

RA Ski-Mail April 1, 2012

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ROYALS TO SKI AT MOUNT PAKENHAM

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Buckingham Palace announced today that Prince William and his wife Kate Middleton will spend a week skiing at Mount Pakenham next January. Both Kate and Will are expert skiers, and have skied all over Europe, but never in Canada. They were so enamoured by their warm welcome during their visit to Ontario last summer, that the Royal couple wanted to return to Ontario to ski. As they will be staying at the Governor-General's in Ottawa, they asked if there was a close ski hill in Ontario. When we heard that Mount Pakenham has 8,500 centimeters of vertical, we knew we had to try it. We also heard that the mountain is very family-orientated, and that sounds wonderful, said the Prince.

The RA Ski Club was asked by Buckingham Palace to provide ski-hill guides for the Royal couple. RA Ski president Doris Dallaire said it would be an honour, and that the club has a number of members who know Mount Pakenham well.

In honour of the Royal visit, Premier Dalton McGuinty has decreed that during the visit, drivers in Eastern Ontario will drive on the left-hand side of the road. This will help the Prince and his wife feel more at home, said the Premier. Recognizing that this might cause some difficulty for Ontario drivers, the Premier decided to make the change gradually. For the first day of the visit, this just applies to the trucks.

SKI-BAY SIGNS RA SKI CLUB PRESIDENT TO EXCLUSIVE CONTRACT

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SkiBay, the largest online retailer of high-end ladies and men's ski fashions, announced today that it has signed RA Ski Club President, Doris Dallaire, to an exclusive fashion design contract, said to be worth millions. We are really excited to have Doris on board, said SkiBay CEO, Buckle deBoot. Once we saw a sample of Doris's 2013 design, we knew we had to sign her. The competition was fierce and we're proud that Doris decided to partner with our company.

Long known to RA Ski Club members as a Fashionista, par excellence, Doris has worn other designers' clothing for years. At some point, you just have to go with your own ideas, cooed Doris during a recent interview. I've always known what ski fashions work and what skiers like.

When asked about the inspiration for the 2013 design that SkiBay found so irresistible, Doris explained, 2012 was really the winter that almost was. Very warm periods followed by a few really cold days and then back to the heat. What's a skier to do? Dress for the cold? Strip off and carry layers? Bundle up again? It was crazy! Then it hit me. I was on the Ski Club's weeklong trip to Sugarbush Vermont, and I was just starting down Birch run, and Boom! there it was. Shants!

What are Shants? Half shorts, half pants, said Doris, laughing, one leg of each. No more putting on or taking off layers. With Shants you're always comfortable on the slopes. Taking Shants from concept to production, however, has been quite a voyage. The Shants prototype was pretty rough, said deBoot. Basically a pair of Doris' own ski pants, one leg hacked off with something that looked like pinking shears! We saw right away, though, that Doris was really on to something. She worked with our senior designer, Legyn Kast, and together they refined the design and chose the fabrics.

Your reporter has obtained an exclusive photo of Doris modeling her Shants:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/raski/6887910178/in/set-72157602559214706>

The first 500 pairs of Shants will be gifted to each member of the RA Ski Club. They'll be available to the general public on the SkiBay website starting in September and demand is expected to be very high, especially among the movie and sporting elite.

We asked other RA Ski Club members what they thought of Doris' new venture and all the fuss surrounding Shants. Doris has always led the way, said long-time members Bill and Arlene Buck. She's tough to keep up with on the double diamond runs, added Bill, and now she's conquering the fashion salons too!

Publicity Chair and friend, Glen Campbell, echoed those sentiments. I wish Doris every success. She's given a lot to the Club and will leave quite a legacy. As RA Ski Club chair, Doris guides us through each season, helping us to excel as a club. She makes sure the program runs smoothly□, chuckled Campbell, and keeps the troops in line. So now, we not only have Doris Do's and Don'ts, we also have her Shants!

WEEKLONG 2013

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We're looking at two possibilities for our weeklong ski trip next winter. At the Ski Club's Annual General Meeting on April 18th, we will survey our members to see which destination they prefer.

(1) Mission Ridge Winter Park, Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan

This ski hill is an hour north of Regina, and has one lift and 89 meters of vertical. (That's almost 300 feet!) We're still working on the pricing, but hope to get it down to under \$5,000. Cross-country skiers can join us, and ski the quarter-mile oval track at the local high school.

On the return we'll spend two days in Regina. The first day we'll see an exciting chicken cleaning contest, while the second day we'll have all day to shop at Regina's Golden Mile Mall with its 30 stores.

(2) Iglu Cruise in the Caribbean

U.K.-based travel agency Iglu Cruise today announced a unique cruise scheduled for December 2012. The seven-night Caribbean cruise (with fares starting at \$999.99 per person, including flights from Toronto to Barbados) takes place onboard the company's first-ever cruise ship, creatively named Iglucruise, which is outfitted with a top-deck ski slope. Covered in "Perma-Snow all weather ski carpet and serviced by a poma lift," the slope also features a hot tub and an alpine-themed, après-ski bar "serving a collection of schnapps, gluhwein and more" at its base. Other than that, the cruise details are fairly standard, with just one warning that while dress is casual, beanies are not allowed inside the ship's restaurants.

CAMP FORTUNE MID-WEEK SEASON PASSES

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SKI THE SEASON FOR \$3.98!

Camp Fortune's popular mid-week ski passes are now on sale for next season. There are two types of passes - one is good for daytime Monday through Friday, and the other is good only for evenings. So get together with your group of friends and save!

Group of 4: \$109.00

Group of 10: \$108.98

Group of 100: \$105.98

Group of 1000: \$99.98

Group of 10,000: \$3.98

Just get 9,999 of your friends together, and you can all ski the season for \$3.98! But hurry, as this offer ends April 20th.

HEALTHY-LIVING CORNER

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Now that the ski season is over, and we're starting to get ready for the next ski season, it's time to start dieting to get in shape. And for dieters, we have great news! It's OK to eat chocolate chip cookies if you're on a diet! Health Canada scientists have determined that if you break the cookies into small pieces, there is calorie leakage around the edges.

Another dieting tip is that if you put a crouton on your chocolate sundae instead of a cherry, it counts as a salad.

SPORTS CORNER

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In hockey news, three of the Canadian NHL teams saw action last night. Here are the scores for the Canadian teams:

In the Ottawa versus Philadelphia:

Ottawa Senators 4

The Calgary/Pittsburgh game was tied until the final minute:

Calgary Flames 3

The Montreal/Washington game was a real squeaker, as the lead kept changing back and forth:

Montreal Canadians 5

LATE-BRAKING NEWS: The Toronto Maple Leafs have been traded for an NHL hockey team.