

## 1973-2023 Wostawea Time Capsule Story

### “1973 Junior Nationals at Mactaquac”

Story shared by Kevin Percy

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Beginning in the mid 1970s, Wostawea’s activities were focused on the groomed trails at Mactaquac Provincial Park. Some of you may remember the 5 km loop, no longer visible on Google Earth. How did this loop and the subsequent extension trails come about?

From my memory (it has been 51 years), prior to Wostawea’s founding several of us in the summer of 1972 were approached by the NB Division, Canadian Ski Association with the surprise news that the national junior championships had been awarded to NB. Our challenge was to design and lay out a competitive loop and gather a volunteer team to host a national event in February 1973!

Fortunately, the Park had the prerequisites of publicly accessible and forested land, a dedicated staff, and excellent host facilities in the lodge. A major design constraint was the relatively small footprint we had to work within. In September 1972 we marked out a 5 km loop. Park superintendent Henry Louder and his staff cut and brushed the trail and groomed it for the event. What resulted was a 5 km loop featuring two abrupt, sharp downhill turns followed by uphill climbs that were well suited for racing. Skiers found them quite challenging.

Through the dedication of volunteers, the 1973 Junior Nordic Canadian Championships were successfully held February 24-25 at Mactaquac. Over 30 racers from across Canada, including the Northwest Territories, competed in each of the boys’ individual 10 km, girls’ 5 km and 3x5 km relay races. In my searching, I did find one record of local officials and race results: [Junior Nationals - Canadian Museum of Nordic Sport \(sixmilesourdough.com\)](http://sixmilesourdough.com).

Later that same year, many members of the team that put on the event were instrumental in founding the club; it acted as something of a catalyst.

Some interesting historical facts for our younger readers: events at the Junior Nationals were all classic; wooden skis were used; tracks were set by a snowmobile pulling a weighted wooden sled; and race temperatures were recorded in degrees Fahrenheit!