



Lodge Renewal Project

In this newsletter we are providing an update on what the Lodge Renewal Committee has been up to recently, and share some plans for the coming year.

Lodge Structural Assessment

In summer 2023 we engaged an engineering company to conduct a structural assessment of the day lodge. While they did identify some issues that need to be addressed, the overall conclusion was that the foundation and most of the internal structure is in good condition. Of course, some parts, for example the deck on both levels, have deteriorated and need to be replaced, but there is nothing to indicate the building is about to fall down any time soon. This means that the option of renovating the existing building, with a possible expansion to create more space for members and visitors, is still on the table. However, no decision has been taken yet on whether to renovate and expand the existing lodge or build a new lodge from scratch.

Economic Impact

We also commissioned an analysis of the economic impact of the club. Although the club's budget sits at around \$1.2 M (2022-23), our overall benefit is much higher. The study concluded that our operations generate around \$5.2 M in economic activity (GDP) from our own operations (payroll and other purchases), spin-off activity of suppliers and their employees, and tourists and day visitors from outside the North Okanagan. In total, this generated \$900,000 in tax revenue for all levels of government (governments take note!). Last season alone, over 1,000 visitors from outside our region came to Sovereign Lake to ski in our competitive events; many of them stayed a week or more in local hotels, ate in local restaurants and made other purchases in the area. It all adds up, and shows we are an important part of the local economy.

BC Parks

BC Parks is committed to the success of the project. We continue to work closely with BC Parks personnel to define the scope of the lodge project and how it will be managed. More on this in the next newsletter.

Plans for 2024

In the coming year we hope to complete two major activities related to lodge renewal. First, develop a draft design and cost estimate for the project; and second, begin the challenging task of fundraising to pay for it all. The funds will come from a mix of government and foundation grants and donations from companies and individuals. We have developed a detailed fundraising plan and will share information on this over the coming months. In the meantime....

Help needed!

The Lodge Renewal Committee is looking to grow our team to help make this project a success. The skills that we need include:

- Communications & social media
- Fundraising, including:
 - Research on potential donor organizations
 - Outreach to funding agencies & foundations
 - Data management
 - Grant writing
 - Donor appreciation
- Construction project management (advisory)
- Architecture and functional design (advisory)

If you are interested, please contact us by sending an email to lodge@sovereignlake.com.

For more information on the Lodge Renewal Project, see <https://www.sovereignlake.com/lodge-renewal-project/>.