

CAMROSE SKI CLUB 2019 AGM

Camrose Luge Club 2018/2019 Annual Report

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The Camrose Natural Luge Club has been part of the Camrose Ski Club since 1989 when Garry Gibson recruited me to look after luge in the Camrose 1990 Alberta Winter Games. Because of the Calgary Olympics, a provincial luge/bobsled association had been organized which provided natural luge training sessions around the province, including here in Camrose, helped in organizing luge clubs in each of the Sport Zones in Alberta and coordinated luge races on the various luge tracks around the province that developed in that period.

In Camrose a luge club that was part of the Camrose Ski Club and a luge track that started on the west side of the ski jump emerged from that start. The first Alberta Natural Luge snow race was held on that track as a pre-Camrose Winter Games event with six local sliders, and at least 1-2 provincial luge races were held annually in the 90's. In addition, I added Natural Luge to the Physical Activity Classes (PAC) taught at CLC (then) in 1992 and are taught to the present day.

Luge in Alberta and the Camrose luge track evolved from that point. The current Camrose track went through a series of three layout variations till the current one emerged in about 1996. With water-lines already on the ski-hill due to the Winter Games, I converted the snow track to an ice track at about the same time. As a result, the Camrose track became a provincial training center for ice racing, holding provincial, national and N.Am. races here, my NL coaching went to level IV in the 3M NCCP and at least six Camrose sliders have raced in World Cups in Europe.

Since the Whistler BC Olympics, the Alberta Natural Luge Association has folded, luge clubs in the province no longer operate and natural luge racing no longer occurs. EXCEPT in Camrose! In fact, in 2018/19, based on luge web site searches, the ONLY ice Natural Luge track presently operating in N.Am. appears to be the Camrose track!

As a result, the Camrose Luge Club operates as a Learn-to-Luge (L2L) center. The only racing on the ice track occurs as the last-class event in the AUG Luge PAC courses where almost 400 students have participated in a L2L since it started. Daniella Burke, who came through those luge PAC courses and assisted coaching in them for 2 years, taught that course in Jan. 2019.

In addition, five additional groups came through L2L sessions in 2018/19. So, a total of 59 individuals completed L2L sessions offered this season with the ice melting by noon 16 March.

The exciting luge event of this season was the recording of a video session at the track about natural luge in Camrose. This was on the CBC "Our Edmonton" program which was played one weekend in March and was run across Canada I learned later.

The initial plans for holding L2L sessions in 2019/20 are in place. However, we are looking for a luge coach in order to keep L2L on ice operating as part of what the Camrose Ski Club offers.