

BLOW ME DOWN TRAILS



Resting on a high plateau overlooking the Bay of Islands and Blow Me Down Mountains, Blow Me Down Trails contains a total of 42 km of groomed trails that are situated along some of Newfoundland's most breath-taking scenic landscapes. Just 5 minutes from downtown Corner Brook, Blow Me Down Trails Cross Country Ski Club is located on Lundrigan Drive off Lewin Parkway, which is accessible from Wheeler's Road, O'Connell Drive, and from the Trans Canada Highway via exit 4.

Falling under the Western Newfoundland Forest Ecoregion (Corner Brook Subregion) the ski club is in the snowbelt of Western Newfoundland, with an average of 5 metres of snowfall per year. Located in the boreal forest, balsam fir dominates the forest cover, accompanied by black spruce, white birch, and red maple. Plateau bogs, and nutrient-rich slopes and valleys are also common. Throughout these different habitats, wildlife such as moose, caribou, black bear, fox, and various smaller animals may be spotted.



This non-profit organization began in 1977, skiing through forested land and on woods roads. The present full-service lodge was started in 1983 by volunteer members, and was expanded to its full size in 1998. Most trails were developed by club members, but the club boasts a racing trail system designed by Olympian Pierre Harvey. As a testament to the quality of its trails, the club was used as a venue for the 1999 Canada Winter Games Cross Country Ski Championship.

The trails are categorized according to difficulty and cover terrain (boreal forest, open bog, and mountain-top plateaus), and they are designed for both classic and skate skiing, as well as snowshoeing. A gazebo along the trails offers a place to take a break and warm up, and 6.5 km of trails are lit for night skiing. During the summer months, 10 km of the trails are used for both hiking and mountain biking.

The ski club is situated on timber-licensed land held by Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Ltd., who has granted permission to the club to occupy this section of land for their usage. Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Ltd. has placed an additional 50 metre buffer around the club's perimeter to protect the integrity of the trail system, whenever harvesting operations are active in this area.

For more information on Blow Me Down Trails, visit their web site at: www.blowmedown.ca



Credit for all Photos: Blow Me Down Trails Cross Country Ski Club