### **Message from the President**

#### **Thank you to everyone who has become a Larch Hills Ski Club member this season!**

It has been an incredible season for cross-country skiing. The combination of no mid winter melts and the superb job that Blaine and the tracksetting crew have been doing has meant that no matter which day of the week you decide to go skiing it is almost always perfect conditions. Don't forget that on quite a few of the days that the valleys are socked in with fog it has been beautiful sunshine up on the trails.

All the events that have been held at Larch Hills this season have been a huge success, this is mainly due to the large group of volunteers that takes great pride in working together to do the best job possible. Every thing this club does from the ski swap to the Loppet is done with volunteer help and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed there time this year. There is a new event this year, the VALENTINES LANTERN SKI on February 10<sup>th</sup>, these are always very popular events so I hope to see everyone out for this event.

This will be the last time I will be writing the Presidents Message, George Zorn will be taking over as President at the annual general meeting in March. I would encourage anyone to consider a position on the executive as it has been a privilege not a chore to serve as president of this club.

We are still looking for a vice president for next season.

Dave Wallenstein

### **Slush Cup set for March 31**

The Club's Wrap-up event which features orienteering on skis and a pot luck supper will be expanded this year to include entertainment! Talk to Len Sept organiser/impresario 832-8386

### **Tracksetting Report**

A big "Track You" to those folks who came out last Fall to the second annual "Take Back The Hills". All that levelling and raking, rock removal, etc. does make it easier on our machinery and the nerves of the

tracksetters. Five culverts were put in with two days of backhoe work. Hopefully next year we can get a grader to do some work. It would be helpful to get some wood chips into some of the areas where we can't use machinery e.g. Cottonwood Cutoff. Any ideas out there? A big Larch Hills welcome to Verne Gummeson who has joined the Tracksetters this year.

### **Racing Team Report**

There are currently 20 members of the Larch Hills Race Team. Seventeen of them took part in the RKS Loppet pulling down at least one 1st place spot in every competitive division.

The next big event is BC Cup #2 in Prince George Feb. 3-4. I have registered eight skiers who have indicated they will be competing. If any other race team members are planning to go let me know and I will register them.

Larch Hills has two skiers currently in number one positions in the BC Cup series: Eric Letham - tied for 1st in the Midget Division and Jesse Heckrodt in 1st in the Juvenile Division.

**\*\*NEW\*\***As discussed at the Jan. 23rd Larch Hills Ski Club meeting a Sprint Race is being planned for Sat., Feb. 10th at 11:30 am. Organised by the Race Team, this free technique (classic & skate) event will be an opportunity for Jack Rabbits to get their first taste of cross country ski racing. The event will be low key and open to all club members except those going to the Birkebeiner in Edmonton. Plans are to hold the race at the Loppet start area. Prizes for all participants and hot drinks in the chalet.

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Cabin and Shelter Repaired

Thanks to Don Huntington and his crews who repaired last summer's vandalism. Some said it couldn't be done, but Don did the engineering, and it was done! So enjoy the Upper Cabin and the shelter at the South Hub.

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### **Far West Okanagan Loppet Series**

There are still two events left in the Far West Okanagan Loppet Series. A number of die-hards have been loppeting the last three weekends in an effort to complete all five in the series in order to earn the toque (1st year), vest (2nd year), or jacket (3rd year.) We thank Pat Hutchins for spearheading

this program which is designed to encourage more skiers to get out and do loppets, particularly in the Okanagan. The Overlander Loppet, Reino Keski-Salmi Loppet, and Telemark's Apple Loppet are history – next the Nickel Plate Loppet (Penticton) then the season finisher, Sovereign Lake Loppet in March. Congratulations to all those skiers who are working towards their first, second, or third year of completing the series!

## Moonlight Lantern Ski

Thanks to the following people for their efforts in putting on the January 6 Lantern Ski: Pat Shea, Keith Cox, Larch Hills Ski Club Jr. Racing Team, Clint Smith, John Pagdin, Roland Huster, Alois Schonenberger, Len Sept, George & Jeanetta Zorn, Amy Hutchins and Ewan Smith, Hardy Kose and his friend Kate, Jim Cadden, Dave Wallenstein (LHSC Tracksetter), Jim & Marcie Beckner and Ian Clay. (Over 90 hours of volunteer time was contributed.)

Donations totalled \$622. After expenses the Salmon Arm Food Bank was given a cheque for half the profits - \$165 plus canned goods donations received. It's estimated around 500 skiers attended the Moonlight Lantern Ski. With clear skies, a near-full moon and 180 lanterns the three routes were well lit!

A Valentine's Lantern Ski, with a different route including both Bilbo's Bog and Frodo's Bog, is planned for Saturday, February 10 (the full moon is on the 8th).

## Coffee House Success

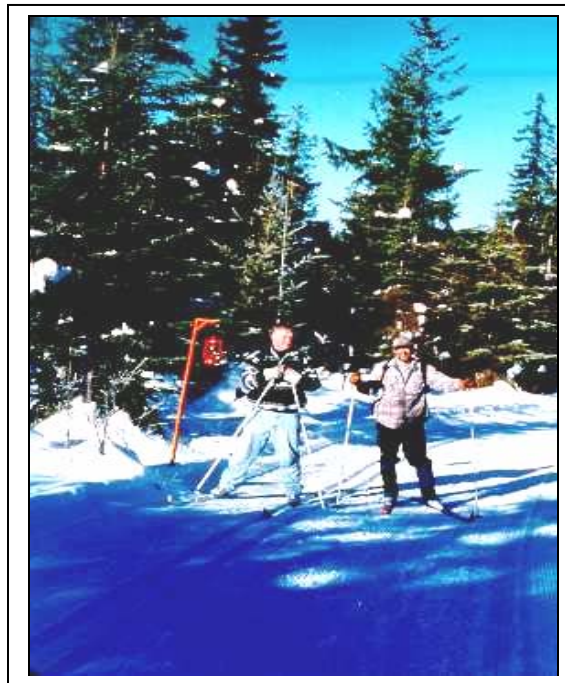
The Challenge Program would like to extend a big thank-you to all those who attended the first ever Larch Hills coffee house on January 12. It was a fun event with great music and fabulous desserts provided by the members of the program! Thank-you to the Flat Landers, the Spalteholz ensemble, Shelly Sawada, and Lena Armstrong and Jayson Slack for entertaining us with such wonderful music! There was a good turn-out of people and a cosy atmosphere at the chalet. With the enthusiasm shown by everyone who attended, this may become an annual event!

Funds raised at the coffee house were used to support our program's telemark ski day at Silver Star mountain. We are midway through the season with the Challenge Program. An avalanche course, a ski touring day, and an overnight trip to the upper cabin are still to come. So, let's think more snow!!

## So Ya Wanna Skate???

Are you one of those classic skiers who is tired of seeing skaters streak past you on the trails and have decided you would like to streak too?... Let me rephrase that.... Have you decided you would like to give skate-skiing a try? Then call Skookum at 832-7368 and mark Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. There will be half hour lessons and half hour use of the equipment from 9 A.M. to Noon

And if you or someone you know is looking for adult beginner lessons you can also give Skookum a call.



Pat Shea & Keith Cox lighting up – Jan.6

## "Portraits of Larch Hills" PHOTO CONTEST

Larch Hills Ski Club invites members and non-members to share their "Portraits of Larch Hills" by submitting photographs (prints, slides or digital images) in the following 6 categories for judging and awards to Skookum Cycle & Ski Ltd., Salmon Arm, by 5 p.m., Saturday, April 14:

Snow Season: 1. Action (e.g. X-C Skiing),  
2. Nature/Scenery, 3. People.

Snow-Free Season: 1. Action (e.g. Biking, Hiking),  
2. Nature/Scenery, 3. People

Photos should be delivered in an envelope with the name, phone number and address of the photographer appearing on the envelope.

Photos must be taken of subjects in, or as viewed from, the Larch Hills only, i.e. bounded by Shuswap Lake, Mara Lake/Shuswap River, Canoe

Creek/Highway 97B and north of the Grandview Bench Road.

Photographs may be used (with acknowledgement of the photographer) for the production of a Larch Hills Ski Club 2002 fund raising Calendar.

Judging of photos will be done by Fred Bird, James Murray and John Pickard on Saturday, April 21. Photos may be displayed at Skookum Cycle the following week.

Questions? - call George Zorn, 832-9335

## Santa Visits Larch Hills

Santa Claus skis his own Santa Cruise for the first time, setting a PR of 54:08 and helps the Larch Hills Ski Club raise a record \$1,020.76 for the Food Bank. He gave candy to everyone, but he did mention lumps of coal to some of the adults, so they should make improvements. He praised Skookum for doing their hot waxing for the Food Bank and their generous donations to the auction.

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John Pagdin - New Club Treasurer

Thanks! to John Pagdin for volunteering to take over the Treasurer's job. Special Thanks! to Andree Maxwell for serving as Club Treasurer the past two years.

And the talent search continues: As well as a vice-president for the club, we are looking for a Chief of Controllers for the Loppet. Call Pauline 833-0325

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## "Tom's Shelter Circle Tour"

Tracks have been set several times this winter on "Woodlot Ramble" leading out to the Tom Jordan viewpoint shelter. The "circle tour" has been posted with directional signs and "you are here" maps. See the route details sign at the Metford Road or Woodlot Ramble trail heads.

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The Larch Hills You Might not Know

On Wednesday mornings, a group of gals and guys heads out to explore less frequently used trails, especially untracked trails - Treebeard's, Raven's Ridge . . . Anyone interested in joining the group for this 2-3 hour outing is welcome to meet us in the parking lot at 9am on Wednesdays. Check with Marcia 832-3534 the day/night before as to plans. Come explore!

Calendar of events:

February 4th Skate-Ski Demo
 February 10th Sprint Race
 February 10th Lantern Ski
 March 6th AGM
 March 31st Slush Cup

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

A special word of thanks to the 600 individuals and families who have signed up as members of the Larch Hills Ski Club (as of Jan 25, 2001). Your membership fees cover the many costs of operating the ski area; the greatest of these is running the trail grooming and track setting machinery. Without your financial support we would not have such wonderful ski trails. THANK YOU!

If people want to join or renew their memberships, forms are available at the membership sign at the junction of Larch Hills Road and Metford Road, at Skookum Cycle and Ski, or from Christine Hutchins 832-7242.

Be sure to check the website for almost daily updates of the conditions in the Larch Hills - temperature, snow pack, tracksetting report, general condition (which this year has stabilized at excellent for the past two months!) www.larchhillsskiclub.bc.ca

For Sale

Twin-Trac Bombardier Snowmobile, 20 years old. Works best on packed snow. Best offer. Offers from club members considered until February 10, then open to everyone. Call Blaine 838-9822

FOR SALE: Rottefella NNN Bindings. Price negotiable. Call Mary Bruce 833-1098

A Postscript For Pentti

For some years Stig Keskinen had placed a line of evergreen boughs in between the north

