

GET TO KNOW CHATTER CREEK MOUNTAIN LODGES



About Chatter Creek

Welcome to Chatter Creek! Some of you reading this will be coming to Chatter Creek for the first time. We hope that you can relax, leave your work behind and enjoy the fun ahead of you! The guides will take you where you will enjoy yourself best, based on weather, snow conditions and guest skiing and boarding capabilities. For those returning guests welcome back we are looking forward to meeting you again.

Of course where we talk about skiing here we mean boarding as well!

Skiing / Boarding

We have the best glacier access for cat skiing in North America. Skiing the glaciers at Chatter Creek brings you close to 10,000 ft in elevation and gives you incredible views. The tree-line at Chatter Creek is at 7,000 ft so there is almost 3,000 vertical feet of alpine skiing. The base area is at 5,250 ft. How much vertical do we ski in a day? We guarantee exhaustion! Typically, guests ski 12,000 to 20,000 ft a day depending on the guests' abilities. Each group skis to its own enjoyment within guide parameters. We recommend some regular exercise before coming to Chatter Creek to help avoid sore muscles or joint injuries and to increase the enjoyment of your tour.

Lodges & Buildings

Vertebrae Lodge has 12 sleeping rooms with ensuite baths for absolute comfort. Each room has 2 comfortable double beds with duvets. Solitude Lodge has 6 double rooms similar to Vertebrae Lodge. The 18,200 sq ft of overall space gives us a large bar and games room, spacious dining and living areas, a well-equipped commercial kitchen and quiet areas for reading and relaxation. Solitude Lodge main floor contains the boot & dry room for all 36 skiers.

All our buildings are built from very large spruce logs, harvested and constructed by the owners on site. Spruce Lodge, the Bath House and the Log Shop house our staff. We log, skid, mill and construct all our own buildings.

Snowcats & Other Transportation

We have 3 snowcats to transport 3 skiing groups. The passenger cabs are the best in the business with high quality forward facing seats and defrost units on the windows.

We have 2 snowcats for road building, one of which is used as a spare in the event of mechanical troubles with any of the group snowcats.

Transportation from Golden to the Lodges every Tuesday and Friday is by helicopter through a contract with Alpine Helicopters.

Communications, please remember!

We are a remote lodge with a satellite phone, internet access, radio contact, helicopter access in the daylight hours, & snowcat or snowmobile which are accessible in case of an emergency. We need our guests to come prepared for our environment. Leave all cell phones in your car [no coverage at Chatter]. Try to leave computers behind; this is a holiday. Personal satellite phones are becoming a more common sight with returning guests. Guest use of our satellite phone is available for a charge.

You can prearrange your own satellite phone. Rentals are available through High Country Communications-Golden 250-344-2504.

An emergency in the daytime can, weather permitting, utilise helicopter evacuation to Golden Hospital. Night transport is via ground transport-approx 2.5 hours. We have well trained personnel with oxygen & first aid equipment, but there is no doctor, unless one happens to be staying as a guest. Bring enough of any required medication. Excitement, high altitude, exertion, etc. can bring on conditions you don't expect, probably in the middle of the night. It is in your own best interests to be prepared.

Safety

Chatter Creek Mountain Lodges (CCML) takes your safety very seriously. We employ 2 professional guides per 12 person group. The Lead Guide is ACMG, UIAGM or CSGA qualified, followed by a qualified Second Guide. Each new group has an educational session with the guide about safety procedures and the use of avalanche transceivers before the first run of the tour. Transceivers are provided. Shovels and probes are not carried by guests unless individuals decide to carry their own gear. Rescue equipment is carried by the guides and is also carried close by on the snowcats.

CCML is a member of HeliCat Canada, an organisation of cat skiing and helicopter skiing companies operating in the region (over 30 including CMH). This group conducts regular internal safety audits and has stringent operating bylaws for the safety and reputation of the industry. HeliCat Canada also invests \$70,000 - \$100,000 yearly in the ongoing University of Calgary Avalanche Research Project under Bruce Jamieson. The group has initiated a Best Practices Code which is under review and is being implemented by members.

Since 2001, CCML has taken part in the Canadian Avalanche Association Infoex program. Over 80 operators send in daily snow and weather reports and receive back broad daily weather and avalanche information.

Chatter Creek is continuing a rental program for the Snowpulse avalanche backpacks this year. The charge is \$25 per day. More information on this program will be posted on

our website at www.chattercreek.ca/snowpulse.php. Please book in advance so that we can ensure the appropriate numbers of back packs are available.

Waivers

There is risk involved in cat skiing and cat snowboarding and we require you to read and sign a Waiver of Liability form before you board the helicopter at the Donald airport.

Please read the section regarding Waivers thoroughly. You can find a copy of the waiver on our Guest Forms page of our website at <http://www.chattercreek.ca/downloads.php>

History of Chatter Creek Mountain Lodges

WINTER 2001, OUR FIRST SEASON

Guest comments from the first season; "Wonderful lodge staff, Hard-working young people with energy, vitality, wonderful skills and filled with fun and laughter, best cat in the business, best snow this winter, beautiful scenery. The spectacular fifteen minute helicopter flight makes the whole tour even better. Glacier skiing makes the skiing as good as heli skiing. Great vertical *Fun lodge, I'm coming back!*"

WINTER 2002, OUR SECOND SEASON

The many returning guests loved the new bath house with the flush toilets and showers. They also enjoyed seeing the staff in their new staff building rather than the previous winter tents. Many more access roads to the alpine were constructed during the winter. The guests loved the new terrain opened up. The skiing conditions were excellent, and more like normal, with twice the snow of the previous winter. The guests continued to be impressed with our excellent staff and care of guests.

WINTER 2003, OUR THIRD SEASON

Vertebrae Lodge named after the Ridge, royally welcomed our guests in 2003. The 12 guest rooms with 2 double beds and ensuite baths were completed and appreciated. The common areas were much larger than Spruce Lodge and included a living, dining & games room, massage and dry rooms, ski shop and retail area, kitchen and bar, plus an outdoor hot tub. Our new "Investors and Friends" who helped fund the Lodge kept the second snow-cat busy throughout the ski season.

WINTER 2004, OUR FOURTH SEASON

Vertebrae Lodge had the roof overhangs completed as well as many inside finishes. A large woodshed was built and filled with firewood, a generator building had 2

generators installed in it and new bridge construction plus alpine road work made up this less frantic construction season.

WINTER 2005, OUR FIFTH SEASON

Solitude Lodge was constructed for 2005, housing another 12 guests, with staff on the 3rd floor and 4th floor. The Solitude's main floor became the dry room for 36 guests. Considerable new terrain was developed with our larger excavator. Our cat skiing tenure was enlarged from 129 to 238 square kilometres. Our new heli skiing tenure of 485 square kilometres, surrounding the present cat skiing tenure, was approved.

WINTER 2006, OUR SIXTH SEASON

Our first year of heli skiing was an unparalleled success! Our skiers enjoyed outstanding conditions and were very excited to be the first guests to ski these amazing slopes. Solitude and Vertebrae Lodges got some finishing touches including a new entrance area. Cat access roads were improved to make it easier to reach the new terrain.

WINTER 2007, OUR SEVENTH SEASON

Chatter Creek's biggest project this summer was one that guests won't directly notice. Dan & Dale spent a large portion of the summer rebuilding the access road to the lodge from the B road. The last 17 km of road was used for winter logging 30 years ago & needed major upgrades in order to facilitate access to bigger trucks such as fuel & cement trucks. With our existing equipment & a rented D-3 Cat, the road is now in great shape. The fuel for the cats & generator is now located at the lodge. No more midnight runs to the fuel garden! Vertebrae Lodge, the Dry room, & the Massage rooms are getting some upgrades as are the staff quarters.

The Chatter Creek food menu has been developed and improved in close consultation with our chef. Isabelle has spent much of the summer sampling the fine wines of the Okanagan to greatly expand the wine list and complement this years' dining experience.

WINTER 2008, OUR EIGHT SEASON

We were happy to announce the change in our airport location to Donald, B.C. Our crew was working hard all summer long to provide you with a comfortable area to get you ready for you powder vacation. We have also been keeping the safety of our guests our goal as we had 6 Snowpulse Avalanche Packs on site for rentals, look for more in the 09/10 season!

Chatter Creek Mountain Lodges
Box 333, Golden BC, V0A 1H0, Canada
Ph.877.311.7199 or 250.344.7199 Fax.250.344.2229
www.chattercreek.ca

