



# Lake Louise To Banff Loppet & Relay

Shortened Course – 50 km

The first documentation of this event had participants skiing from Lake Louise to Banff through the Bow Valley on February 8, 1929. With equipment and trail conditions decidedly inferior to those available today, the fastest skier in the 1929 event was Paul Gotaas of the Camrose Ski Club with a time of 5h 15m 17s. Rekindled in 1979, the modern version of this annual cross country loppet was contested with the entry of two teams and sponsored by Baker Creek Chalets, Castle Mountain Village and Wilson Mountain Sports. In 1990, the event was skied by individuals as well as teams of up to six members. In 1995 until 2006, the Banff Ski Runners joined the organizers as a major sponsor. Since 2008, the loppet has been organized by a dedicated group of volunteers offering the event during Banff's Winter Festival. Skiers in past years have both enjoyed and endured the challenges of the terrain and the weather over the course of this (normally!) 71 km route. Collectively, we keep the ski tracks of 1929 fresh!

**1<sup>st</sup> Leg:** The loppet starts on the lake in front of Chateau Lake Louise. The trail proceeds down the tramline with two road crossings and onto the Bow River Trail across from the Lake Louise Train Station. Skiers continue through the campground and along the river before crossing two foot bridges and ending on Fairview Drive at the level CPR rail crossing (near the Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Emergency Exit road). This is the coldest leg due the time of day and the descent from the Chateau. This section is approximately **9 km**.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Leg:** Beginning at the level rail crossing, participants will ski several hundred meters east before passing under Highway 1 at the rail underpass. Doubling back to join the old 1A roadbed, skiers head for Corral Creek on the Bow Valley Parkway, ski along Morant's Curve and make their way to Baker Creek Chalets and the second relay checkpoint. This leg is approximately **12 km**.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Leg:** The exchange station is at the Baker Creek trailhead parking lot on the opposite side of the road to the Chalets. The third leg picks up the designated ski trail to Protection Mountain Campground. Here, a road crossing takes the skier onto the old highway roadbed that parallels the Bow Valley Parkway. Another road crossing brings the trail up to the Castle Lookout parking lot. The length is approximately **10 km**.

**4<sup>rd</sup> Leg:** The exchange station is Castle Lookout parking lot. Leg four continues on designated ski trails to a road crossing of the Bow Valley Parkway at Castle Junction. After crossing the road and skiing one km, skiers will end their leg in a meadow at the Silver City interpretive pullout. This leg is about **6 km**.

**5<sup>th</sup> Leg:** From the Silver City pullout, we continue on the BVP road shoulder until Moose Meadows. The trail cuts through Moose Meadows, joins an access road headed towards the railway and turns east towards the campground at Johnston Canyon (south side of road). Length is approximately **6 km**.

**6<sup>th</sup> Leg:** The exchange station is at Johnston Canyon campground. The final leg exits the campground, then follows the right shoulder of the 1A down to the Hillsdale split. Skiers cross the road, ski (or run!) up and down the split to ski the final portion to the Sawback Picnic area. Length is approximately **7 km**.

**Because of the change of finish area, skiers are asked to assist one another in shuttling cars between the finish, Lake Louise and Banff.**

Water, PowerAde and Laggan's bakery treats will be at each hand-off station. Washrooms are located at the start, Baker Creek, Castle Mountain Chalets and the finish. The Loppet is a classic technique event. It is a beautiful course that proves to challenge skiers of all levels. Whether as a team or individual, we hope you enjoy yourselves and thank you for supporting this great local event. Good luck!!

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