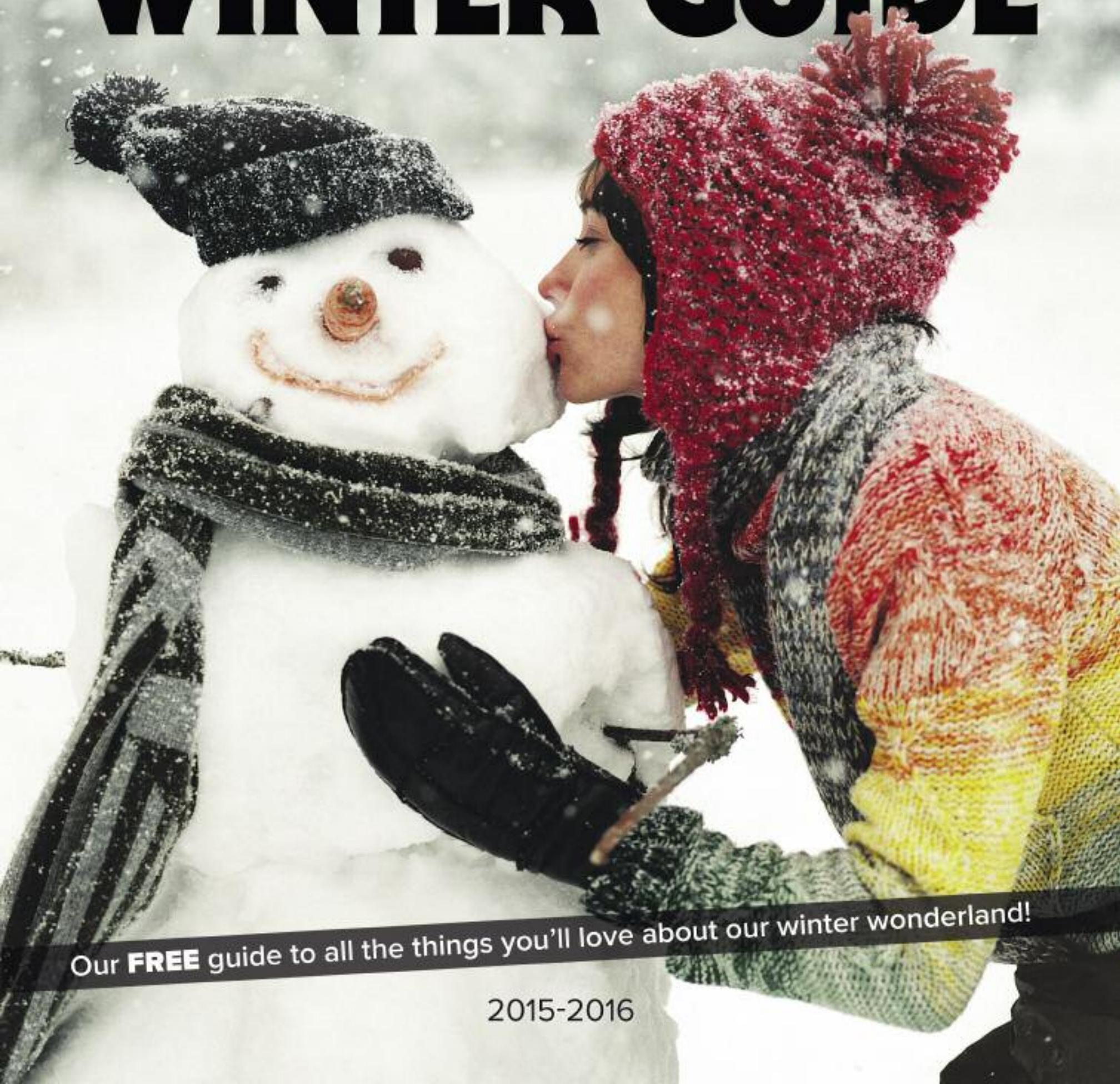


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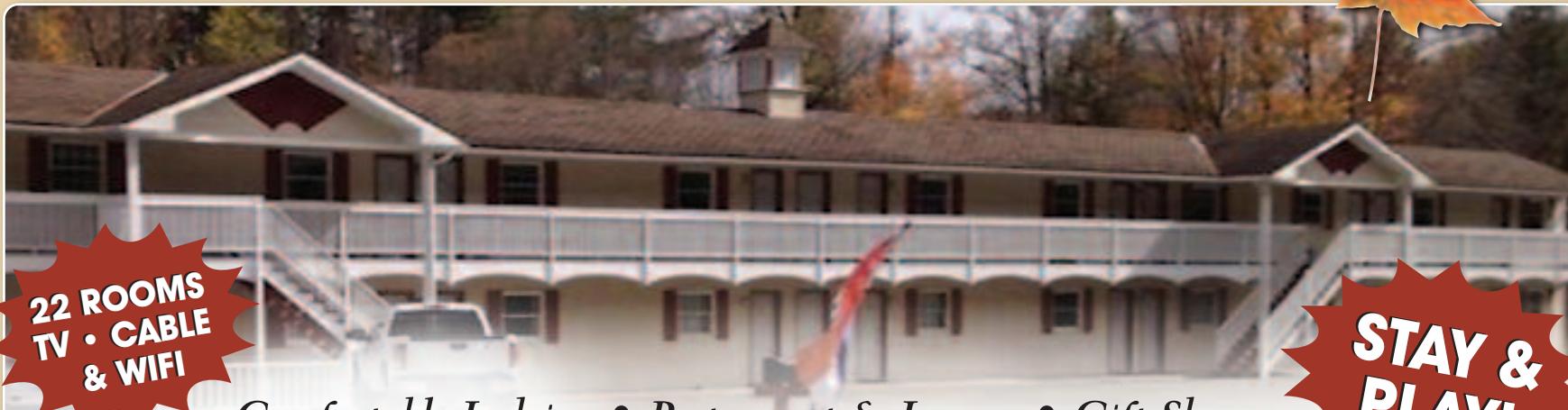
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Breaking The Ice

Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together.
 -- Vista M. Kelly

THE RECORD/EDITORIAL

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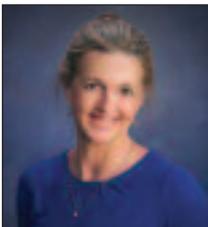
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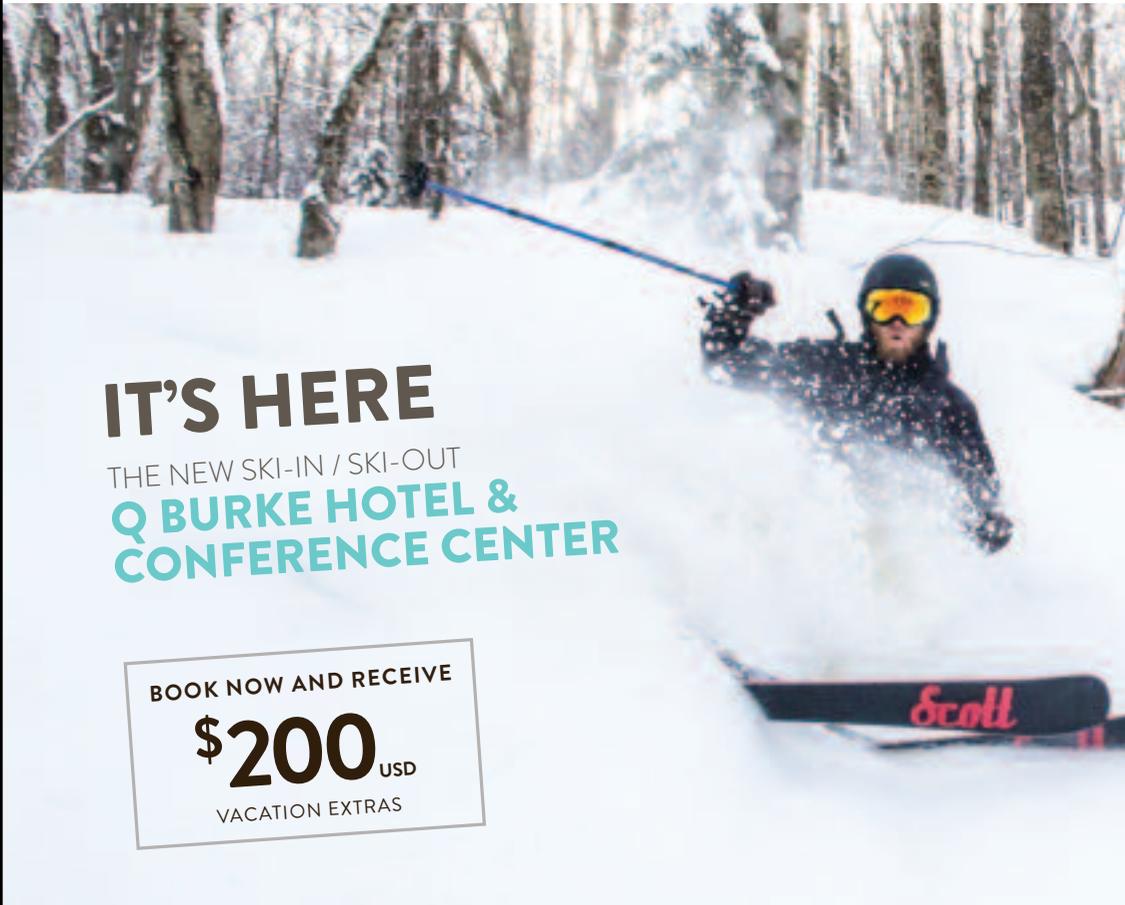
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BEFORE SUNRISE

Tales of a snow groomer

Written By Leah Carey



It's a great feeling when you arrive on the slopes early enough to find an undisturbed corduroy waiting for you to make tracks.

Have you ever thought about how it gets that way?

Brad Shedd is the head terrain park groomer at Bretton Woods and he gave us a

behind-the-scenes peek into his world.

"Honestly, my favorite thing about this job is the sunrises every morning. All the pictures on my phone are sunrises," Shedd said. "I might be a sunrise addict."

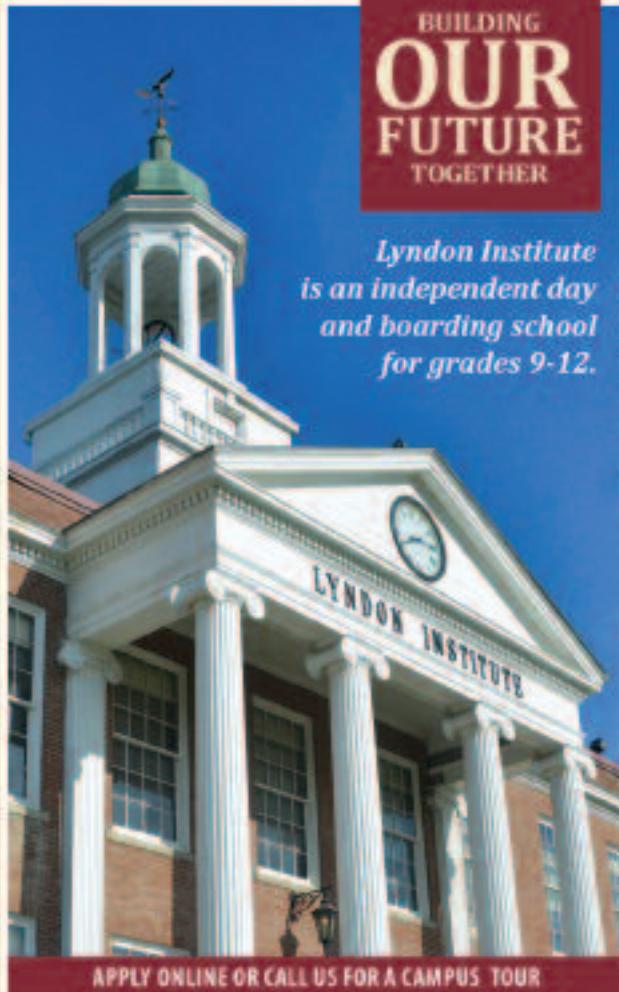
And with good reason - he's out on the slopes before sunrise and off the slopes by the time the chairlifts start for the day.

The science of snow

While it might be tempting to think that grooming doesn't take a lot of brain power and the machine does all the work, in fact Shedd is constantly monitoring temperature, trajectories and safety risks.

"This is for the kids: Stay in school!" he

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PHOTOS BY LEAH CAREY

ABOVE: Brad Shedd surveys his canvas snow canvas from the cab of his snow groomer.

RIGHT: The snow groomer controls.

said, tongue in cheek, but not really joking. “I said, ‘I’ll never need any of this stuff!’ And here I am 15 years later building shapes and angles and working with physics and trajectories every day.”

“Yes, I was that snowboarder that they put in the cat and said, go build,” he continued. “But I’m not just some dumb kid.”

He said that adapting to snow conditions, knowing his machine, and understanding why snow does certain things are integral parts of his job.

“When the snow gets harder, the tracks will start shaking a little bit more,” he said. “On the other hand, if it’s 45 degrees out, that’s when you start running into very sticky snow conditions. A lot of moisture will build up as the snow starts melting in the sunshine and the warm temperatures. And the moisture will build up in that snow and that can cause a lot of clumping. The corduroy won’t be as nice. So it takes a little bit of extra care.”

“The same thing in November when we’re blowing a lot of man-made snow and man-made snow has a weird texture at first,” Shedd continued. “We pump a lot of water into it, so that stuff can be like concrete. If you’ve got a lot of really wet snow and you go out and push it around with a groomer, you come back and till it while it’s still really wet, it will harden up and be rock solid.”

While days of fresh powder might be a little easier, the “rock solid” days are more challenging. “It takes a toll on the machine, the snow is a lot harder on the equipment.

It takes a lot longer,” Shedd said. “You’re looking at more fuel, more man hours, you’re paying somebody to be out here for 12 hours instead of eight.”

A day in the life

Shedd usually gets to the mountain around 4 or 5 a.m. “If I know that I have a lot going on, like if we’re doing a big build in the park, I might come in at 2 or 3,” he said.



“I warm up my groomer, jump in the groomer, check out the base area, the learning features down there, make sure that’s good to go,” he said. Shedd takes care of grooming right up to the steps at the base hut, a challenging endeavor with such a large machine. “The front stairs are one of my special projects.”

“I make sure all the load ramps and lifts are looking good and smoothed out and at the proper heights for skier loading,” he said. Then he heads into the terrain park and gets it ready for the day. “I’ve got a crew of younger guys that are really good and they’ll go out and test our jumps. We test our elements every day.”

Shedd is married and that kind of schedule could be tough on a relationship. “It’s tricky, he said. “But my wife has the same work ethics that I do. Get up and go to work, do it very good, and then go home and enjoy life. She’s an outdoor enthusiast like I am.”

In fact, they met on the mountain when he was work-

... Continued, Next Page

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ABOVE:
Brad Shedd
and his snow
groomer.
RIGHT:
Grooming near
the base lodge
at dawn.



ing in the rental shop and she was a ski instructor. She's still a fitness enthusiast and gets up early to do her own work out, so they manage to make their schedules work. "She sleeps roughly the same hours I do," Shedd said. "She's not up until midnight every night, which is good. We get to enjoy breakfast and dinner together."

But the timing of those meals might look odd to a lot of people. "People say, why do you drink soda in the morning? Because I've been here for four hours!" Shedd laughs. "I get out of my cat and instead of wanting coffee at 9 a.m., I want some lunch!"

"I tell everybody it sucks. Yep, it's horrible!" said Shedd laughing more. And then, getting serious, "I really do have a passion for it."

Always learning

Each year Shedd attends "cutters camp," a place to see new grooming equipment and learn from colleagues at other mountains.

"There's like 60 park guys from 45 different resorts on the east coast. So you get a chance to share secrets and techniques with everybody," he said. "When you can go to any park in the east and see similar features,

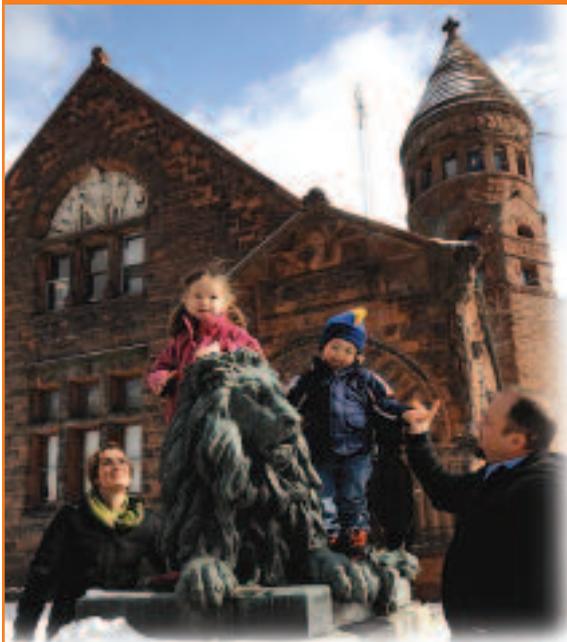
you can be more comfortable with riding them. If I'm hitting jumps here at Bretton Woods and I go over to Loon and they're somewhat the same, then you're going to feel comfortable and say, I know how to hit jumps like that."

"I was loading the lift the other day and there was a little girl standing there, she must have been 10 years old. She said to her friend, did you see me grab my board over that 10-footer?" Shedd said. "That excited me! Here's this young girl on a snowboard, and she's pumped because she just did a trick on a small jump that I built. She's going to remember that for a long time. That was probably the highlight of her weekend right there!"

For Shedd, it all comes down to having the safest park possible. "If we were just a bunch of cowboys out here throwing rails in the snow and doing crazy jumps, it would be pretty dangerous," he said. "This is a very dangerous sport ... but there's ways to manage the risk."

Plus, he gets to see something most others don't. "One thing about being a park groomer, you get to see the terrain park from a different view. I spend a lot of my time looking uphill at it." ❄️

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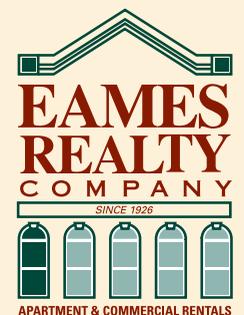


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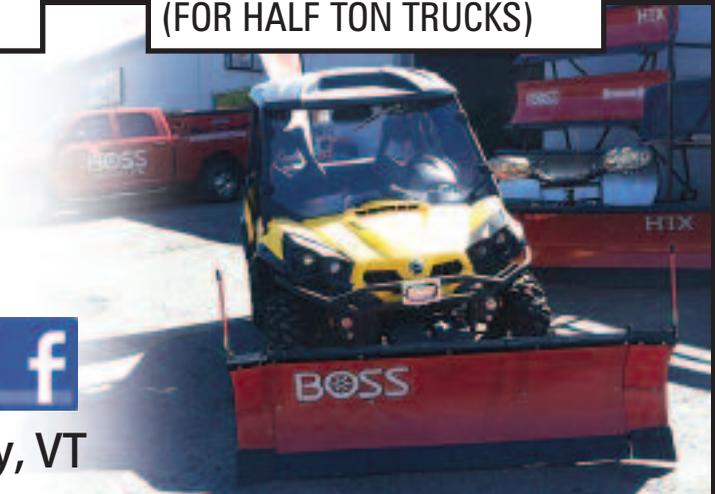
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WINTER EVENTS CALENDAR



Please note: Things may change. Please call, email, or check online for times and locations before heading out! All phone numbers are area code (802) unless otherwise specified.

PHOTO BY PAUL HAYES

Saturday, Nov. 14

8:30 a.m. - Joy To The World Bazaar, St. Elizabeth Church in Lyndonville. For info: 467-3019.

9 a.m. - Holly Jolly Christmas Bazaar, St. Johnsbury Health & Rehab, with luncheon at 11:30. For info: Sandy Legacy, 424-4905.

9 a.m. - Christmas Bazaar, Bath Congregational Church, Bath, New Hampshire. For info: Virginia Englert, 603-747-3472.

9 a.m. - Christmas Bazaar & Luncheon, Lyndonville United Methodist Church.

9:30 a.m. - Holiday Bazaar & Craft Sale, Lyndonville VFW. For info: Lori Simpson, 249-3871.

5 p.m. - Hunter's Supper, Granby-Victory Congregational Church.

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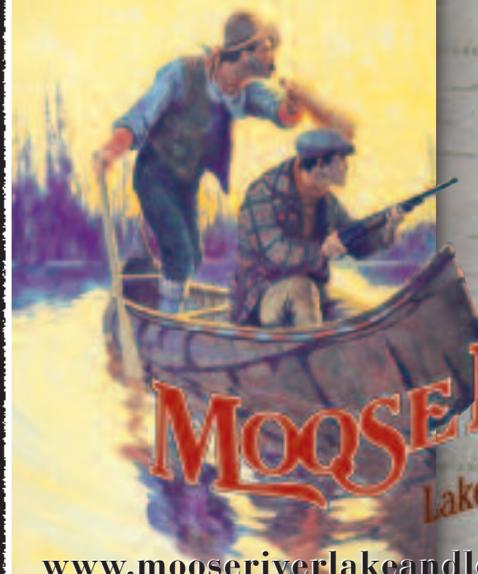
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PHOTO BY PAUL HAYES

A snowmobiler takes a jump during a race.

7 p.m. - Kingdom Coffeehouse, Northwoods Stewardship Center, The Wind That Shakes The Barley. For info: northwoodscenter.org.

7:30 p.m. - Michele Fay Band, The Music Box, For info: themusicboxvt.org.

7:30 p.m. - North Country Fiddler Solo Concert, Sheffield Town Hall, Patrick Ross. For info: travelthekingdom.com.

Sunday, Nov. 15

Ski and Snowboard Expo, Cannon Mountain. For info: cannonmt.com.

8:45 a.m. - Lyndon Outing Club Holiday Bazaar, Lyndon Outing Club. For info: skilyndon.com.

10:30 a.m. - Super Bingo, St. Norbert Church Hall, Hardwick. For info: 472-5088 or 472-5083.

7 p.m. - Bolshoi Ballet, Catamount Arts, *Jewels*. For info: catamountarts.org.

Tuesday, Nov. 17

1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. - Catamount Community Cinema, Catamount Arts, *Jamaica Inn*. For info: catamountarts.org.

Thursday, Nov. 19

Old Fashioned Game Supper, Danville United Methodist Church, seatings at 5, 6 and 7 p.m. For info: travelthekingdom.com.

7 p.m. - St. Johnsbury Academy Theatre, *Cinderella*. For

Breaking The Ice

In the midst of winter, I found that there was, within me, an invincible summer.

-- Albert Camus

info: catamountarts.org.

7 p.m. - National Theatre Live, Catamount Arts, *Coriolanus*. For info: catamountarts.org.

Friday, Nov. 20

3 p.m. - Shambhala Community Holiday Market & Benefit, Shambhala Meditation Center of St. Johnsbury. For info: Cara Thornley, 751-6196.

7 p.m. - St. Johnsbury Academy Theatre, *Cinderella*. For info: catamountarts.org.

7:30 p.m. - An Evening With Jonathan Edwards, Haskell Opera House. For info:

8 p.m. - An Evening With The Machine Performs Pink Floyd, Jay Peak Foeger Ballroom. For info: jaypeakresort.com.

9:30 p.m. - Tritium Well, Phat Kat's Tavern. For info: 626-3064.

Saturday, Nov. 21

Littleton Idol, Littleton Opera House.

See **Calendar**, Page 18

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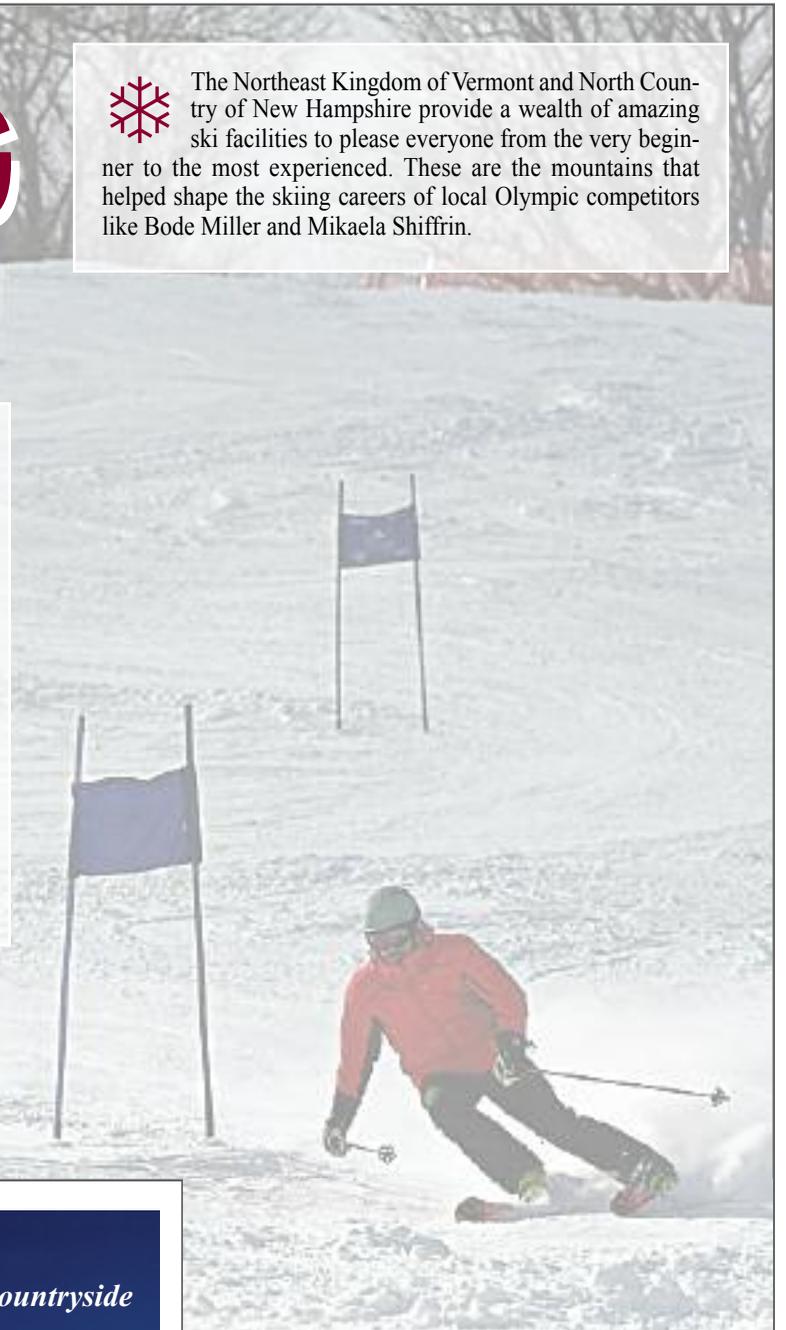
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Cannon Mountain — 73 trails over 264 acres, 168 acres of snowmaking. The mountain is serviced by an aerial tram, one detachable quad, two fixed grip quad chairs, three triple chairs, one fixed grip double chair, one rope tow and a magic carpet. For information visit www.cannonmt.com.

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A FARM IN THE DEAD OF WINTER

Written By Leah Carey



With hard winters, a relatively short growing season, and the disappearance of many old family farms, you might imagine that someone would have to be crazy to start a new family farm in the Northeast Kingdom or North Country.

Crazy like a fox.

In fact, there are more and more small farms cropping up each year and CSAs abound. But what happens on those farms during the long winter months?

We visited Nattie and Molly Emmons at Willow Brook Farm in Peacham to find out. The Emmons both have long histories in agriculture - Nattie grew up on a beef farm in southern Vermont and Molly grew up sugaring on her family's land in Peacham.

They met while both were working on an organic farm in Marshfield, Vermont. "We were really passionate about what we were doing. And then obviously we became passionate about each other," Molly said with a smile.

They've been in various stages of planning their farm for the last six years. In the meantime they got married and had two children, Elizabeth, 2 years old, and Elsie, 1 year old.



Winter growth

Through the use of hoop houses, movable green houses and other innovations, farms no longer are restricted to summer growing.

The Emmons keep two houses going through the winter - one is their propagation hoop house where they start new plants, the other is their stationary greenhouse where they grow winter spinach.

During our visit in March, the propagation house was home to scallions, onions, tomatoes that Molly had recently grafted, and more. "Everything that needs to be started while there are still freezing temperatures, we can go with the heat," she said.

And it's surprisingly warm in the hoop house, given that it's only covered with plastic and there are still frigid temperatures outside.

Nattie explained that the hoop house has two layers of plastic covering it and a fan

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OPPOSITE PAGE:

Molly and Nattie Emmons harvest winter spinach while snow piles up outside the greenhouse.

THIS PAGE:

Nattie Emmons checks the winter crop starters while Molly looks on.

blows a thin layer of air between them. “That cuts your heating down by 50 percent,” he said. “Just that little layer of air insulation.”

The tomatoes that Molly recently grafted will become

a major cash crop for Willow Brook Farm come summer. “You take a really good fruit stock that you like,” she explained. “We have some heirloom tomatoes, good producers. And then we have root stock, which is a really vigorously growing root stock. You combine those two and get the best of both. You get the fruit you want and a really strong, vigorous root stock that makes a really healthy, productive plant.”

“We do most of our planting by transplant,” Nattie said. “We seed [in the propagation house] so we can get a jump start on stuff. It just gets us to harvest faster than putting seed straight into the ground.”

Extending the season

While the snow outside doesn’t affect what they’re able to produce inside, a snowy winter like last year does have consequences.

Molly said that the rule of thumb for planting is that you don’t put crops out until after Memorial Day. But when growing for market in an area with such

Breaking The Ice

We are like a snowflake. All different in our own beautiful way.

-- Unknown

a short growing season means that Willow Brook needs to push the limits.

“We’ll be putting crops out by the first and second week of May,” she said. “We don’t have snow by the second week of

May, so that’s fine. The hard part is getting out on the fields prior to cultivate everything by May 1st.”

Did you put sugar on this spinach?

The Emmons keep one major crop going through the winter: spinach. Their entire greenhouse is devoted to winter spinach (during the summer it is converted to tomato production.)

“One of the great things about spinach is that when you grow it through the winter, the plant produces more sugars and the sugars act as an antifreeze, which is why it can sustain through the cold,” explained Molly. “So it’s really sweet spinach.”

They are able to harvest every two to three weeks from September through January and then again when it warms up in February through March.

“For people who haven’t tried it before, they’re like, What did you add to this? And we’re like, No, that’s just

... Continued, Next Page

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TOP RIGHT:

Molly's daughter is excited to be eating farm-fresh food for lunch.

BOTTOM RIGHT:

Molly explains why winter spinach is so much sweeter than summer spinach.



what it tastes like in the winter. Kale too. Kale tastes better after a really hard frost," said Nattie. "It's so easy to sell spinach in the winter. You couldn't have enough greens in the winter to sell."

They hope to eventually add more greenhouses so they can add more winter greens to their repertoire.

Back to the farm

Molly, who also teaches in the agriculture department at Vermont Technical College, predicts that there may be an increased movement back to small-scale farming in the not-too-distant future.

"Phosphorous is one of the most important elements that you need to grow crops," she explained. "We've reached our peak for phosphorous ... the phosphorous will eventually run out."

When that happens, she predicts that industrial farming will become more challenging. "There's this constant focus on low input farming," she said. "And there might be a time when things are going to have to slow down a little bit in terms of what we have access to for resources."

The Emmons believe that Vermont is well-situated to support many more family farms. "There is room for a ton of young entrepreneurs to move into this area of growing," Molly said. "It's still only 6 percent that's purchased locally. So there should be more and more competition coming in because there's room to grow."

"Consumers' consciousness is just getting better and better and better so people really are more aware of where their food is coming from," Nattie added. "Especially with the droughts in California, people are starting to realize, it's better to just get your stuff closer to you. It's less strain, you keep your money closer to you, it's more likely to stimulate the local economy."

"People get blown away by the quality," Nattie continued. "And it's not that we're doing anything different or special than anyone else. It's just having it that close to you, and having it that fresh. The crops do the work for themselves. And people get excited. It's really gratifying." ✨



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The Albany Community School received a visit from Peace Pups Dog Sledding on March 11, 2015. The Huskies from West Elmore, Vermont, have been rescued over the course of the last 17 years. Owner Ken Haggett has only had two litters since the business's inception, and kept all of the pups. The kids got to meet the dogs and then test the home-made sleds on a trip through Albany Community School's nature trails. ❄️



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Calendar

Continued from Page 11

9 a.m. - Craft Bazaar, Coos County Nursing Home, W. Stewartstown.

9 a.m. - Christmas in the Kingdom Bazaar, Danville Congregational Church. For info: 684-3884.

9 a.m. - Day of Mindfulness, Milarepa Center. For info: milarepacenter.org.

9 a.m. - Sheffield Christmas Craft Bazaar, Sheffield Town Hall. For info: 626-9416.

9 a.m. - Winter Wonderland in the Village craft show, Danville High School.

10 a.m. - Corn Husk Harvest Dolls, Catamount Arts, family workshop. For info: catamountarts.org.

10 a.m. - Shambhala Community Holiday Market & Benefit, Shambhala Meditation Center of St. Johnsbury. For info: Cara Thornley, 751-6196.

10 a.m. - Winter Farmers' Market, St. Johnsbury Welcome Center. For info: sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

12:30 p.m. - Met Opera, Catamount Arts, *Lulu (Berg)*. For info: catamountarts.org.

2 p.m. - St. Johnsbury Academy Theatre, *Cinderella*. For info: catamountarts.org.

3 p.m. - Christmas Bazaar, Trinity United Methodist Church, Colebrook.

5 p.m. - Hospice Charity Gala, Mountain View Grand, Whitefield.

6 p.m. - Turkey Bingo, Lyndonville VFW.

6 p.m. - Sled Hockey Adaptive Program Exhibition, Fenton W. Chester Arena. For info: 626-9361.

7 p.m. - *Peter and John* screening, Tillotson Center. For info: kingdomcounty.org.

Sunday, Nov. 22

CD Release Party, Catamount Arts, Bob Amos and Catamount Crossing. For info: catamountarts.org.

1 p.m. - Cold Turkey Plunge, Mountain Lakes Beach, Haver-

hill. For info: rec@haverhill-nh.com.

4 p.m. - TEDxLittleton, an independent TED event, Littleton Opera House. For info: tedxlittleton.com.

8 p.m. - Cabaret Concert, Catamount Arts, Donna Lowry. For info: catamountarts.org.

Tuesday, Nov. 24

7 p.m. - Bolshoi Ballet, Catamount Arts, *Jewels*. For info: catamountarts.org.

Thursday, Nov. 26

8 a.m. - Wobble 'n Gobble Turkey Day 5k, Franconia village. For info: adaptivesportspartners.org.

12 p.m. - Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner, Monadnock Congregational Church, Colebrook.

6 p.m. - North Country Toastmasters, Beal House Inn, For info: 603-396-5807.

Friday, Nov. 27

9 a.m. - Northeast Kingdom Craft Fair, Lyndon State College, Rita Bole Gym. For info: 274-8935.

12 p.m. - Holiday Parade, Downtown Littleton. For info: littletonareachambernh.com.

6 p.m. - Warren Miller's *Chasing Shadows*, Omni Mount Washington Resort. For info: brettonwoods.com.

9:30 p.m. - Halberwolf, Phat Kat's Tavern. For info: 626-3064.

Saturday, Nov. 28



PHOTO BY PAUL HAYES

Who needs groomed trails when you can run through fresh snow?

Craft Fair, Pittsburg Ridge Runner Clubhouse, Pittsburg. 9 a.m. - Christkindlmarkt, Third Congregational Church. For info: 748-3778.

10 a.m. - Country Crafters Craft Fair, St. Johnsbury Academy Field House. For info: 274-3543.

12:30 p.m. - Met Opera, Catamount Arts, *Lulu (Berg)*. For info: catamountarts.org.

6 p.m. - Warren Miller's *Chasing Shadows*, Omni Mount Washington Resort. For info: brettonwoods.com.

7 p.m. - Public skating special with free admission, Fenton W. Chester Arena. For info: 626-9361.

Breaking The Ice

Snow falling soundlessly in the middle of the night will always fill my heart with sweet clarity.

-- Novala Takemoto

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PHOTO BY PAUL HAYES

A Santa Race last winter in Lancaster, New Hampshire. There will be a Santa Run in Newport on Dec. 5.

Sunday, Nov. 29

3 p.m. - Holiday Concert, North Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury. For info: stjohnsburyband.org.

7 p.m. - Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, St. Brendan's Church, Colebrook.

Tuesday, Dec. 1

1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. - Catamount Community Cinema, Catamount Arts, *Holiday Inn*. For info: catamountarts.org.

Wednesday, Dec. 2

7 p.m. - Author Lecture, Goodrich Memorial Library, Newport, Sy Montgomery. For info: 334-7902.

7 p.m. - First Wednesdays, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, Peter Travis talks about Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. For info: 748-8291.

Thursday, Dec. 3

4 p.m. - Holiday Open House, NEK Council On Aging, memory tree lighting, live music, food. For info: Helen Pike, 800-642-5119.

Friday, Dec. 4

7 p.m. - First Friday Family Movies, Derby

Line Village Hall. For info: 873-3420.

7 p.m. - Appalachian Music and Jam, Catamount Arts Center. For info: catamountarts.org

7:30 p.m. - Northsong Chamber Choir Winter Concert, Barton United Church. For info: northsong.org.

7:30 p.m. - North Country Chorus Holiday Concert, First Congregational Church. For info: northcountrychorus.org.

9:30 p.m. - Lefty Yunger Blues Band, Phat Kat's Tavern. For info: 626-3064.

Saturday, Dec. 5

Christmas In Bethlehem, Bethlehem, New Hampshire. For info: christmasinbethlehemnh.com.

North Pole Polar Express, Lyndonville. For info: thelyndonfreighthouse.com.

Ski for Hunger Food Drive, Cannon Mountain. For info: cannonmt.com.

9 a.m. - Christmas Bazaar, Durrell Methodist Church. For info: 603-616-1960.

9 a.m. - Christmas Fair, St. Albert's Hall, West Stewartstown.

10 a.m. - Paper Marbling, Catamount Arts, family workshop. For info: catamountarts.org.

10 a.m. - Christmas Bazaar & Tea, Monadnock Congregational Church, Colebrook.

10 a.m. - Winter Farmers' Market, St. Johnsbury Welcome Center. For info: sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

See **Calendar**, Page 29

Breaking The Ice

The first fall of snow is not only an event, it is a magical event. You go to bed in one of kind of a world and wake up in another quite different, and if this is not enchantment, where is it to be found?

-- J.B. Priestley

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LEARNING THE RULES OF THE (ICY) ROAD

Written By Leah Carey

PHOTO COURTESY OF TEAM O'NEIL RALLY SCHOOL

❄️ Back in December 2013 I had an accident while driving on I-93 around Moore Dam on a winter morning. It was a beautiful sunny day and I had no concerns...until suddenly I was sliding and fishtailing and spinning back and forth across the highway.

When I finally came to rest in a snow bank, I took stock - my car was a little banged up but not too much the worse for wear. I wasn't hurt. It wasn't until the days and weeks following that I realized I had lost something vital: confidence in my driving and my car.

For the last two years I have been terrified to drive in the winter - a tough way to live in the frozen white north.

Enter the winter safety driving course at Team O'Neil Rally School in Dalton, New Hampshire - the place that re-grows confidence (or helps instill it for the first time.)

According to Director of Training Travis Hanson, the school was started by Tim O'Neil

in 1997. "Tim started teaching people how to drive in winter conditions in Franconia down at the airport," he said. "Now we train all sorts of different people from around the world."

My cohort included students with a wide range of driving experience - from a man who drives for a living to a 16-year-old who just got his license a week earlier.

The winter safety course is a full-day experience with a little bit of time spent in a classroom learning the principles and a lot of time spent behind the wheel of your own car practicing. "We want to teach you to drive well on slippery surfaces with your own car comfortably," explained Hanson.

Controlled-uncontrolled skidding

Sitting in the classroom learning about skids, I realize they're sharing information I've never heard before - not even in drivers' ed class when I was a teenager. "They say, if you

get into a skid, turn into the skid. That's it. Here's your license. Drive the roads of the world," said Hanson. "No one has been properly trained in driving on surfaces like this."

That creates a problem when "surfaces like this" - glare ice and snow-covered roadways - can be present for several months a year.

"The goal for today is to lose control and figure out how to fix it," Hanson continued. "We're going to make you a very, very good driver."

In order to learn to recover from a skid, you must first allow yourself to get into one. After two years of flashbacks to that fateful 2013 skid, I wasn't sure I could voluntarily create one. But with instructor Allan Moody beside me, I began to embrace the "controlled-uncontrolled environment" of the 250-foot skid pad, a large circular area that is built and conditioned specifically for this type of practice.

"There are nice fluffy snowbanks out there," Moody comforted me. As it turns out, I was



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able to skid all over the place and recover each time so I never came in contact with one.

Don't take driving advice from a country singer

Moody was full of great pieces of advice as I practiced getting into and getting out of skids:

"Be ahead of the car. Look at where you want the car to be, don't respond to where the car is at."

"The hardest thing in human nature is we want to look at everything we don't want to hit. But if you look at it, you're going to hit it."

"Do not take your driving direction from a country singer. ... 'Jesus take the wheel' is horrible advice."

But the thing that sticks with me most is how counter-intuitive the correct actions are until you've practiced them. In fact, Moody said, that's probably why I got in that accident. "If you'd given it a little gas and looked further down the road, you probably could have driven right out of it," he said. "The more you do this, the sooner you realize when things are going bad and the sooner you can fix them before it gets real bad."

Early training

The 16-year-old who just got his license is Will Muter from Lexington, Massachusetts. His father Stuart brought him to the class to learn good instincts at the beginning of his driving career.

"I feel a bit safer in winter conditions, being able to maneuver," Will said at the end of the day. "My confidence in these conditions improved."

Stuart brought his elder son to the course last year and is now working on getting his wife to join him next year. "You forget things, so it's always good to do it regularly and get reminded of what you should do," he said, adding that he feels much more comfortable sending his newly-

minted driver out on the road after the class.

Moody says that, just like our instincts about applying gas vs. brake in a skid are often backward, parents' instincts about sending their kids to this class are reversed. "Parents are afraid that they're going to send kids and we're going to teach them to drive fast," he said. "But it gives them much more respect. It's better to know what your capabilities are rather than to guess."

Gaining confidence

In the class students are paired up with another driver who drives a similar type of car (front-wheel sedan, rear-wheel, all-wheel, high center of gravity, etc.) We always drove our own car, but we got the benefit of watching and listening from the backseat while our partner drove the course as well.

My partner, Shauna Carr, is originally from Ireland and didn't have to deal with snow at home. After a decade in America, she only recently got her license and purchased a car. "When it started snowing I said, this I don't know how to deal with."

At the beginning of the day she said, "I was petrified of crashing, looking like a fool, damaging my car." But by lunchtime she'd already started to gain confidence. "It's only been a couple hours and I already feel like, okay, if I get in a skid this is what I do."

Back from the mountain top

As for me - can I come back from my days of fear and regain my sense of carefree winter driving? Well, I'll retain my newfound respect for and attunement to road conditions.

But the return of my confidence behind the wheel is nothing short of astonishing. It could be easily measured from the beginning of the day to the end. The drive to the O'Neil school is up a mountain on a snow-covered dirt road with some hairpin turns. At the beginning of the day, I white-knuckled it, terrified that I'd wreck my car before I even got to the course.

Coming back down the mountain, I had the radio cranked up, the windows open, and I was singing along to my favorite '80s station. *



PHOTO BY LEAH CAREY

O'Neil students navigate the ice obstacle course with orange cones pointing the way.

Breaking The Ice

Thank goodness for the first snow. It was a reminder – no matter how old you became and how much you'd seen – things could still be new if you were willing to believe they still mattered.

-- Candace Bushnell

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SKATING & HOCKEY



There are lots of options for the ice enthusiast: there are a number of free outdoor skating rinks in the area, as well as some indoor rinks that charge admissions for entrance.

VERMONT

Fenton Chester Arena - 145 College Hill Road, Lyndon Center - for information, visit www.chesterarena.com. Public skating times: Saturdays, 2 to 4 p.m.; Sundays, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 2:30 to 4:15 p.m. Stick and puck ice times: Sundays, 2:45 to 3:45 p.m.

Four Seasons Park - Corner of Main and Winter streets in St. Johnsbury - for information, call Joe Fox at 751-2304

Ice Haus Arena - Jay Peak Resort, Jay - for information, call 988-2750

Newport City Skating Rink - Gardner Park, Newport - for information, call 334-5718

Portland Street Rink - Corner of Portland and Concord Streets in St.

Johnsbury - for information, call Joe Fox at 751-2304

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Bethlehem Recreation Park - Corner of Main and Aggasize streets in Bethlehem - for information, visit www.bethlehemwhitemtns.com/fun.html

Franconia Skating Rink - Behind the Abbie Greenleaf Library on Main Street in Franconia - for information, call Kim at 603-823-7752

Remich Park - 165 Pleasant St., Littleton - for information, call 603-444-2575 or check www.littletonpark-sandrec.com

North Country Community Recreation Center - 33 Rec Center Road, Colebrook - for information, call 603-237-4019 ❄️

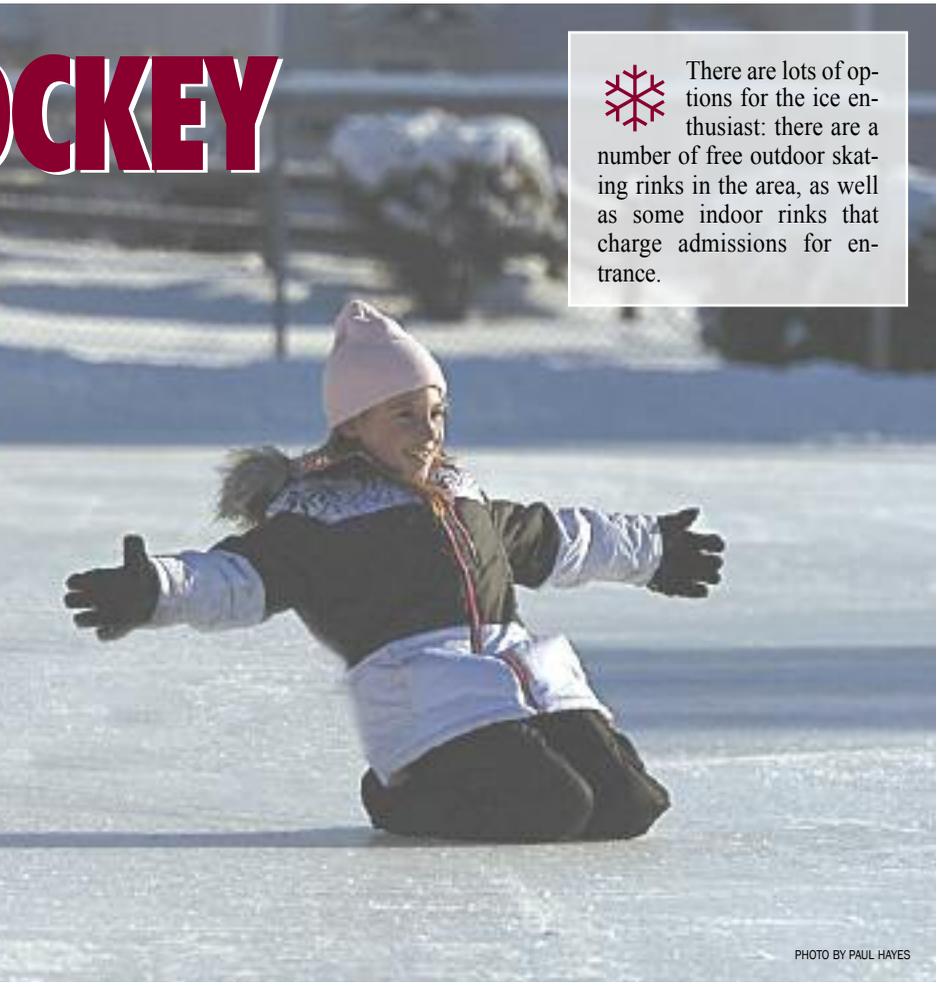


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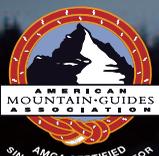
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VERMONT

Beaver Brook Farm Ski Trails - www.bbf-trails.com - Marshfield

Catamount Trail Association - www.cata-mountrail.org - ski Vermont from end to end beginning near Jay Peak

Craftsbury Nordic Center - www.craftsbury.com and click "XC-Skiing" - Craftsbury

Hazen's Notch Association - www.hazensnotch.org - Montgomery

Kingdom Trails Association - www.kingdomtrails.com - East Burke

Highland Lodge Ski Touring Center - www.highlandlodge.com and click "Highland Lodge Seasons" - Greensboro

Memphremagog Ski Touring Foundation - www.mstf.net and click "Trail Grooming Report" or "Trail Map" - Derby/Newport

Northwoods Stewardship Center - www.northwoodscenter.org - Charleston

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Bretton Woods Nordic Center - www.brettonwoods.com and click "Nordic" - Bretton Woods

Franconia Cross Country Ski Center - www.franconiainn.com, click "Activities" then "X-C Ski Center" - Franconia

Franconia Notch Recreation Trail - Access the 9 mile path from the northern or southern end of Franconia Notch - fair warning, this is a popular trail for snowmobilers

Rocks Estate - www.therocks.org and click "Trails" - Bethlehem

Ski Hearth Farm - www.skihearthfarm.com and click "XC Ski" - Sugar Hill

Also check out the snowmobile trails and corridors in New Hampshire. Skiers are allowed on the trails but snowmobilers have the right of way (and you can hear them better than they can see you!) ❄️

Breaking The Ice

The first snow is like the first love. Do you remember your first snow?

-- Lara Biyuts

PHOTO BY PAUL HAYES

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A WARM HUT ON COLD ICE

Written By Leah Carey



In the middle of winter Lake Memphremagog is dotted with tiny cabins, many flanked by pick-up trucks and ATVs. Sitting atop a foot or more of ice, these little cabins and vehicles represent winter second homes for ice fishermen.

From the outside those “tiny” cabins look like they’re only big enough to fit two or three people and their gear. But step inside the Bloody Mary On Ice cabin owned by Ginny Gray and her family, and you’ll find 12 or even 16 people happily crowded in. In addition to the Grays, families represented among them are Carons, Bradshaws, Kelleys, Lantagnes, Crosses, Colburns and more.

This group of family, cousins, and close friends gather out on the lake

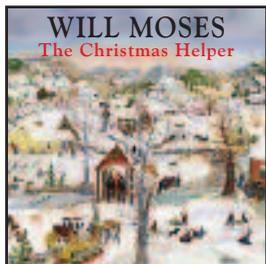


PHOTOS BY LEAH CAREY

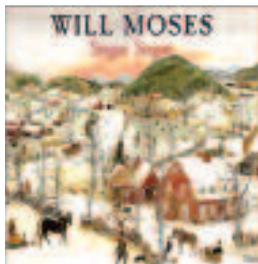
5-year-old Ava shows how high the flag flies when her tip-up gets triggered by a fish.

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Holes are cut through the bottom of the shack to allow access to tip-ups from inside. The holes have covers so no one falls through.

one of the cousins as everyone speaks on top of each other in their excitement.

The youngest on the lake today is 5-year-old Ava, who has already caught several fish in her young life.

But, the group says, 4-year-old Wyatt is their "true little fisherman" - not only is he a budding fisherman, he's already picked up the proper language and attitude for the sport. According to Wyatt, everything is a "sum'bitch."

"That's probably one of my best memories," says one of Wyatt's aunts. "Last year, he pulled a fish up on the ice and he raised his hands and said, 'I got that sum'bitch!'"

Which leads to a chorus of groans that no one caught the moment on video.

In fact, favorite memories cited by the group are of younger members pulling up big catches - the adults talk about the teenagers' catches and the teenagers talk about the smaller kids' catches.

"I don't really have a favorite memory of catching a fish, but probably seeing the little kids catch fish," said Drew Gray, 18.

Drew said that he and his brother began fishing when they were about six or seven. "When you're younger, you just want to catch the fish, but when you get older you know more about setting it up and it makes it more of an experience," he said. "When you're younger, you just pulled it out. You learn about it, but you don't drill the hole and everything."

Meanwhile, it's time for some vittles to go along with the beer that the adults are consuming.

Someone pulls out a cooler and inside is a hunk of venison from last fall's hunt. They cook it right here on the stove in the hut.

In answer to questions about how a stove can be run without melting and falling through the ice, they explain that there's a large gap between where the stove sits on the shack floor and the surface of the ice. But, in the dead of winter, the ice is thick enough to even sustain a

... Continued, Next Page

Breaking The Ice

Despite all I have seen and experienced, I still get the same simple thrill out of glimpsing a tiny patch of snow in a high mountain gully and feel the same urge to climb toward it.

-- Edmund Hillary

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13-year-old Ivy holds up her big catch of the day.

campfire directly on its surface.

And that little stove keeps the shack toasty warm - no need for gloves, hat, or even jacket once inside the hut.

People wander in and out of the cabin constantly. It truly is a social gathering spot where everyone is welcome. On a nice day they take the kids out, pulling sleds by Skidoo. On bad weather days they hang out inside and tell fish stories.

"Every time someone catches a fish, we're all there and it's pretty intense and everybody is excited and waiting," said Ginny Gray, Drew's mom. "The excitement on everybody's face and the [she gasps] 'Oh, did you see it go by the hole?' That's the best!"

Holes are cut in the bottom of the shack to access fishing holes and more holes are cut out in the open.

But for newcomer Reg Langtagne, the fishing is

secondary to the camaraderie. "I just like coming out here and hanging out and doing this, and catching the fish is cool," he said. "I don't know that if I was to go anyplace else to fish alone, I just don't have that drive. But to come out here and hang out and have a few beers and socialize, it's just a lot of fun."

"I don't care if you're fishing, I don't care what you're doing," said family friend Randall Cross. "It's a good day with these people." ❄️



Inside the Bloody Mary On Ice, a crown is passed around for best catch of the day. Ivy wears the crown for her prize-winning fish at the 2015 Wrights Sports Fishing Derby.

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Calendar

Continued from Page 19

10 a.m. - Burklyn Arts Council Christmas Market, Lyndon Town School. For info: burklynarts.org.

10 a.m. - Gingerbread Bazaar, Lunenburg Primary School. For info: topofthecommon.org.

10 a.m. - Visit with Santa, Bethlehem Heritage Society. For info: 603-869-3330

11 a.m. - Newport Santa Run, Gardner Park, Newport. For info: dandelionrun.org.

2 p.m. - Holiday High Tea and Raffle, Peacham Library. For info: 592-3966.

4 p.m. - Memory Tree Lighting, Concord Community Church. For info: cvmore34@myfairpoint.net.

4 p.m. - Memory Tree Ceremony, corner of Agassiz Street and Main Street in Bethlehem, New Hampshire. For info: 603-869-3330.

6:30 p.m. - Community Spaghetti Supper, Durrell United Methodist Church, Bethlehem, New Hampshire. For info: 603-869-3330.

7 p.m. - Appalachian Music and Jam, Catamount Arts. For info: catamountarts.org.

7 p.m. - Mississquoi River Band, The Music Box. For info: themusicboxvt.org.

7:30 p.m. - North Country Chorus Holiday Concert, Wells River Congregational Church. For info: northcountrychorus.org.

Sunday, Dec. 6

North Pole Polar Express, Lyndonville. For info: thelyndonfreighthouse.com.

12:55 p.m. - Bolshoi Ballet, Catamount Arts, *The Lady of the Camellias*. For info: catamountarts.org.

1 p.m. - Christmas Tree Lighting, Colebrook Elementary School gym, Kiwanis Christmas party with Santa.

3 p.m. - North Country Chorus Holiday Concert, Peacham Congregational Church. For info: northcountrychorus.org.



PHOTO BY PAUL HAYES

Downtown Littleton in winter.

4 p.m. - Northsong Chamber Choir Winter Concert, Newport United Church. For info: northsong.org.

Monday, Dec. 7

6 p.m. - First Monday Movie Series, Colatina Exit, Bradford.

Tuesday, Dec. 8

7 p.m. - National Theatre Live, Catamount Arts, *Jane Eyre*. For info: catamountarts.org.

See **Calendar**, Page 34

Breaking The Ice

When it snows you have two choices:
shovel or make snow angels. -- Unknown

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Skiing, as the lift ticket says, carries "inherent risks." A predictable percentage of skiers becomes injured while interacting with the snow. As skiing gained popularity in the United States, it quickly became evident that assisting people with broken limbs off an icy ski slope is quite difficult. Doctors didn't fix things outside in winter. With these realities came the birth of ski patrol.

Today, nearly all lift-accessed resorts in the nation have ski patrollers standing by to stabilize injured snow sports enthusiasts and transport them off of the ski slopes. Louis Carter has been doing just that for the last 50 years at Jay Peak.

Carter's first season with the Jay Peak Ski Patrol (JPSP) was 1965.



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He and his family had been skiing at the hill for a few years as regular customers. Carter joined the patrol because he wanted to give his kids something fun and productive to do. "I didn't want them to be hoodlums," he said.

After 50 years on patrol, Carter isn't looking for any glory. "I don't want nothin'! I'm just up here to help people," he said. His use of double negatives fits cozily with his thick Vermont accent and warm smile.

When Carter first started skiing at Jay Peak, it cost 25 cents to park in the Stateside lot in addition to the price of a lift ticket.

At the time, the Ski Patrol building had a patient treatment area, where volunteer doctors could perform x-rays, set bones, and apply casts. JPSP also had a donated ambulance (thanks to Carter) that patrollers used to drive patients from one side of the mountain to the other, and to North Country Hospital as needed.

In 1967, shortly after Carter joined patrol, he was elected by his peers to be the leader of the volunteer patrol. That role originally rotated between members. But Carter was respected as a leader and was elected for 12 years in a row.

Carter unapologetically ran a tight ship, though 'cozy' might be a better word than 'tight.' He wanted JPSP to be welcoming to families; he wanted patrollers to bring their families skiing.

He also had firm expectations. He would eject members who had poor attendance, like one member who had been gone for a month and a half without explanation. Carter also had no patience for the "Sunshine Boys" – patrollers who would do little work and only show up in the best conditions to go skiing for free.

He strictly enforced the National Ski Patrol's dress code, and personally disallowed facial hair. "It wasn't like it is today with all these fellows coming in here with their beards and mustaches," he said. His rationale was that caring for patients while dripping snow melt from a glazed mustache is inappropriate.

In recent times, leadership positions became appointed rather than elected and the leadership team has remained relatively consistent with gradual changes due to retirements. Through it all, Carter has remained a strong presence with JPSP.

Skiing, and ski patrolling, has come a long way in 50 years. When Carter started skiing, the skis were made of wood, the boots were leather, leather straps known as "long thongs" were the ski brakes, and clothing mostly soaked up water rather than repelling it. Skis weren't designed to come off in crashes, resulting in a higher incidence of leg fractures. Releasable bindings eventually made the sport less painful for skiers and

less taxing for patrollers.

When JPSP started, the only way for patrol to know about accidents, and the only way to coordinate responses and communicate equipment needs was by face-to-face notification. Later, phones allowed communication between the tops and bottoms of the ski lifts. Carter was a major player in bringing CB Radios to Jay, which were later replaced by a 10 portable VHF radios in the 1980s. Walkie-talkies further enhanced the efficiency of ski patrol.

At the Tramside Base Lodge, Carter built lockers for patrollers and wooden backboards that are still in use today. He also built some of the early "Sun Valley" splints, used primarily to stabilize knee and lower leg injuries on the hill. When Jay Peak added a snow machine to the patrol's list of tools, Carter helped craft a device to tow toboggans behind the machine.

Even as skiing became more accessible, Jay Peak still remained relatively isolated, and there were no lodgings on property. A general con-



struction contractor by trade, Carter built eight slope-side condominiums with his sons at Jay Peak. They are still in use today, although they are dwarfed a bit by more recent construction projects.

Carter remembers a conversation with Bill Stenger, President and CEO of Jay Peak Resort, who said, "Louis, I'm gonna change this mountain."

"And he did," said Carter. "It has changed a lot ... It has gone a little bit too fast, but I like it."

Other changes are more welcome, like the addition of female patrollers to the Jay Peak team. Carter said, "It's great to have women now, especially with female patients."

While the "new Jay Peak" is another world compared to the original ski hill, the essence of ski patrol, of service, has remained the same for Carter. "I don't think much about it. I do it because I like it."

Pointing around the Tramside first aid room, Carter said, "You never know what's gonna come in here, and you get to meet and greet a lot of people."

... Continued, Next Page

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Carter has received many awards during his time at Jay Peak, including a National Ski Patrol "Appointment," meaning he "has demonstrated leadership, good character, diplomacy, a positive attitude, good judgment, exemplary qualities of patrolling ability, a genuine desire to serve the skiing public, and extraordinary service to the NSP."

Carter also has an award named for him, which started being distributed in 2004. The Carter Award is voted on by the patrol membership and is presented annually to "an individual, not necessarily a patroller, whose efforts have benefited the Jay Peak Ski Patrol or Jay Peak Resort resulting in a friendlier and safer ski area."

Carter's sons Rick, Randy and Jody have been members of JPSP, as well.

Carter was still skiing regularly until 2010, when he crashed skiing down the Vermonter in poor visibility. He slammed into a snowdrift and ejected out of both skis, tearing his rotator cuff in the landing.

He tried to return to skiing after his shoulder surgery, but it did not work well, and his wife was concerned. "She didn't want me coming up here and getting hurt," he said. "There's no sense in arguing. She's the boss; I just say, 'Yes, honey.'"

Even though Carter has retired his skis, he has not retired as a patroller. Nearly every Saturday and Sunday throughout the winter, he's still volunteering his time to JPSP, staffing the Tramside first aid room for three shifts in a row, each one-and-a-half-hours in length.

When younger members of patrol ask the venerable Carter what he'll miss most if he retires, he answers in a tone simultaneously warm and gruff, "All you kids!" ❄️



All photos of Louis Carter courtesy of Latimer Hoke.

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VERMONT

This information covers Wildlife Management Units C, D1, D2, E, H1 and H2

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Deer (rifle) - through Nov. 29

Deer (muzzleloader) - Dec. 5-13

Deer (archery) - Dec. 5-13

Small Game Hunting

Gray squirrel - through Dec. 31

Hare and rabbit - through March 13, 2016 (through March 31 in WMU E)

Game Bird Season

Ruffed grouse - through Dec. 31

Waterfowl season - through Dec. 29

Furbearer Hunting

Raccoon - through Dec. 31

Red and gray fox - through Feb. 14, 2016

Coyote - no closed season

Furbearer Trapping

Beaver trapping - through March 31, 2016

Fisher - Dec. 1-31

Bobcat - Dec. 1-16

Mink, skunk, red and gray fox, raccoon, coyote, opossum, weasel - through Dec. 31

Otter trapping - through Feb. 29, 2016

Muskrat - through March 31, 2016

NEW HAMPSHIRE

This information covers Wildlife Management Units A1, A2, B, C1, D1, D2 and E3

Bears

Bear (general season) - through Nov. 25 in WMUs C1, D2 and E

Waterfowl

Black duck - through Nov. 30

Canada geese - through Dec. 10

Canvasback - through Nov. 30

Coot - through Nov. 30

Crow - through Nov. 30; March 16-31, 2016

Eider, long-tailed duck, scoter - through Jan. 15, 2016

Harlequin duck - season closed

Hooded merganser - through Nov. 30

Mallard - through Nov. 30

Pintail - through Nov. 30

Redhead - through Nov. 30

Scaup - through Nov. 30

Snow geese - through Dec. 23

Wood duck - through Nov. 30

Deer

Archery - through Dec. 15 (through Dec. 8 in WMU A)

Firearms - through Dec. 6 (through Nov. 29 in WMU A)

Small Game and Furbearers

Snowshoe hare - through March 31, 2016

Cottontail rabbit - closed

Gray squirrel - through Dec. 31 (no hunting in parks or

cemeteries)

Ring-necked pheasant - through Dec. 31

Ruffed grouse, northern bobwhite quail, chukar, Hungarian partridge - through Dec. 31

Crow - through Nov. 30; March 16-31

Furbearers

Gray fox, red fox, opossum, skunk, weasel, raccoon - through March 31, 2016

Fisher - Dec. 1 through Jan. 31, 2016

Mink, muskrat - through April 10, 2016

Coyote - no closed season

Coyote night hunting - Jan. 1 through March 31, 2016

Pheasant

Pheasant - through Dec. 31

Turkey

Fall archery - through Dec. 8 (through Dec. 8 in WMU A)*

Breaking The Ice

There's just something beautiful about walking on snow that nobody else has walked on. It makes you believe you're special.
-- Carol Rifka Brunt

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Calendar

Continued from Page 29

Wednesday, Dec. 9

10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. - Much Work With Little Effort, Physics fun with slapstick science for kids, Fuller Hall, St. Johnsbury Academy. For info: catamountarts.org.

Thursday, Dec. 10

6 p.m. - North Country Toastmasters, Littleton Opera House. For info: 603-396-5807.

6:30 p.m. - Catamount Community Cinema, Catamount Arts, *Jamaica Inn*. For info: catamountarts.org.

7 p.m. - Milarepa Center Film Series, Catamount Arts, *Blindsight*. For info: catamountarts.org.

Breaking The Ice

The problem with winter sports is that - follow me closely here - they generally take place in winter.

-- Dave Barry

Friday, Dec. 11

9:30 p.m. - Hornbeam, Phat Kat's Tavern. For info: 626-3064.

Saturday, Dec. 12

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All day - Mountainfilm On Tour, Omni Mount Washington Resort, film festival. For info: brettonwoods.com.

Nordic Demo Days, Bretton Woods Nordic Center. For info: brettonwoods.com.

Victorian Holiday Celebration, events around St. Johnsbury. For info: discoverstjohnsburyvt.com.

9:30 a.m. - Midnight in winter greeting card family workshop, Catamount Outback Artspace. For info: catamountarts.org.

10 a.m. - Adirondack Pack Basket Making Workshop, Northwoods Stewardship Center. For info: northwoodscen-ter.org.

12:55 p.m. - Met Opera, Catamount Arts, *The Magic Flute*. For info: catamountarts.org.

7:30 p.m. - Anonymous 4 Holiday Concert, North Church, St. Johnsbury, *The Last Noel*. For info: KCP-presents.org.

Sunday, Dec. 13

Catamount Bluegrass Jam, Catamount Arts. For info: discoverstjohnsburyvt.com.

Nordic Demo Days, Bretton Woods Nordic Center. For info: brettonwoods.com.

9 a.m. - How To Make Your Own Axe Handle, Northwoods Stewardship Center. For info: northwoodscen-ter.org.

11:30 a.m. - No Room At The Inn, First Congregational Church, Lyndonville, Nativity Scene display. For info: 626-9570.

Monday, Dec. 14

8 p.m. - Glenn Miller Orchestra, Omni Mount Washington Resort, *In The Mood For Christmas*. For info: brettonwoods.com.

Tuesday, Dec. 15

1:30 p.m. - Catamount Community Cinema, Catamount Arts, *White Christmas*. For info: catamountarts.org.

7 p.m. - Bolshoi Ballet, Catamount Arts, *The Lady of the Camellias*. For info: catamountarts.org.



PHOTO BY PAUL HAYES

There are many sledding hills - both small and large - in the area.

Wednesday, Dec. 16

7 p.m. - Catamount Community Cinema, Catamount Arts, *White Christmas*. For info: catamountarts.org.

Thursday, Dec. 17

7 p.m. - National Theatre Live, Catamount Arts, *Jane Eyre*. For info: catamountarts.org.

7:30 p.m. - Brass Quintet/Counterpoint, North Church, St. Johnsbury. For info: vso.org.



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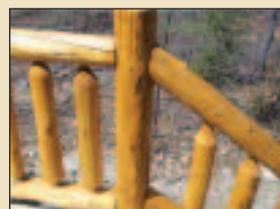
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Friday, Dec. 18

6:30 p.m. - No Strings Marionette Company, Alumni Hall, Haverhill, New Hampshire, *A Christmas Carol*. For info: www.courtstreetarts.org.

7:30 p.m. - Brass Quintet/Counterpoint, Jay Peak Resort. For info: vso.org.

9:30 p.m. - Raized On Radio, Phat Kat's Tavern. For info: 626-3064.

Saturday, Dec. 19

10 a.m. - Winter Farmers' Market, St. Johnsbury Welcome Center. For info: sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

12:55 p.m. - Met Opera, Catamount Arts, *The Magic Flute*. For info: catamountarts.org.

1 p.m. - Tuba Christmas, Trinity United Methodist Church, Colebrook, free concert.

6 p.m. - Holiday Meat Bingo, Lyndonville VFW.

7 p.m. - Winter Kick-Off Your Boots and Dance Party, Northwoods Stewardship Center. For info: northwoodscenter.org.

Sunday, Dec. 20

10 a.m. - Children's Day and Winter Solstice Celebration, Karne Choling, Barnet. For info: karnecholing.org.

12:55 p.m. - Bolshoi Ballet, Catamount Arts, *The Nutcracker*. For info: catamountarts.org.

4 p.m. - Christmas Candlelight service, Granby-Victory Congregational Church.

Thursday, Dec. 24

7 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Farnham Memorial United Methodist Church, Pittsburg.

7 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Monadnock

Breaking The Ice

Advice is like snow. The softer it falls, the longer it dwells upon and the deeper it sinks into the mind.

-- Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Congregational Church, Colebrook.

7 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Trinity United Methodist Church, Colebrook.

Saturday, Dec. 26

7 p.m. - Public skating special with free admission, Fenton W. Chester Arena. For info: 626-9361.

Sunday, Dec. 27

9 a.m. - Island Pond Bird Count, Northwoods Stewardship Center. For info: northwoodscenter.org.

Monday, Dec. 28

1 p.m. - All Wheel For The Arts Car Raffle, Catamount Arts. For info: catamountarts.org

Tuesday, Dec. 29

7 p.m. - Bolshoi Ballet, Catamount Arts, *The Nutcracker*. For info: catamountarts.org.

Thursday, Dec. 31

9:30 p.m. - New Year's Eve Ball, Phat Kat's Tavern. For info: 626-3064.

Friday, Jan. 1

1 p.m. - Casual Friday Nordic Series, Bretton Woods Nordic Center. For info: brettonwoods.com.

Saturday, Jan. 2

See **Calendar**, Page 37



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NEW HAMPSHIRE

Information from www.nhsa.com, the website of the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association

GRAFTON COUNTY

Bethlehem – Mount Agassiz Trail Association – www.thinksno.com

Haverhill – Connecticut Valley Snowmobile Club – www.ctvalleysnowmobile-club.com

Lisbon – Lisbon Stump Jumpers – www.lisbonstumpjumpers.org

Littleton – Littleton Off Road Riders – www.littletonoffroadriders.com

Lyme – Lyme Pinnacle Snowmobile Club

Monroe – Monroe Bumper Humpers – dmitton@roadrunner.com

COOS COUNTY

Berlin – White Mountain Ridge Runners – www.whitemtridgerunners.com

Colebrook – Colebrook Ski Bees – www.colebrookski-bees.com

Dalton – Dalton Ridge Riders – www.daltonridgerunners.com

Gorham – Presidential Range Riders – www.presidentialrangeriders.org

Groveton – Groveton Trailblazers – www.grovetontrailblazers.com

Jefferson – Jefferson Hi-Landers – www.Jeffersonhilanders.com

Lancaster – Lancaster Snow Drifters – www.lancastersnowdrifters.org

Milan – Milan All Weather Riders – www.milanallweatherriders.webs.com

Pittsburg – Pittsburg Ridge Runners – www.pittsburgridgerunners.org

Stewartstown – Swift Diamond Riders – www.swiftdiamondriders.com

Twin Mountain – Twin Mountain Snowmobile Club – www.twinmtnsnowmobile.org

Whitefield – Whitefield Sno Kings – www.snokings.com

VERMONT

Information from www.vtvast.org, the website of the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers

CALEDONIA COUNTY

Burke – Drift Skippers – www.burkedriftskippers.com

Danville – Danville S-Ski-Mos – www.danville-s-skimos.com

Groton – Buckaroos of 302 – www.buckaroosof302.com

Hardwick – Snowflake Ridge Runners

Lyndonville – Lyndon Sno Cruisers – www.lyndonsnocruisers.com

Newark – Newark E-Z Riders – www.newarkezriders.org

Peacham – Bayley Hazen Road Snowmobile Club – www.bhrsnowclub.org

Ryegate – Ryegate Rovers

Sheffield – Caledonia County Snowmobile Trail Club – www.snowmobilecaledoniavt.com

St. Johnsbury – St. Johnsbury Sno-Blazers

Walden – Cole's Pond Sledders – www.colespondsledders.com

Waterford – Waterford Ridge Runners – www.facebook.com/WRRSnowmobileClub

Wheelock – Winter Wanderers

ESSEX COUNTY

Brighton – Brighton Snowmobile Club – www.brightonsnowmobile.org

Canaan – Canaan Border Riders – www.canaanborderriders.org

Concord – Moose River Rock Dodgers – mooserverrockdodgers.homestead.com

Guildhall – Connecticut Valley Sno-Riders – www.ctvalleysnoriders.com

Lunenburg – Lunenburg Polar Bears – sites.google.com/site/lunenburgpolarbears/home

Norton – Northeast Kingdom Snow Blasters – www.northeastkingdomsnowblasters.com

ORLEANS COUNTY

Craftsbury – Craftsbury Snowmobile Club – www.townofcraftsbury.com/business/club_snowmobile.shtml

Coventry – Irasburg, Newport – North Country Mountaineers – www.northcountrymountaineers.com

Derby – Drift Dusters – www.driftdusters.com

Glover – Glover Trailwinders Snowmobiling Club – www.glovertrailwinders.com

Irasburg – Creek Runners

Jay, Newport – Country Riders – www.countryridersvt.com

Lowell – Hazen's Notch Snowmobile Club – www.facebook.com/Hazen-Notch-Snowmobile-Club-non-profit-111459765583746

Orleans – Orleans Snow Stormers – www.orleanssnowstormers.com

West Glover – Glover Trailwinders – www.glovertrailwinders.com ❄️

PHOTO BY PAUL HAYES

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Calendar

Continued from Page 35

9:30 a.m. - Blessing of the Snowmobiles, Granite State Power, Pittsburg.

10 a.m. - Winter Farmers' Market, St. Johnsbury Welcome Center. For info: sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

Monday, Jan. 4

6:30 p.m. - First Monday Movie Series, Colatina Exit, Bradford.

Wednesday, Jan. 6

IPC Nordic Skiing Continental Cup & U.S. Paralympics Nationals, Craftsbury Outdoor Center. For info: cocparalympic.com.

7 p.m. - First Wednesdays, Goodrich Memorial Library, Newport, Katherine Peterson talks about *Bridge to Terabithia*. For info: 334-7902.

7 p.m. - First Wednesdays, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, Katy Smith Abbott talks about

Breaking The Ice

The color of springtime is in the flowers; the color of winter is in the imagination.

-- Terri Guillemets

Renaissance Venice. For info: 748-8291.

Thursday, Jan. 7

IPC Nordic Skiing Continental Cup & U.S. Paralympics Nationals, Craftsbury Outdoor Center. For info: cocparalympic.com.

6 p.m. - North Country Toastmasters, Littleton Opera House. For info: 603-396-5807.

Saturday, Jan. 9

Winter Trail Days, Bretton Woods Nordic Center, free lessons, trail pass, etc. For info: bretteonwoods.com.

IPC Nordic Skiing Continental Cup & U.S. Paralympics Nationals, Craftsbury Outdoor Center. For info: cocparalympic.com.

Sunday, Jan. 10

IPC Nordic Skiing Continental Cup & U.S. Paralympics Nationals, Craftsbury Outdoor Center. For info: cocparalympic.com.

Saturday, Jan. 16

10 a.m. - Winter Farmers' Market, St. Johnsbury Welcome Center. For info: sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

12:55 p.m. - Met Opera, Catamount Arts, *Les Pecheurs De Perles (Bizet)*. For info: catamountarts.org.



PHOTO BY PAUL HAYES

A group of children play in the snow at a local playground.

Monday, Jan. 18

Geschmossel Ski Race, Bretton Woods Nordic Center, citizen's race. For info: bretteonwoods.com.

Tuesday, Jan. 19

7 p.m. - Mummenschanz, St. Johnsbury Academy's Fuller Hall. For info: KCPpre-sents.org.

Thursday, Jan. 21

6 p.m. - North Country Toastmasters, Littleton Opera House. For info: 603-396-5807.

Saturday, Jan. 23

12:55 p.m. - Met Opera, Catamount Arts, *Les Pecheurs De Perles (Bizet)*. For info: catamountarts.org.

See **Calendar**, Page 38

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Sunday	1:00pm	4:00pm	7:00pm	—

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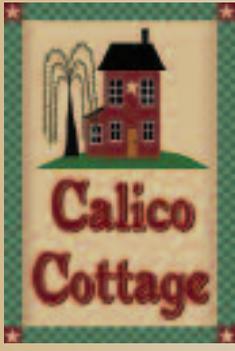
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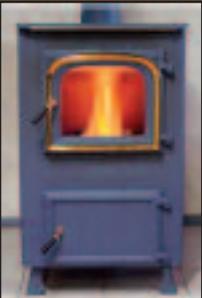
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Calendar

Continued from Page 37

7 p.m. - Public skating special with free admission, Fenton W. Chester Arena. For info: 626-9361.

Sunday, Jan. 24

12:55 p.m. - Bolshoi Ballet, Catamount Arts, *The Taming of the Shrew*. For info: catamountarts.org.

3 p.m. - NEK Classical Series, South Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury, Jeva Jokubaviciute. For info: nekclassicalseries.org.

Saturday, Jan. 30

12:55 p.m. - Met Opera, Catamount Arts, *Turandot (Puccini)*. For info: catamountarts.org.

Monday, Feb. 1

6:30 p.m. - First Monday Movie Series, Colatina Exit.

Tuesday, Feb. 2

7 p.m. - Bolshoi Ballet, Catamount Arts, *The Taming of the Shrew*. For info: catamountarts.org.

Wednesday, Feb. 3

10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. - Africa To Vermont song and dance, Fuller Hall at St. Johnsbury Academy. For info: catamountarts.org.

7 p.m. - First Wednesdays, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, celebrating E.B. White. For info: 748-8291.

7 p.m. - The Legacy of Trail Clubs in the White Mountains, Bretzfelder Park, Bethlehem. For info: 603-444-6228.

Thursday, Feb. 4

6 p.m. - North Country Toastmasters, Littleton Opera House. For info: 603-396-5807.

Friday, Feb. 5

Bretton Woods Nordic Marathon, Bretton Woods Nordic Center. For info: brettonwoods.com.

Saturday, Feb. 6

10 a.m. - Winter Farmers' Market, St. Johnsbury Welcome Center. For info: sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

12:55 p.m. - Met Opera, Catamount Arts, *Turandot (Puccini)*. For info: catamountarts.org.

Wednesday, Feb. 10

7 p.m. - First Wednesdays, Goodrich Memorial Library, Newport, examining contemporary journalism. For info: 334-7902.

7 p.m. - What's New In Astronomy, Bretzfelder Park, Bethlehem. For info: 603-444-6228.

Saturday, Feb. 13

8 a.m. - Firefighter's Snowmobile Ride-In & Poker Run, Colebrook Fire Station.

10 a.m. - Milarepa Center Gala, Milarepa Center. For info: discoverstjohnsburyvt.com.

7 p.m. - HOPE Sweetheart Ball, QBurke Lodge, DJ,

Breaking The Ice

Lorelai: I love snow. Everything's magical when it snows, everything looks pretty. The clothes are great. Do you know the best things in my life have happened when it snowed? My best birthday. My first kiss. Your first steps, they all happened when it snowed. I feel good. Tingly.

Rory: That's called frostbite.

-- Lorelai and Rory Gilmore, "The Gilmore Girls"

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PHOTO BY PAUL HAYES

A skier climbs to the top of a hill in Littleton.

silent auction and more. For info: 626-6210.
7 p.m. - Father Daughter Dance, Gateway Center, Newport. For info: newportrecreation.org.

Sunday, Feb. 14

Snowflake Festival opens in Burke for two weeks. For info: burkevermont.com.
7 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast, Lyndonville United Methodist Church.
9 a.m. - Bake sale, West Burke Methodist Church.
7 p.m. - Wounded Veterans Sled Hockey Game, Fenton Chester Arena.

Wednesday, Feb. 17

10 a.m. - Story Hour, Cobleigh Library, ages birth to 5, snow themed.
10 a.m. - Scratch Art Bookmark, Village

Kids Boutique.

Thursday, Feb. 18

6 p.m. - North Country Toastmasters, Littleton Opera House. For info: 603-396-5807.

Saturday, Feb. 20

9 a.m. - Austin's Ride for Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Colebrook Country Club.
10 a.m. - Winter Farmers' Market, St. Johnsbury Welcome Center. For info: sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.

Sunday, Feb. 21

Torchlight Snowshoe Derby, Lyndon Outing Club, all levels and abilities. For info: xip-training@gmail.com.

See **Calendar**, Page 40

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Calendar

Continued from Page 39

4 p.m. - Chowdah Fest, Riverside School Barn, plus silent auction.

6 p.m. - Wine and Art Snowcase, Lyndon State College. For info: catamountarts.org.

Monday, Feb. 22

12:30 p.m. - Randonnee Rally, QBurke Lodge, pre-register by Feb. 16. For info: 753-6551.

Wednesday, Feb. 24

10 a.m. - Story Hour, Cobleigh Library, ages birth to 5, snow themed.

7 p.m. - The Nature of Iceland, Bretzfelder Park, Bethlehem. For info: 603-444-6228.

Thursday, Feb. 25

Breaking The Ice

I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields, that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says, "Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again."

-- Lewis Carroll, "Through The Looking Glass"



PHOTO BY PAUL HAYES

Sledding in deep snow is a magical experience for all ages.

6 p.m. - Bonfire and Weenie Roast, Lyndon Outing Club, weather permitting.

7 p.m. - National Theatre Live, Catamount Arts, *As You Like It*. For info: catamountarts.org.

Friday, Feb. 26

10 a.m. - Scratch Art Bookmark, Village Kids Boutique.

3:30 p.m. - Snow Sculpture contest judging, Lyndon Bandstand Park.

Saturday, Feb. 27

All day - Kiwanis Winter Carnival, Colebrook Country Club.

2 p.m. - Winter Tracking, Cobleigh Library, with Northwoods Stewardship.

7 p.m. - Public skating special with free admission, Fenton W. Chester Arena. For info: 626-9361.

Sunday, Feb. 28

11:30 a.m. - Grab n' Go Chili, East Burke Congregational Church.

Wednesday, March 2

7 p.m. - Beth Hart, Catamount Arts, blues rock. For info: KCPpresents.org.

7 p.m. - First Wednesdays, Goodrich Memorial Library, Newport, photographer John Miller. For info: 334-7902.

Thursday, March 3

7 p.m. - National Theatre Live, Catamount Arts, *As You Like It*.

Breaking The Ice

*Winter came down to our home one night
Quietly pirouetting in on silvery-toed slippers
of snow,
And we, we were children once again.*

-- Bill Morgan, Jr.

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It. For info: catamountarts.org.

Friday, March 4

9 a.m. - Swift Diamond Riders Sno-Deo, Coleman State Park, Stewartstown.

Saturday, March 5

Winterbike, Kingdom Trails. For info: kingdomtrails.org.
9 a.m. - Swift Diamond Riders Sno-Deo, Coleman State Park, Stewartstown.
10 a.m. - Winter Farmers' Market, St. Johnsbury Welcome Center. For info: sites.google.com/site/caledoniafarmersmarket.
12:55 p.m. - Met Opera, Catamount Arts, *Manon Lescaut (Puccini)*. For info: catamountarts.org.

Sunday, March 6

Mt. Washington Cup Nordic Race, Bretton Woods Nordic

Center. For info: bretttonwoods.com.

3 p.m. - NEK Classical Series, South Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury, Delphi Piano Trio. For info: nekclassicalseries.org.

Tuesday, March 8

7 p.m. - Patty Griffin, Sara Watkins and Anais Mitchell, Catamount Arts. For info: KCPresents.org.

Wednesday, March 9

7 p.m. - First Wednesdays, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition. For info: 748-8291.

Saturday, March 12

12:55 p.m. - Met Opera, Catamount Arts, *Manon Lescaut (Puccini)*. For info: catamountarts.org.

Sunday, March 13

12:55 p.m. - Bolshoi Ballet, Catamount Arts, *Spartacus*. For info: catamountarts.org. ✨

Breaking The Ice

Nature looks dead in winter because her life is gathered into her heart. She withers the plant down to the root that she may grow it up again fairer and stronger. She calls her family together within her inmost home to prepare them for being scattered abroad upon the face of the earth.

-- Hugh Macmillan

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Breaking The Ice

Winter is the season in which people try to keep the house as warm as it was in the summer, when they complained about the heat.

-- Unknown

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