

## **Camrose Ski Club**

### **Bike Programming 2024 Annual Report**

Submitted by Ian Wilson (Bike Director)

2023-2024 was an exciting time for bike programming in Camrose. Members of the Ski Club board and representatives from the City of Camrose worked toward developing a Trails Master Plan for the City, which would include improvement and continued development of mountain biking trails in the Stoney Creek valley. We received bids from many companies and ultimately hired McElhanney to complete the work. McElhanney's team visited Camrose in the Fall of 2023, consulted with multiple constituency groups (including cyclists), and conducted extensive surveys of our trail system. Funding for the project came from the Ski Club and from a grant received by the City of Camrose. The completed Trails Master Plan was presented to City Council and accepted by the Council on April 22, 2024. The Plan makes many recommendations concerning bike trails, so now the Club has a way to move forward with bike trail development in the valley. We hope that this new plan will enable us to fund raise and further improve our trail system in the years to come.

We also worked toward offering a new youth mountain biking program in Camrose. In 2023-24, Ian Wilson completed his basic cycling coaching certification process through the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP). He is now a trained NCCP Community Cycling Coach. In May and June 2024, he will be piloting a Kids of Mud (KOM) program through the Ski Club. Kids of Mud was originally developed by the Manitoba Cycling Association, and currently it is the official youth mountain biking program in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. This year's pilot KOM program will focus on the youngest age group (U9, called the "Little Rippers"), with hopes of expanding the program in future years. We hope that additional Club members will work through the coaching certification process and that we can offer multiple age groups in future years. If there is enough interest and support, we could offer a typical Spring program for different ages and perhaps also week-long camps in the Summer.

In conjunction with the new mountain biking program, we also began offering a summer-only membership for the Ski Club. This summer-only membership will benefit runners, bikers, and others who use the trails and want to support the Club, but who are not skiers. We hope that this will grow Club membership in the future, increase revenue for the Club, and promote the many uses of our trails in Camrose.

The 2024 calendar year will be the Ski Club's third full year of affiliation with the Alberta Bicycle Association (ABA) (unlike Nordiq Alberta, the ABA membership-year runs from January 1 to December 31). We hope that this continued affiliation will help to attract new members to the Club. ABA affiliation enables us to run biking programs like KOM, gives us resources for organizing other events like races, and makes us an officially recognized cycling club in the province, which improves our ability to raise funds for trail development etc. and to grow the Club generally.