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ski canada

- * Best parties, Best bars
- * Most slopeside accommodation
- * Biggest expansion

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Best of Skiing in Canada

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BEST

BEST SKI TOWN TO LIVE IN

Thinking about chucking in the suburban backsplit for a doublewide while you build your eight-bed Southfork in log? Try here:

- > Fernie, B.C. *
- > Jasper, Alberta
- > Le Massif's Baie-Saint-Paul, Quebec
- > Nelson, B.C.
- > Rosslake, B.C.
- > Revelstoke, B.C.
- > Wakefield, Quebec

HOTPOT RECIPE

The amenities at Banff's **Deer Lodge** include a huge rooftop stainless-steel hot tub. Enjoy 360 degrees of breathtaking views as you stew in your bubbling cauldron like a tender shank of beef.



BEST IMAGINARY HIGHWAY

The **Powder Highway** is more a state of mind than a piece of asphalt. But the marketing construct does serve to focus the mind on all the goodies hidden in this southeastern corner of the B.C. Kootenays and Rockies. No less than eight ski areas, 11 snowcat ops, 10 heli-ski ops and nine lodges for backcountry touring. A highway to heaven if there ever were one. www.kootenayrockies.com

BEST

NEW PEAK

Castle Mountain's new **Mount Haig** opened last winter, attracting the attention of Warren Miller Films. They caught local skier Peter Hodgson making the first descent down the 1,000-metre, 45-degree lovely. With excellent extreme and backcountry touring terrain, Mount Haig also dishes up nine new novice and intermediate runs.

BEST PLACE FOR A NOONER

Norquay's by-the-hour lift pass offers the chance to ride the slopes for as little or as long as you like.

BEST LIFT OFFER

Carpooling—jump in, it's back in fashion! Enviro-aware **Sutton** supports a carpooling website www.route4.ca that offers drivers and passengers across the country a chance to hook up.

MOST INTERESTING ROUTE

From Europe by ship via the Panama Canal to Squamish, B.C., the cable spools for **Whistler's** new Peak-to-Peak gondola will then travel by train to Whistler on special heavyweight-bearing cars. Once in Whistler, the cable spools will be moved one by one up the mountain by specially designed transport trucks. And you thought you had a lot to pack.

BEST CITY SNOWSHOE ROUTE

Get out of the Van traffic and into lots of beautiful trails, harmless little cliff jumps and the deep powder of **Grouse Mountain**.

Canada » WINTER 2008

BEST



BEST PARTIES

Finally, great parties you're actually invited to! Grab your glad rags and put these dates in the diary:

- > January 25-26, **Kokanee Snow Dreams Party** at **Fernie**. Head for the deck and the suds, meet the **Glacier Girls** (above), and compete for Best Sasquatch mating call and Best Ranger.
- > January 25-27, **Winter Carnival** at **Rosslake**. Unbelievable home-made bobsleigh race at 80 kph down city streets.
- > February 1-17, **Quebec City Winter Carnival**. Ice sculptures and dog sleds and *plus de joie de vivre*.
- > February 22-25, **Whitewater's Coldsmoke** is a grassroots hoedown of freehealers and Backcountry Bobs. Check out the Crazy Rager Afterparty with Arthur Funkarell at the Rod and Gun Club.
- > April 11-20, **TELUS World Ski and Snowboard Festival** at **Whistler** for filmmaker and photographer showdowns, Brave Art and loads of free concerts.
- > February 19, **Sunshine Village Slush Cup** contestants wow judges and crowds with awards for the Best Belly Flop, Awesome Air hijinx—and sometimes, the Coldest Popsicle.

BEST NEW FIRST-TIMER RIDES

The 100-metre-long **Magic Carpet** at **Nakiska** trundles newbies up to whiter pastures. And at **Kicking Horse**, the **Horse Play Corral** stretches five hectares with contour grooming, a slow-skiing and beginner area, and kids' play trails.

MOST ROMANTIC GETAWAYS

- > Bundle up and snuggle on a sleigh ride around the lake at the **Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise**. *
- > Slip out of the Temple spa and decant a special vintage from the award-winning cellar at **The Post** in **Lake Louise**.
- > Have a gourmet getaway at the secluded **Buffalo Mountain Lodge** in **Banff**.
- > Frigid temps? You need never leave your betubbed suite (with *real* fireplace) at Tremblant's **Hotel Quintessence** in **Quebec**.
- > And, of course, you could always give her diamonds, lots of black diamonds, with a tour of **Spanky's Ladder** at **Blackcomb**. Impress her even more by waiting at the bottom.

BEST of SKIING IN CANADA

BEST

FREE 44 MINUTES

Le Massif's snow guarantee says if you're not satisfied with the conditions, turn in your lift ticket during the first 45 minutes of operation to receive a voucher to return another day.

BEST CHANCE TO GET IT RIGHT

With Canada hosting a record 10 World Cup races at three different ski resorts this season, this is **Alpine Canada's** important dry run for the Olympics—only two years away. For the Olympics—only two years in 1992, featured women's technical events in November. The races in **Whistler**, which will be its first World Cup since 1995, will be the only official alpine skiing test event involving able-bodied World Cup athletes prior to the Games.

BEST NEW HIGHWAY

Feel the burn on the new piece of the **Trans-Canada Highway** into **Golden**, which gets **Ski Canada's** top marks for helping **Calgarians** arrive at **Kicking Horse** in one piece. Six kms done, 75 to go!

