1973-2023 Wostawea Time Capsule Story "Jackrabbits Fun Day: Canoeing on Snow and Other Adventures"

Story shared by Toon Pronk

I'm not sure who came up with the Jackrabbit end-of-lessons Fun Day or when, but it has become a highlight for young skiers and coaches alike. Shelley and I have always thought that any Jackrabbit morning is a Fun Morning, but this special event takes the cake! Usually blessed with spring-like weather, people dress up, often around a theme: Winter Olympics (wearing various national colours or uniforms), Hawaiian Day (with the requisite gaudy shirts), or 60s fashion, to name a few.

Memorable games over the years include the slalom course, the obstacle course in the woods (and the last few years on the terrain park), the treasure hunt, the poker run, and curling on snow. We even had biathlon with nerf guns for a few years. And of course we have a kid's favourite, Michel's magical forest, where popsicles grow in the snow. The final event of every Fun Day is the tug-of-war, with dozens of men and boys on one end and dozens of women and girls on the other. Guess who usually wins?

When Jackrabbits was still taught in Odell Park, we decided one day to bring a canoe and use it as a 'bobsled' down the hill. It's more difficult to find a good (and safe) canoe run at Killarney, so instead we often set up a canoe 'push-and-pull' in the front field. Kids on skis drag the canoe to the finish line with parents or coaches in the boat; then we'd do it the other way around.