



canadianavalancheassociation

# Avalanche Rescue Commission Canadian Field Session 2011 March 22-24, 2011

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Canadian Avalanche Association  
IKAR Member - Parks Canada

*March 22-24 - Revelstoke, BC*

3.5 day field based workshop for avalanche commission

**GOAL**

the exchange of knowledge between ARC member countries  
while learning a little bit about the Canadian avalanche  
community

# Why?

- Avalanche safety in Canada is a large and growing industry
- Revelstoke is the epi-centre of avalanche work and heliskiing in Canada
- Revelstoke is rated one of the top destinations in North America for mountain snowmobiling
- provides for easy access to numerous field locations in almost any weather



Photo courtesy of photograph 011-000-0100 taken by R. Gaulty, reproduced with permission.



### Regional snow avalanche activity and known fatal avalanche accidents for Canada (1863 to June 1997)

**Avalanche activity zones**

	<b>High</b>	Mountainous and AMSD > 100 cm	Heavy avalanche paths, many with avalanche road barriers
	<b>Moderate</b>	Mountainous and AMSD ranging between 50 to 100 cm, or heavy steep hills and AMSD > 100 cm	Reduced density of avalanche paths, some with avalanche road barriers
	<b>Low</b>	Very steep hills and AMSD ranging between 30 and 100 cm	Isolated avalanche slopes, infrequent avalanches, mostly in extreme winters
	<b>Very low</b>	Mainly gentle terrain or AMSD < 50 cm	Very isolated avalanche slopes, infrequent runs

(AMSD - average maximum snow depth)

### Fatalities from avalanches

Deaths	Type of accident
1-2-3	Recreation, including commercial recreation
+	Transportation, including construction of transportation routes
+	Resource industry (mining, logging, etc.), including work camps
+	In or near residential or public buildings
+	Others, including hunting



The four levels of avalanche activity shown on this map are based on terrain characteristics from a shaded relief map and regional reports of average maximum snow depth. As a consequence of the map scale and the qualitative method used to delineate the avalanche activity zones, this map is not suitable for site-specific assessments of snow avalanche activity or hazard since it does not take into account isolated steep areas, isolated areas of heavy snowfall or strong winds, extreme winters, unusual storms, or steep flows on low steep terrain. For example, the method used to delineate the regional snow avalanche activity underestimates the activity on areas of the Newfoundland coast where wind-driven snow creates local avalanche activity. Nevertheless, 92% of the reported snow avalanche accidents in Canada fall within the areas of high or moderate avalanche activity.

Note: some of the 176 accident locations depicted on this map are obscured by overlapping closely spaced symbols.

**Source:**  
 Geographic Information  
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**Johnson, J.B. and Schindler, P.**  
 1996. Avalanche Accidents in Canada, No. 4, 1986-1994. Canadian Avalanche Association, Resolutions, BC, Canada, 20 p.

**Wenters, S.**  
 1997. Avalanche Incidents from 1997. Avalanche Report 12, Canadian Avalanche Association, Resolutions, BC, Canada, 4 p.

**McPherson, S.L.**  
 1986. Snow Avalanche Hazards and Management in Canada, Ph.D. Thesis, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, 273 p.

**Schindler, P.**  
 1987. Avalanche Accidents in Canada II, A Report of Case Histories, 1976-1986. National Research Council of Canada, Institute for Research in Construction, Publication 1700, 108 p.

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 1976. Avalanche Accidents in Canada I, A Report of Case Histories of Accidents, 1951 to 1976. National Research Council of Canada, Publication 1356, 114 p.

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 1988. Regional snow avalanche activity and hazard for avalanche accidents in Canada (1961 to June 1987). Geological Survey of Canada, Open File 88-10.



# REVELSTOKE

MOUNTAIN RESORT



NELSEN LODGE

revelstoke mountain resort



## **Revelstoke, British Columbia, Canada**

Revelstoke is a mountain town with a population of 8,500 and a skiing history that stretches over 100 years. The town is bordered by two National Parks that are sought after for their spectacular scenery, recreation options (hiking through mountain-top fields of wild flowers, climbing and mountaineering in summer, and backcountry and cross country skiing in winter) and historic significance. The town was established in 1886 and to this day still has a great array of lovely homes that display a range of architectural styles that compliment the picturesque setting. The town itself has a great vibe and is home to funky cafes, great dining and shops, festivals and live music and cultural events.

Revelstoke offers a variety of winter and summer activities including skiing, snowboarding, ice skating, snowshoeing, ice climbing, hiking, rock climbing, fishing, and natural hot springs.



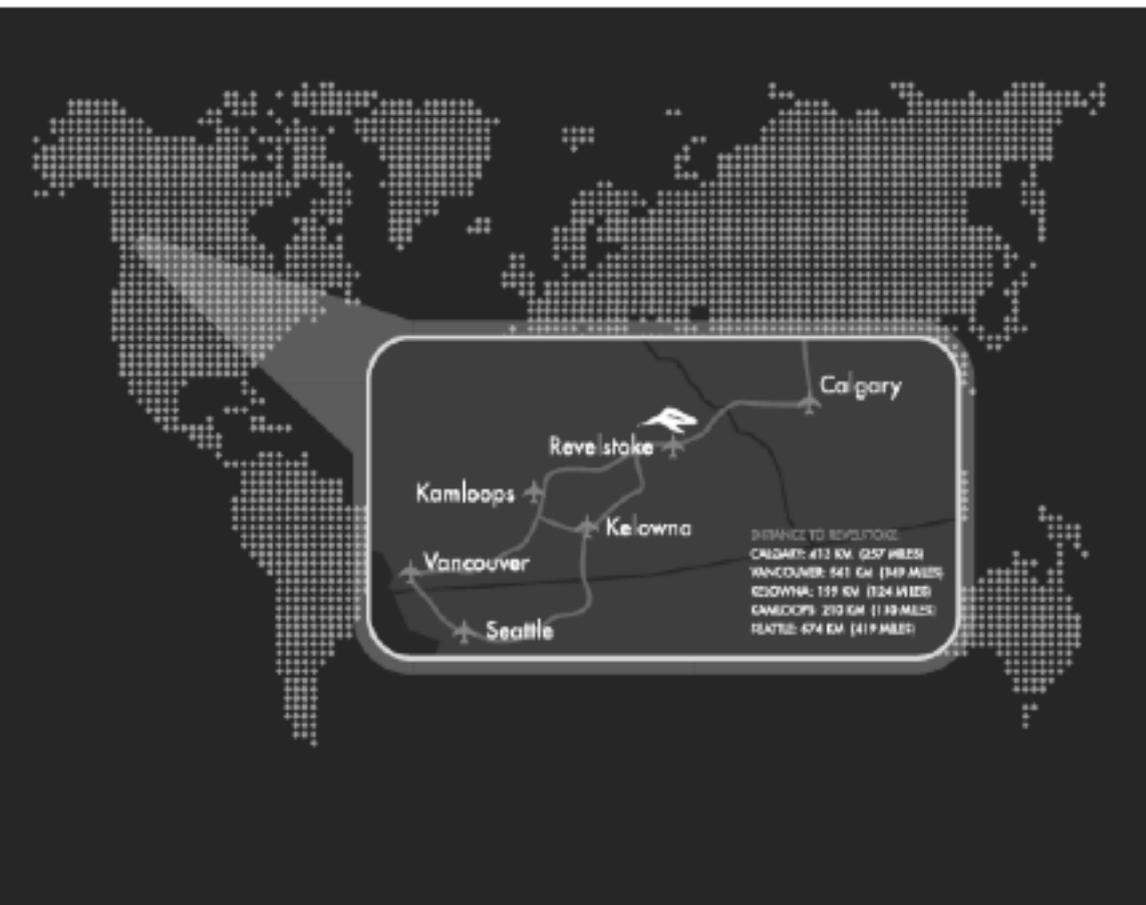
## GETTING HERE

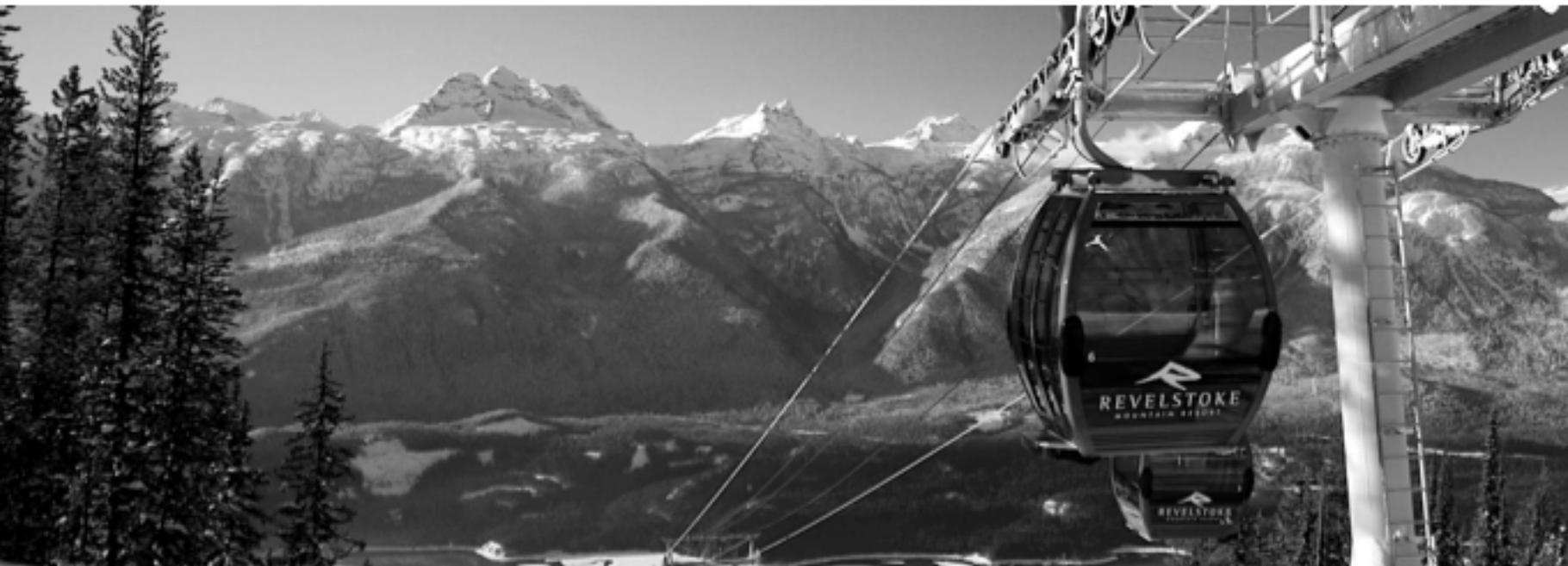
The drive to Revelstoke, British Columbia, is regarded as one of the most spectacular in Canada. Located just off the Trans-Canada Highway, the town is approximately five hours west of Calgary, Alberta; two hours east of Kamloops, BC; two hours north of Kelowna, BC; and six hours east of Vancouver, BC.

**Non-stop flights to Vancouver and Calgary from** most international cities. The Kelowna International Airport is a two hour drive from Revelstoke with daily direct flights from Vancouver, Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary and Seattle. Shuttle transfers from Kelowna are offered by Revelstoke Connection.

**Main International gateway of choice is Calgary International airport.**

**HOURS DRIVE TO REVELSTOKE**  
**CALGARY – 4.75 HOURS**  
**VANCOUVER – 7 HOURS**  
**KELOWNA – 2 HOURS**  
**SEATTLE – 7.5 HOURS**





## About Revelstoke Mountain Resort

Launched in December 2007, Revelstoke Mountain Resort (RMR) boasts North America's highest lift-served vertical and is the only resort worldwide to offer lift, cat, heli and backcountry skiing from one village base. Upon completion, the Resort will offer more than 20 lifts and over 100 ski and snowboard runs, transforming the area into a world-class destination. The four-season resort will include over 5,000 new housing units (1,500 resort condominiums, 2,000 hotel suites, 850 townhomes and 550 single-family lots), as well as more than 500,000 square feet of commercial and retail space, a full service restaurant, wine bar and a signature resort-style golf course.





## Heli Skiing and Snowboarding with Selkirk Tangiers

Situated in the heart of the heli skiing capital of the world in Revelstoke, British Columbia, Selkirk Tangiers Heli Skiing is the ultimate winter experience. For over three decades, our exclusive half million acres of terrain in the Selkirk and Monashee Mountains has lured skiers and snowboarders from around the world to indulge in the annual snowfalls of 12 to 18 metres (40 to 60 feet). With spectacular scenery, endless powder, and some of the world's best tree skiing, a heli ski vacation with Selkirk Tangiers is like no other. Join us this winter to find out why our guests return again and again.

**Terrain – 500,000 acres/200,000 hectares with over 200 established runs**

**Longest Run – Charity Glacier: 2,200 vertical metres/7,220 vertical feet**

**Average Snowfall – 9 metres/30 feet (measured in the Selkirk Mountains)**

**Helicopters– A-Star & Bell 205**

**Guides – ACMG Certification, with over 150 years of combined mountain experience**

### **Flexible Packages**

At Selkirk Tangiers it is our goal to provide guests with the best heli skiing experience possible. STHS offers a variety of heli ski packages ranging from one to seven days in length. In addition to the defined heli ski packages, STHS also offers a number of options to customize trips to meet each guest's vacation needs. Our reservations team is committed to planning the dream heli ski trip!









## Nelsen Lodge

Located at the base of the resort is the spectacular Nelsen Lodge, a luxury ski-in-ski-out condo hotel. Designed by the foremost resort architectural firm in North America, Raymond Letkeman and Associates created the Resort in a contemporary mountain alpine architectural style where every suite offers outstanding views across the Columbia River to the Monashee Mountains. Crafted with natural materials that meld into the landscape, the hotel blends inviting natural materials such as leather, granite and rich wood stains offset by stainless steel appliances and brushed nickel fixtures and hardware. The first of three buildings opened in March 2009, phase two will open for the 2010-11 winter season and phase three will open in 2012.







## **Rockford Wok | Bar | Grill |**

Perfect for breakfast, lunch, dinner and of course, the cocktail hour and late night snacks; Rockford wok|bar|grill| is neither strictly a restaurant nor strictly a bar. Rockford is a blend of both.

It offers a high quality menu, generous portions and a welcoming atmosphere with stylish west coast accents. Rockford is an inviting place for everyone and for every occasion where the food and drink are equally important.

With our core philosophy of "Love at First Bite", Rockford's menu was created and stacked with unique "wok inspired" snack & share plates and entrees, flavourful pastas and traditional west coast entrees with a Rockford twist. Food that proudly announces quality and comfort - and some adventure - reaffirming that "back-to-basic" cuisine with contemporary flavor profiles are indeed very cool!

# Tentative Itinerary

- Arrive March 21 - greeting / briefing / dinner
- March 22-24 field activities with afternoon debriefs
  - Heli-assisted ski touring: FOCUS - education
  - Snowmobiling: FOCUS - challenges in avalanche accident prevention
  - Ski Area: FOCUS - search and rescue across large regions
- 3 language groups, rotate through each activity over 3 days
- Afternoon sessions and presentations
- What would you like to learn about or experience while in Canada?

# Itinerary continued...

- March 24 - evening dinner and end to spring meeting
- March 25-26 optional activities;
  - Day Heli-skiing with Selkirk Tangiers (preferred rate)
  - Visit to Rogers Pass
  - snowmobiling?

# Support

- CAA members to assist in field activities and provide translation
- Revelstoke Snowmobiling Club to support field day on Boulder Mountain
- Revelstoke Mountain Resort & Selkirk Tangiers Heli-skiing providing staff, helicopter time and services

# Next steps

- If you are interested please come talk to me and/or email me at [itomm@avalanche.ca](mailto:itomm@avalanche.ca)
- Finalize topics, itinerary – November
- Sponsorship and funding – November
- Finalize accommodation and fees – November
- Online Registration – December
- Limited capacity