

Larch Hills Nordic Society welcomes dogs
in the designated parking and on the multi-use canine trail. *

Thank you for helping to make our new multi-use canine trail a success!

You are responsible for keeping Larch Hills clean, safe & fun.



- **Please keep your dog under control at all times.**
- **Your dog must be on leash in the designated parking area and on the way to the multi-use trail.**
- **Your dog may be off leash on the multi-use trail.**
- **A maximum of 2 dogs are allowed per skier.**
- **Please scoop & remove promptly.**

* Dogs are NOT ALLOWED on the multi-use canine trail on Jackrabbit Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm, or during race day times stipulated by the Race Marshall.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR FEEDBACK
volunteer.sa.bc@gmail.com

LNHS MULTI-USE CANINE COMMITTEE REPORT

SUMMARY REPORT

The LHNS Multi-Use Canine Trail Committee has been active since February 2011. The 2011/12 Salmar/Sunshine Multi-Use Canine Pilot Trail was endorsed by general membership vote in November 2011, and adopted as an ongoing multi-use canine trail at the March 2012 LHNS Annual General Meeting.

Based on predominantly positive feedback and requests for specific improvements, the LHNS Canine Committee was asked by the executive to propose a multi-use canine trail for the 2012/2013 season. The committee proposed that the current trail be extended to Tom's Cabin and include one or both of Skyview and Sentinel loops.

At the Dec. 4, 2012 general meeting, the LHNS executive reiterated its support for the current 800 metre Salmar/Sunshine Multi-Use Canine Trail, and reported that it did not support the Multi-Use Canine Committee proposals for improvement. No other proposals were brought forward at that time.

FULL REPORT

On Jan. 25, 2011, the LHNS executive invited members by E note to form a Multi-Use Canine Trail Committee. Eight to ten volunteers have been meeting since to explore the feasibility of such a trail at Larch Hills. Most BC nordic clubs were surveyed about multi-use canine trails, potential trails were identified by map and on the ground, and a pilot trail was presented for consideration by the LHNS executive.

The Multi-Use Canine Trail Pilot Proposal was put to a membership vote, publicized by E note and website, over the month of November 2011. One hundred and forty-eight (148) members were in favour, one hundred and two (102) against, and four (4) had no opinion when asked the question: "Do you support the multi-use canine trail on the Salmar/Sunshine Trail for this season". There was a 50% return from members over 18 years of age in good standing.

Multi-use Canine Pilot Trail feedback was encouraged by LHNS E note, website, trailhead signage and word of mouth, and collected until June 26, 2012.

At the March 2012 LHNS Annual General Meeting, based on preliminary pilot trail feedback received, the membership voted to continue the Multi-Use Canine Trail.

In total, thirty-seven (37) emails were received about dogs at Larch Hills, most providing feedback on the pilot trail specifically, and some on dogs at the Larch Hills ski area generally. Thirty-three (33) emails represented general members or trail users, and four (4) were from members of the LHNS Canine Committee, one of whom expressed an opinion on the dog trail. Some emails spoke for several family members, but for simplicity each email was counted as one respondent.

Twenty-seven (27) respondents expressed an opinion either for or against the Multi-Use Canine Trail. Twenty-five (25) respondents were enthusiastic about a dog-friendly trail at Larch Hills, most thanking the club for initiating the pilot. Some were enthusiastic for their dogs, others for the ability to ski and exercise their dogs at the same time, and one mentioned that her children were more willing to ski if their dog could go with them. Two (2) respondents were opposed to a canine trail: one because of a fear of dogs, and the other in response to an altercation with a dog let out of a vehicle in the main parking lot.

Of those in favour of continuing a dog-friendly trail, eighteen (18) considered the pilot trail too short, (10) wanted a loop, one access to a "handful" of backcountry trails, and one hoped to have enough room to skijor (and take lessons if possible). One suggested improved boundary signage, while several others considered the signage to be good. Many were appreciative of the shovels, with one offering to pay a surcharge for this service. Many commented on the cleanliness of the pilot trail, and no complaints were received about lack of cleanliness. No pilot trail safety issues were reported. One skating family said that dog prints were not a problem, but boots tracks were, and could walkers please stay well to the side. Two (2) shared positive experiences with dog trails supported by other clubs.

Eight (8) people reported loose dogs, with or without owners, on non-designated trails, generally distant from the pilot trail. Four (4) reported loose dogs in the main parking lot. Several commented that this was not a new problem.

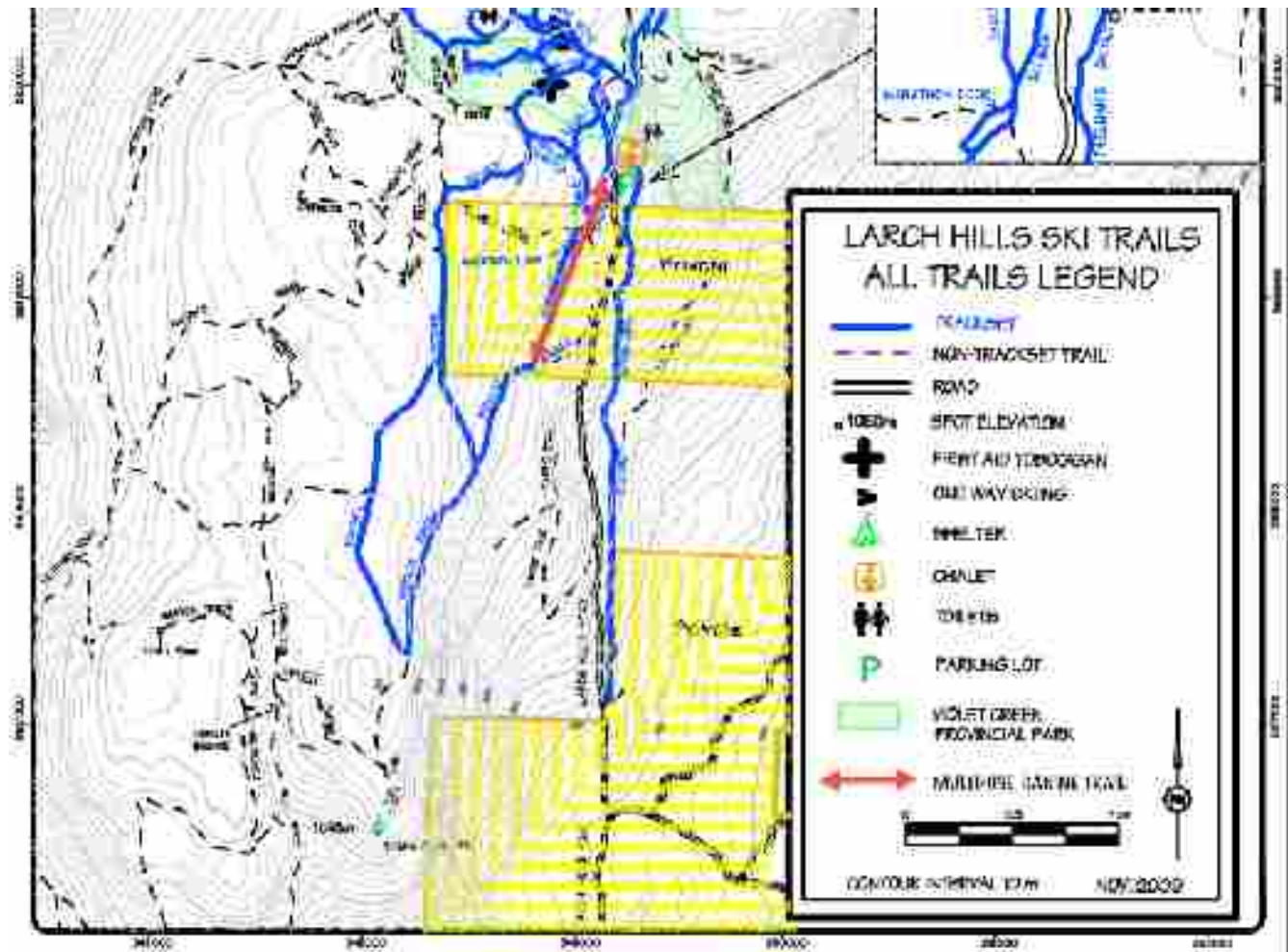
Based on predominantly positive pilot feedback, the LHNS Canine Committee was asked by the executive to propose a multi-use canine trail for the 2012/2013 season. Taking into account geographic and woodlot constraints, the pilot precedent, and requests for specific improvements from feedback respondents, the LHNS Canine Committee proposed that the multi-use canine trail be extended to Tom's Cabin and include one or both of Skyview and Sentinel loops. The proposal was accepted by the executive for presentation to the membership. [[Multi-Use Canine Trail Committee Proposal is included below.](#)]

At the Nov. 6, 2012 general meeting, concerns were raised by some members about dog and skier safety on Woodlot Ramble and Roller Coaster hills, and potential impacts on wildlife generally and

moose specifically. One member suggested directional signs and/or leash requirements be considered to address safety concerns. Another suggested that concerns be tested by running the extended trail proposal as a pilot, with feedback collected, as was the original pilot. Several members suggested that an alternate trail might be found via a newly logged area between Woodlot Ramble and the original Canine Trail. It was decided that the LHNS executive will consider the Multi-Use Canine Trail Committee and other proposals, and confirmed that the 800 metre section of Salmar/Sunshine Trails will continue as the Multi-Use Canine Trail for the 2012/2013 season.

At the Dec. 4, 2012 general meeting, the LHNS executive reiterated its support for the current 800 metre Multi-Use Canine Trail, and reported that it did not support the Multi-Use Canine Committee proposals for improvement. No other proposals were brought forward.

Submitted by Kari Dukeshire, Clint Smith & Anne Lockington,
on behalf of the Larch Hills Nordic Society Multi-Use Canine Trail Committee
December 6, 2012



LHNS MULTI-USE CANINE TRAIL PROPOSAL

During the 2011/12 Multi-Use Canine Trail pilot, feedback was close to unanimous in its enthusiasm for a dog-friendly trail at Larch Hills. Some were enthusiastic for their dogs, others for the ability to ski and exercise their dogs at the same time, and one mentioned that her children were more willing to ski if their dog could go with them. Most thanked the club for initiating the pilot.

At the same time, most considered the pilot trail unsatisfactory if it were to be made permanent without improvements. The most common complaint was that it was too short. Many others wished that it were a loop. One respondent hoped for access to backcountry trails, and another to be able to skijor.

Based on this feedback, at the same time respecting woodlot and private land concerns, and acknowledging the need for a trail that is both separate from and readily accessible to the main trail system, the Canine Committee has identified three existing trail systems (Proposals A, B and C) with good potential for successful use as the LHNS Multi-Use Canine Trail.

As with the 2011/12 pilot trail, dogs would not be allowed on the LHNS Multi-Use Canine Trail on Jackrabbit Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm, or during race day times stipulated by the Race Marshall.

The Canine Committee considers "multi-use" to mean use by skiers and snowshoers only, with or without dogs, and would not include walking with boots, except in the event of injury, equipment failure, etc. Leash requirement and/or directional signs may be considered for steep hill safety.

PROPOSAL A

The LHNS Multi-Use Canine Trail would utilize Salmar, the south end of Chalet Loop, Roller Coaster, Skyview, Sentinel, Tom's Trail, Woodlot Ramble, Sunshine and Marathon Loop.

Benefits:

- allows for segregated parking
- separate from most of the main trail system
- long enough to satisfy most skill sets and fitness levels
- includes two loops for variety, interest, and a choice between shorter or longer outings
- provides a destination shelter



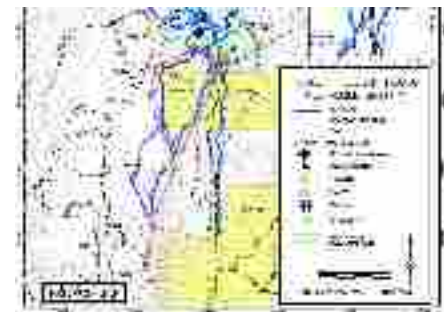
[see appendix for larger map]

PROPOSAL B

The LHNS Multi-Use Canine Trail would utilize Salmar, the south end of Chalet Loop, Roller Coaster, Skyview, Tom's Trail, Woodlot Ramble, Sunshine, and Marathon Loop.

Benefits:

- allows for segregated parking
- separate from most of the main trail system
- long enough to satisfy many skill sets and fitness levels
- includes one loop for variety and interest
- most of trail is close to parking
- provides a destination shelter



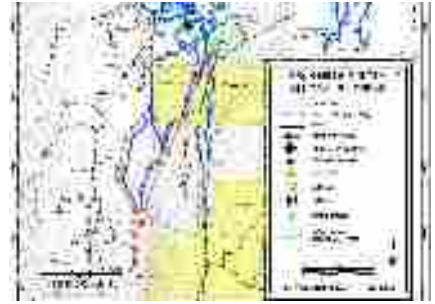
[see appendix for larger map]

PROPOSAL C

The LHNS Multi-Use Canine Trail would utilize Salmar, Sunshine, Marathon Loop, Skyview between Sentinel and Woodlot Ramble, Sentinel, Tom's Trail, and Woodlot Ramble.

Benefits:

- allows for segregated parking
- separate from most of the main trail system
- long enough to satisfy many skill sets and fitness levels
- includes one loop for variety and interest
- provides a destination shelter



[see appendix for larger map]

CANINE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

There is enthusiastic support and appreciation for the LHNS Multi-Use Canine Pilot Trail. At the same time, it is clear that significant enhancement of the pilot trail is necessary for its continued success.

The Canine Committee recommends endorsement of Proposal A as the LHNS Multi-Use Canine Trail. This generous two loop trail system, which offers route choices both close to and distant from a segregated parking area of the main lot, and includes a destination shelter, would satisfy the widest variety of interests, skills and fitness levels. Proposal A provides a complete and comprehensive multi-use trail system that would put LHNS on the dog-friendly trail map, and serve the club and its members very well for the foreseeable future.

Respectfully submitted by the LHNS Canine Committee

[Anne Lockington, Abbi May, Allan Bahen, Clint Smith, Herman Bruns, Maureen Defoe, Pauline Waelti, Sally Beldi, Kari Dukeshire]

June 26, 2012

PROPOSALS A, B, C - MAPS

