

# NORTHEAST VERMONT & NORTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE 2020-2021 WINTER GUIDE



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**PUBLISHER**  
Todd M. Smith

**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Julie Poutre, Glen Jardine,  
Sylvie Weber

**COVER DESIGN**  
Glen Jardine

**ADVERTISING DESIGN**  
Jeana Desilets

**CONTACT US**

Advertising: [adv@caledonian-record.com](mailto:adv@caledonian-record.com)  
News: [news@caledonian-record.com](mailto:news@caledonian-record.com)  
Phone: 802-748-8121  
Web: [caledonianrecord.com](http://caledonianrecord.com)

A PUBLICATION OF THE CALEDONIAN-RECORD PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.  
190 Federal Street, P.O. Box 8, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
© Caledonian-Record Publishing Company, Inc December 2020.

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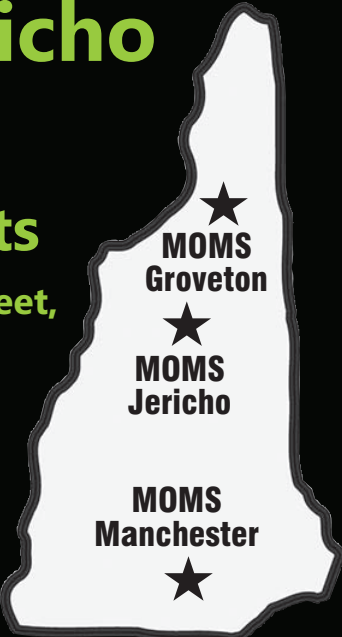
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# World-class Cultural Institutions In Your Backyard

Here are some of the amazing museums, galleries, and other cultural institutions in our area. Please call the number noted prior to heading out or check out the website to ensure access during this time of restrictions due to COVID-19.

## VERMONT

Fairbanks Museum - St. Johnsbury, [www.fairbanksmuseum.org](http://www.fairbanksmuseum.org), 802-748-2372

Grass Roots Art and Community Effort - Greensboro, [www.graceart.org](http://www.graceart.org), 802-472-6857

Highland Center for the Arts - Greensboro, [www.highlandartsvt.org](http://www.highlandartsvt.org), 802-533-2000

MAC Center for the Arts - Newport, [www.maccenterforthearts.com](http://www.maccenterforthearts.com), 802-334-1966

NEK Artisans Guild - St. Johnsbury, [www.nekartisansguild.com](http://www.nekartisansguild.com), 802-748-0158

Old Stone House Museum - Brownington, [www.oldstonehousemuseum.org](http://www.oldstonehousemuseum.org), 802-754-2022

St. Johnsbury Athenaeum Gallery - St. Johnsbury, [www.stjathenaeum.org](http://www.stjathenaeum.org), 802-748-8291

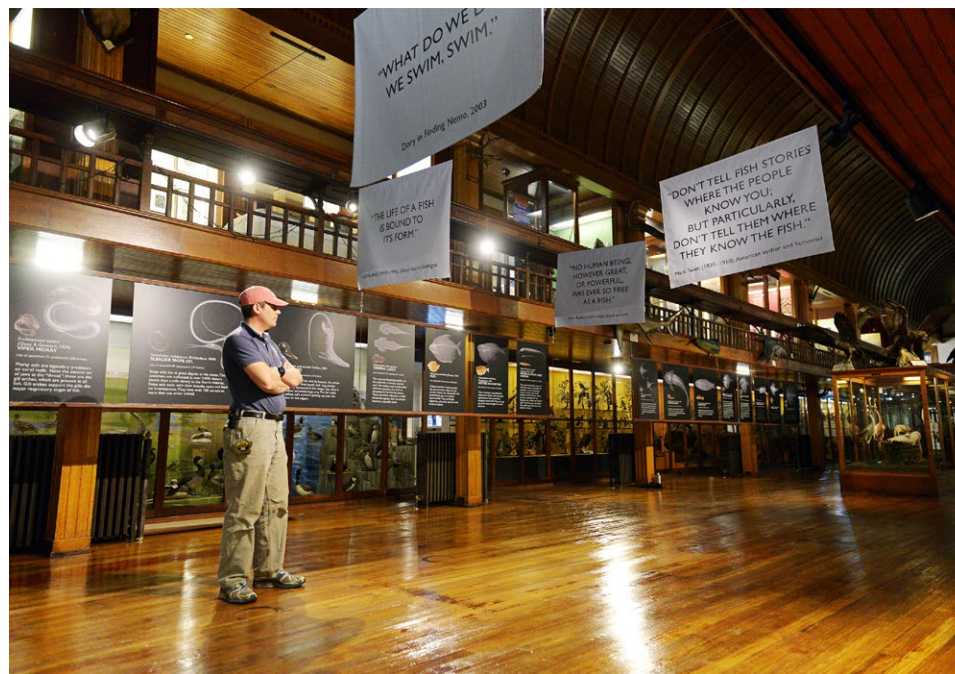
Stephen Huneck Gallery at Dog Mountain - St. Johnsbury, [www.dogmt.com](http://www.dogmt.com), 802-748-2700

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

The ARTS Gallery - Lisbon, [www.lisbonarts-gallery.com](http://www.lisbonarts-gallery.com), 603-838-2300

Franconia Heritage Museum - Franconia, [www.franconianh.org/heritage-museum.html](http://www.franconianh.org/heritage-museum.html), 603-823-5000

Frost Place - Franconia, [www.frostplace.org](http://www.frostplace.org), 603-823-5510



Executive Director Adam Kane looks over new displays at Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury. (File Photo by Paul Hayes)

Littleton League of New Hampshire Craftsmen - Littleton, [www.nhcrafts.org](http://www.nhcrafts.org), 603-444-1099

New England Ski Museum - Franconia, [www.newenglandskimuseum.org](http://www.newenglandskimuseum.org), 603-823-7177

newenglandskimuseum.org, 603-823-7177

If a movie is more your style, check out these screens in the area:



St. Johnsbury Athenaeum Gallery.

## VERMONT

St. Johnsbury - Star Theatre, 802-748-9511, [www.stjaytheatre.com](http://www.stjaytheatre.com)

St. Johnsbury - Catamount Arts, 802-748-2600, [www.catamountarts.org](http://www.catamountarts.org)

Newport - City Cinema, 802-334-2610, [www.citycinemanewport.com](http://www.citycinemanewport.com)

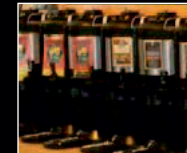
## NEW HAMPSHIRE

Littleton - Jax Jr. Cinemas, 603-444-1067, [www.jaxjrcinemas.com](http://www.jaxjrcinemas.com)

Lancaster - Rialto Theatre, 603-631-1138, [www.lancasterrialto.com](http://www.lancasterrialto.com)

Bethlehem - The Colonial Theatre, 603-869-3422, [www.bethlehemcolonial.org](http://www.bethlehemcolonial.org)

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Lyndonville, Newport & Island Pond, VT  
(802) 334-1064  
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# Taking Winter In Stride On Cross-Country Skis

Advances In Ski Technology Make Possible More Adventurous Forays Outdoors During COVID

BY STEPHEN GARFIELD  
Staff Writer

Have snow, will go. It's one of the great things about cross country skiing. If a Nordic center isn't nearby – or if circumstances like COVID-19 render them closed – making tracks right out your back door is an option, and sometimes a preferred one.

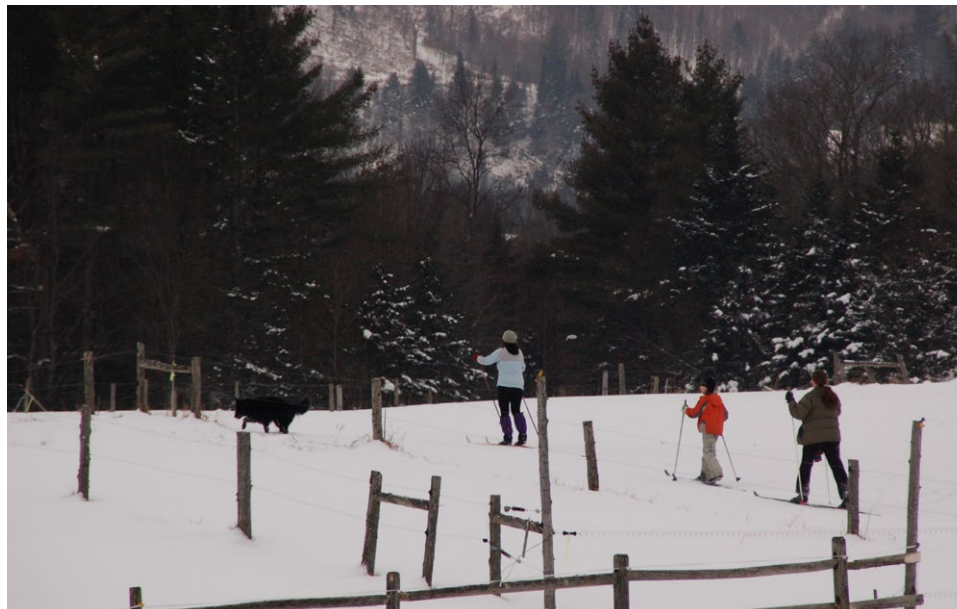
Advances in ski technology are making possible more adventurous forays into the outdoors. Technology once tried years ago is being reintroduced, that finds edges being put on some Nordic skis, as well as skin material being put underneath boots.

"They did it years ago, adhering a skin," said Chris Hibshman, owner of Village Sports in Lyndonville. "Now they're reintroducing it, but with better technology." They're being put on wax-less touring skis, he added.

Another new development in cross country skis is a shorter, wider "compact" ski. "They're designed to be friendlier for novice skiers," Hibshman said.

New technology or old, getting out is the biggest thing, and there are probably few ways to do that more enjoyably than on cross country skis. In today's pandemic world, it might be the best way to get back to nature.

"The ability to social distance is a great benefit," Hibshman remarked. "You have a more condensed group of people at a Nordic center, but for the aerobic athlete, a runner or biker who



Cross-country skiers enjoy the winter terrain off Darling Hill Road in Lyndon.

wants a higher-intensity workout, cross country has that – especially skate skiing, where you're really using your arms.

"It's safe, it's accessible, it's a less expensive way to get outdoors – and you can ski almost anywhere where there's snow."

Local places to ski are plentiful. In St. Johnsbury, the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and town forest offer two places with different surroundings, with the flat path of the rail trail, and the hillier, deep-woods feel of the town forest. A Ro-

tary Club pavilion marks the St. J Town Forest trailhead; it's on Alms House Road, off Concord Avenue, past the Little League fields.

Lyndon State Forest, also a hilly tract of land, is on New Boston Road in Lyndon and can be used for skiing.

Among the larger facilities, an expansive network of groomed trails can be found at the Dashney Nordic Center in Burke, the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, and the Memphremagog Ski Touring Foundation trails in the Newport/Derby.

In addition to groomed terrain, New Hampshire skiers get splendid views of mountains and grand hotels at Mt. Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods, and the Mountain View Grand in Whitefield.

## Places To Ski, Vermont

- Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, Main Street, St. Johnsbury;
- St. Johnsbury Town Forest, Alms House Rd. (Concord Avenue);
- Dashney Touring Center, Dashney Road, Burke;
- Craftsbury Outdoor Center, Lost Nation Road;
- Lyndon State Forest, New Boston Road;
- Jay Peak Nordic Center;
- Memphremagog Trails, Newport/Derby;
- North Woods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Dr., East Charleston;
- Virginia Stranahan Town Forest, Hollister Hill, Marshfield.

## New Hampshire

- The Rocks Estate, Route 302, Bethlehem;
- Ski Hearth Farm, Streeter Pond Road, Sugar Hill;
- Franconia Notch Rec Trail, Cannon Mountain;
- Franconia Village X-C Ski & Outdoor Recreation Center (Franconia Inn), Route 116;
- Mt. Washington Hotel, Route 302, Bretton Woods;
- Mountain View Grand, Route 3, Whitefield.



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## *Enjoy The Thrill Of The Outing Club's Ski Hill*

## Volunteers Making Adjustments To Reduce Risk Of Virus Exposure

**BY TODD WELLINGTON**  
Staff Writer

The Lyndon Outing Club has been serving Northeast Kingdom skiers for 83 years and its small army of community volunteers is determined to keep it going despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're fortunate," said LOC Board President Wendy Beattie. "We have really enthusiastic, great, board members that want to see the outing club continue and be there for future generations."

Rising up out of Shonyo Park at the intersection of Lily Pond Road and Hill Street in Lyndon, the outing club features a T-Bar, well-groomed trails, and the distinction of being one of the few ski areas in northern Vermont to offer night skiing.

The LOC has no snow-making machinery, so it usually opens sometime in late December to early January depending on the snowfall. But volunteers have been working diligently this year to ensure that the hill will be in the best condition possible when the snow comes.

In the fall, work crews cleared debris from the trails, removed small trees that grew in over the past year, split firewood, cleaned the base lodge, and other chores. Students from Northern Vermont University-Lyndon continued their tradition of helping the LOC board prepare the hill for the best rides possible.

To comply with state-mandated COVID-19 protocols, the outing club is going to start offering some lift ticket and concession sales through a new window that is being installed in the base



*Logan Doyon and dad, Matt, of West Burke, enjoy snow at the Lyndon Outing Club.*

lodge.

"We did a lot of trail cutting and we're putting in a take-out/ticket window," said Beattie. "Because of state guidelines, we can't have a lot of people inside. There is a window there now, but we're going to install a double-hung window."

Skiers can still expect a variety of ski food at the base lodge including hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken tenders, candy, chips, and some surprise favorites.

“Once in a while someone on the board makes chili or some type of homemade soup or something like that,” said Beattie.

The LOC is also planning to put picnic tables and places to sit outside when the weather is warmer to make social distancing easier.

Masks will be required in accordance with state ski area guidelines, but family members will be able to ride the T-bar together, said Beattie.

"I hope people come and enjoy the outing club even if it means you have to put your boots on in the car and do what you used to have to do a long time ago," said Beattie.

The base lodge will still be open, but access will be limited based on state regulations.

The Lyndon Outing Club was established in 1937 by a group of Lyndon residents and survives entirely on small grants and donations from community members so it can stay open and provide essential outdoor activities for the youth and adults of the Northeast Kingdom.

Further information is available online at [www.skilyndon.com](http://www.skilyndon.com).

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# Pedal Through A Wintertime Pandemic

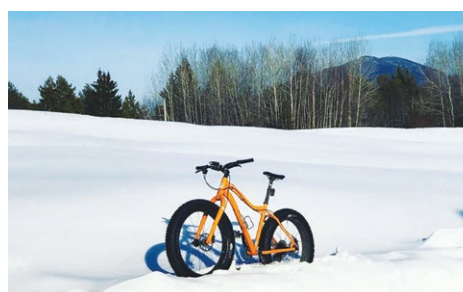
BY ALEXANDRA HUFF  
Special For The Record

Fat tire biking is a perfect socially distant activity to enjoy during the winter months. Orion Campbell-Wolk, a bike mechanic at East Burke Sports, said, "There's quite a few miles of trail, so it spreads everybody out."

The Kingdom Trails network has 28 miles of fat biking trails to explore with the purchase of a daily, monthly, or annual pass, which are available at a discounted rate for residents of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. The trails will open after hunting season and once the ground freezes; there is no set date of opening.

The miles of trails available make it easy for anyone to take up fat tire biking, regardless of your level of expertise. Campbell-Wolk said that it's a great activity if you're interested in exploring the trails or biking in general. Kingdom Trails offers a variety of courses at various levels of difficulty for every rider.

All that is needed is a bike with the appropriate winter tires, available for rent at many shops across the Northeast Kingdom including East Burke Sports. Tires must be wider than 3.5 inches with a tire pressure less than 10 psi. It is recommended that anyone going out for some winter fat biking should bundle up as if they were going skiing.



Wanted: Riders to enjoy the season.

When the snow starts falling and the trails open, it would be wise to call about the trail conditions before heading out. Kingdom Trails' website says that "During the winter time, trail conditions change by the minute." If bikers leave ruts deeper than one inch, it may result in having to walk the bike for most of the journey. When the snow is fresh and soft like this, Campbell-Wolk says "it's not worth going."

The best conditions for fat tire biking occur when the snow has hardened a little bit. Some trails are snowmobile groomed for fat bikes,

snowshoes, and snowmobiles. Kingdom Trails releases daily trail reports on the conditions of the trails, as does the Trailhub app. East Burke Sports is also open to giving advice to bikers.

On the trails, if meeting another, it is recommended to pull off on the side of the trail to allow as much physical distance as possible to safely pass. It is also strongly urged that riders avoid trails that are too steep or tight where stepping to the side to avoid others may pose a danger. Caution is recommended at trail intersections, as well, and Kingdom Trails asks that snowmobile trails are used minimally for biking, even if it is a shared route.

This year, only ride in groups of less than 10 in a single file line and don't congregate at trail entrances, intersections, or parking lots. Kingdom Trails' Welcome Center will be closed, so membership or other questions must be addressed online or through email.

Joining the fat tire biking community is both something to do while waiting for the COVID-19 pandemic to pass and is the first step to joining a large family network of outdoor fun.

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Hikers strapped in snowshoes take to the woods in winter. (Courtesy Photo)

# Step Out Of Confinement And Into Winter Hiking

BY ALEXANDRA HUFF  
Special For The Record

Most avid snowshoers will say that if you can walk, you can snowshoe. It’s a casual winter activity that helps get people outdoors and socializing in small groups, and something that can still be enjoyed in small groups at a distance amidst COVID-19. While it’s the general rule of thumb to not go snowshoeing alone, groups should be kept to less than 10 people to adhere to Vermont Governor Phil Scott’s order.

Snowshoes are available for purchase and rent across the state. When going out on the trails, be sure to bundle up for the weather and check trail conditions ahead of time. Depending on how long a journey may be, packing food, drinks, and a first aid kit in a small backpack is a good idea.

Along with Nordic skiing and fat biking, the Kingdom Trails Association is a good resource for snowshoeing. There are 28 miles of trails available with a membership, which is offered at daily, monthly, and annual rates. Kingdom Trails Communication and Program Manager Liliias Ide says that the trails are set to open after hunting season concludes and the

ground is “sufficiently frozen,” but there is no set date.

Snowshoes are required to go hiking on the Kingdom Trails. These trails are shared with fat bike riders and skiers, who have the right of way. It is important to keep an open eye when outside this winter for other recreational trail users and to maintain distance for everyone’s safety.

There are also free hiking options around Lake Willoughby. Willoughby State Forest has a network of groomed cross-country ski trails that span over seven miles. Snowshoers are also allowed on these trails, yielding to any skiers, to access the trails on Mt. Hor and Bartlett Mountain.

Mt. Hor has three trails available, collectively over five miles long, for winter snowshoeing: Herbert Hawkes Trail, North Trail, and Brookside Trail. These trails are rated moderate and advanced in difficulty. From these lookouts, hikers can see the frozen Lake Willoughby and the snowy cliffs of Mt. Pisgah, which has its own network of snowshoeing trails.

Mt. Pisgah also has year-round hiking opportunities with the proper equipment. With nearly ski miles of trails—the North Trail, South Trail, and Long Pond (East) Trail—of-

fered at moderate and advanced difficulties. On the South Trail, snowshoers can visit Pulpit Rock to see Lake Willoughby from a bird’s eye view.

If looking for something easier to walk and access, look no further than parking behind the Lyndonville Municipal Building. The starting trail head of Paths Around Lyndon’s River Trail is at the edge of the parking lot and is a 0.8 mile-long walking, snowshoeing, and biking trail that leads to the Millers Run Covered Bridge.

Snowshoers are also welcome to freely explore parts of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail that are open—including the section from St. Johnsbury to Danville. This trail, along with other VAST trails, is partly maintained by local clubs and will have cross traffic with snowmobilers, dog sledgers, and other winter recreationalists.

Winter snowshoeing is a socially distant activity to take up during the pandemic, no matter your skill or experience. Ide said that COVID-19 makes it important to get outside.

“It is especially important that our community is able to access outdoor recreational opportunities. Fresh air will keep our spirits high and hearts strong,” she said.

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# New Hampshire Planning For Unusual Ski Season

BY PAUL HAYES  
Staff Writer

Skiing and snowboarding might seem like safe activities during COVID-19.

Both sports take place outdoors, require social distance, and face coverings are frequently worn.

However, there are coronavirus transmission risks at gathering points off the hill, in lodges, and lift lines.

In response, New Hampshire ski areas have made changes heading into the winter 2020-2021 season.

Before heading out, people are asked to learn the rules, and visit websites of the ski areas they plan to visit.

The following are some changes to expect:

## STANDARD COVID RULES APPLY

The usual COVID precautions, such as masks and social

distance, should be followed at ski areas.

Anyone showing COVID symptoms, or who had contact with a confirmed COVID case, should remain home.

Facilities will be cleaned and disinfected on a frequent basis.

State travel guidelines should be followed, including travel restrictions and recommended quarantines before/after travel.

More information can be found through the National Ski Area Association's "Ski Well, Be Well" program at [nsaa.org/skiwellbewell](http://nsaa.org/skiwellbewell)

## TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS ONLINE

Like many ski areas, Cannon Mountain has moved its ticketing system online.

Visitors must purchase day passes, equipment rentals, and ski and snowboard lessons through the Cannon Mountain web site. Walk-up sales will not be permitted. The online store will be launched soon.

Bar codes, either printed out at home or displayed on a mobile device, will be confirmation of purchase.

Due to COVID financial losses, Cannon Mountain has eliminated most ticket discounts (New Hampshire Resident Wednesdays, 2-for Tuesdays and Thursdays, New Years Day & Super Bowl Sunday Specials) and will charge skinnners full price.

Cannon expects to set daily capacity at around 3,500, roughly 75% of pre-COVID capacity. Day pass availability will depend on anticipated season pass holder traffic for a given day.

Bretton Woods also plans to limit capacity this season.

Both ski areas have asked people to purchase tickets before arrival, to ensure there is ticket availability.

Neither ski area will require season pass holders to make reservations.



Snow making crew members are hard at work in the days before Cannon Mountain's opening, which was on Nov. 24 in 2017. (Photos Courtesy of Greg Keeler/Cannon Mountain)



Skiers take in the sights at Cannon Mountain in a previous season.

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## LODGE AND LIFT RESTRICTIONS

This year, skiers and snowboarders will be encouraged to put on boots and change in their vehicles.

At Cannon Mountain, lodge access will be limited to 50%, bag storage will not be allowed, and time in lodges will be limited to 30 minutes. To facilitate quicker breaks, cafeterias will limit food to grab and go offerings.

Food trucks may be available in parking areas and the Cannonball Pub will be open with limited capacity and will follow state restaurant guidelines.

The ski area is also looking at outdoor dining and scaled-back

live entertainment options, which meet COVID safety guidelines.

Bretton Woods will also limit capacity for its lodges.

As for lifts, Cannon Mountain will enforce mask requirements and ask people to follow the "arrive together, ride together" model. The Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway will remain offline due to COVID transmission concerns.

Neither Cannon Mountain nor Bretton Woods will pack lifts to maximize capacity, so expect longer waits.

## LIMITS ON LESSONS

Cannon Mountain has reduced its nursery program (12 to 35 months) to three 2-hour

windows per day, with five clients per window.

Cannon's Snowsports School will offer smaller classes. The student to instructor ratio will be two-to-one for ages 3-6, and six-to-one for ages 7-12.

The season-long Junior Development Program will be downsized by nearly 50%, from 300 to 168, and those participants will be broken down into small groups. To reduce transmission risk, those groups will operate at different times at separate locations on the mountain.

Bretton Woods will not offer nursery or child care this season.



# Skating Options For The Coming Winter Season

BY STEPHEN GARFIELD  
Staff Writer

Uncertainty.

With recreational activities on temporary state-ordered hold due to COVID-19, that’s the status of the normally-robust winter-season of offerings.

Fenton Chester Arena (FCA) in Lyndonville had made the decision before then to not open this winter; if or when things do resume, the Central Vermont Memorial Civic Center in Montpelier, 30 miles from St. Johnsbury, would be the closest indoor facility with public skating. Almost as close, 36-miles distant, is the BOR Arena, in Barre. It too offers public skating, while up north, the Jay Peak Ice Haus, 55 miles from St. Johnsbury, had taken on some of the LAYHA (Lyndon Area Youth Hockey Association) activity formerly held at FCA, prior to the shutdown. As of now, “with the current state guidelines, we are not offering up public skating or stick and puck,” Ice Haus General Manager Dennis Himes stated in an email. “This will change depending on when the state will allow it.”

Outdoor skating options are plentiful. In addition to those special places only one knows about on creeks and pond alcoves, the rink at Chet & Pat Buck Memorial Park, at the corner of Portland Street and Concord Avenue in St. Johnsbury,



The St. Johnsbury Academy hockey team held an outdoor three-on-three tournament, dubbed the inaugural Green and White Classic, at the outdoor rink on Main Street in 2018.

is a popular draw, as is the rink at Four Seasons Park on Main Street. These smaller surfaces are especially good for families and are lighted for night skating.

There’s an outdoor rink for Danville residents at Hill Street Park, while in New Hampshire, the towns of Bethlehem, Colebrook, Franconia, Lancaster, and Littleton also have outdoor com-

munity rinks.

In Newport, Kingdom Games has an annual ice skating festival, with a track set up on Lake Memphremagog. In Fairlee, a 4.5-mile track is set up on Lake Morey every winter, and again, at this writing, its status for this winter is unclear.

The same is in New Hampshire, where two of its grand hotels, the Mt. Washington (Bretton

Woods) and the Mountain View Grand (Whitefield) have outdoor rinks with mountain vistas and skate rentals.

**VERMONT OUTDOOR SKATING**

- Chet & Pat Buck Memorial Park, Concord Avenue/Portland Street, St. Johnsbury;
- Four Seasons Park, Main/Winter streets, St. Johnsbury;
- Lake Memphremagog (check kingdomgames.co);
- Hill Street Park community rink, Danville.

**NH OUTDOOR SKATING**

- Mountain View Grand Resort, 101 Mountain View Rd., Whitefield;
- Mt. Washington Hotel, Route 302, Bretton Woods;
- Public rink, Route 18, Franconia (behind Abbie Greenleaf Library);
- Bethlehem Skate Park, 53 Agassiz St.;
- Lancaster, behind Main Street Courthouse;
- Colebrook, North Country Community Rec Center, 33 Rec Center Rd.;
- Littleton, Remich Park, 90 Pine Hill Rd.

**INDOOR SKATING**

- Jay Peak Ice Haus;
- BOR, 25 Auditorium Hill, Barre.
- Central Vermont Memorial Civic Center, Gallison Hill Rd., Montpelier



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# Outside & Distanced, Respond To The Lure Of Ice Fishing

BY ALEXANDRA HUFF  
Special For the Record

Fishing is a socially distant activity, and ice fishing especially so. When digging multiple holes in the ice to set up multiple lines, it's best practice to keep them six feet apart to avoid tangles; it's like ice fishing was meant to be a safe COVID-19 activity.

You don't even need a fishing license to get started. Vermont hosts a Free Fishing Day once in the winter and once in the summer. Even though the Winter Ice Fishing Festival was canceled, Free Fishing Day is still scheduled for anglers to hit the ice on Jan. 30, 2021.

Before and after Jan. 30, a Vermont state fishing license is required for residents and non-residents alike. An annual license costs \$28 for residents and \$54 for those visiting post-quarantine.

Ice fishing requires more equipment than the usual fishing rod, tackle, and bait. In addition, anglers will need ice augers to



drill holes in the ice and tip-ups, a flag system to alert the angler when a fish is on the line. No more than eight lines is allowed per person, and each line may only have two baited hooks, two lures, or three artificial flies.

If there's at least four inches of clear ice on a body of water, it is suitable for ice fishing. Ice that cannot be seen through should be at least eight inches before

venturing out. The thickness can be checked with the ice auger anglers already invested in.

Starting Jan. 16, the ice fishing season for trout, salmon, and bass will open and last until March 15, 2021 on the following lakes and ponds: Harveys Lake in Barnet, Joes Pond in Danville and Cabot, Willoughby Lake in Westmore, Caspian Lake in Greensboro, and Island Pond in



Get hooked on ice fishing this winter. (File photos)

Brighton, just to name a few.

Fish like bowfin, mullet, gar, carp, crappie, northern pike, rainbow smelt and yellow perch are open to ice fishing at any time, depending on the body of water, and each have their own daily limit. An angler can only catch five bowfin, mullet, gar, or northern pike in a day; twenty-five crappie; and fifty yellow

perch.

Walleye can be caught until March 15. Only three walleye can be caught per angler per day and must be at least 18 inches long.

With ever-changing rules and regulations in the fishing scene, it's important to stay up-to-date on policies by visiting [vtfishand-wildlife.com](http://vtfishand-wildlife.com).

Josh Haskett encourages people to take up ice fishing. He is the owner and operator of Vermont Ventures LLC., a family-run tour company. One of the tours offered is an ice fishing adventure, something Haskett also enjoys in his spare time as much as he can.

"With summer fishing, it seems everybody forgets about the winter," Haskett says. "It gets everybody out with their families." He has heard older anglers express similar thoughts that a family who fishes together often remains closely knit.

Vermont Ventures will host ice fishing adventures starting Jan. 1, ice thickness permitting. All the equipment will be cleaned thoroughly between uses and tours will be restricted to up to four members of a family or household, in compliance with Governor Scott's latest ordinance. For more information go online to [vermontventure.com](http://vermontventure.com).

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# Rules Over Travel To VT, NH Are A Moving Target

BY ANDREW MCGREGOR  
Staff Writer

Navigating the rules regarding travel during the pandemic can be a daunting task, as different states have different rules, that can change often.

### Vermont

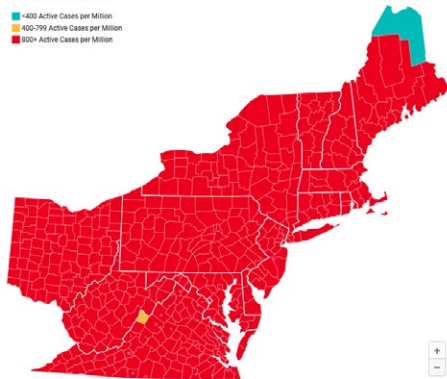
Leisure travel to Vermont, at least as of publication, was no longer allowed. Rising cases in New England and beyond resulted in an Executive Order issued Nov. 10 by Gov. Phil Scott to restrict non-essential travel to Vermont and institute mandatory quarantine for anyone entering the state.

Anyone returning or traveling to Vermont must follow Vermont's mandatory quarantine policy, which requires either a 14-day quarantine or a 7-day quarantine followed by a negative test.

All out-of-state travelers utilizing lodging, camping and short-term rental properties in Vermont must sign and complete a Certificate of Compliance or affirm a compliance statement via a digital check box at the time of reservation and check-in to attest that they meet the quarantine requirement or are an essential/authorized worker.

The only exemption to the quarantine rule is for people traveling for essential purposes, such as work. Essential travel includes travel for personal safety, medical care, care of others, parental shared custody, for food, beverage, or medicine,

**Estimated Active Cases per Million in VT Region**  
This regional map is for informational purposes only. It illustrates the estimated active cases per million across the Northeast and categorizes counties into green, yellow, or red based on their estimated active case counts. Values displayed include estimates for asymptomatic, undetected cases, and so may exceed totals reported by local health departments. Anyone returning or traveling to Vermont, regardless of a county's estimated active case count, must comply with Vermont's mandatory quarantine policy.



\*Counties with very low case counts may see high percent changes from week to week due to relatively higher variability. See the CFR Modeling Methodology paper for more information about how this map was created.  
Map: Vermont Department of Financial Regulation / Source: Johns Hopkins University & New York Department of Health / Created with Datawrapper

to attend PreK-12 school and college if commuting daily, or to perform work for businesses that are currently allowed to operate. More information about which businesses may operate and how they may operate can be found on the Vt ACCD website under Work Safe Guidance.

In addition, persons should not travel to, from, or within Vermont if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or if they meet the criteria for needing to Isolate or Quarantine, such as being identified as a close contact of a positive individual and under isolation requirements.

Before the latest Executive Order restricting

leisure travel to Vermont, Vermont had employed a system of approving counties within one day's drive of being able to visit Vermont without a quarantine. The approved counties were determined based on the rate of recent cases compared to the county population. Vermont's "Travel Map" would be updated weekly and all travelers were expected to review the map just before traveling to see if conditions in their home county still allowed the visit without quarantine.

At the time of the Executive Order, Gov. Scott indicated he would like to restore the Travel Map if and when COVID conditions are significantly reduced across the Northeast.

It is critical for all visitors to Vermont to familiarize themselves with the latest travel guidance at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/travel-quarantine>.

### New Hampshire

On Nov. 14, Gov. Christopher Sununu issued an Emergency Order that included updated travel guidance from the Division of Public Health Services.

The new order required travelers/visitors to and residents of New Hampshire to self-quarantine for 14 days following the last date of any travel internationally (including to/from Canada); on a cruise ship; or domestically outside of the New England states of Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut or Rhode Island for non-es-

sential purposes.

If the person is asymptomatic and has a negative PCR test on or after day 7 of quarantining, they may shorten or end their quarantine.

New Hampshire Travel and Tourism officials stated they are closely monitoring the situation regarding COVID-19 and are adhering to the expert advice of state and public health officials.

As of the end of November, NH Department of Health and Human Services recommended against any non-essential personal or business travel, and urged people to avoid gathering with others who are not part of a person's immediate household, even during the holidays.

There is no travel-quarantine requirement issued by New Hampshire authorities for those traveling to New Hampshire from the surrounding New England States of Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, however, Vermonters visiting New Hampshire for non-essential purposes would need to quarantine upon their return to Vermont.

Any traveler/visitor or residents experiencing symptoms must isolate, contact a healthcare provider, and get tested and everyone is asked to help stop the spread of COVID-19 by practicing social distancing and staying close to home.

Up to date New Hampshire travel guidance can be found at <https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/out-state-visitors>.

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# Border Club Builds First Covered Bridge For Snowmobiles In Vermont

New Border Trail, Signs Part Of 50th Anniversary

BY ROBIN SMITH  
Staff Writer

DERBY — Volunteers have built the only covered bridge on a snowmobile trail in Vermont to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Drift Dusters Snowmobile Club.

The Founders Bridge “fits the area,” says Roger Gosselin, a leader of the club and a board member of the Vermont Association of Snowmobile Travelers.

“We wanted to do something big,” he said.

The club has also added four miles to its unique international trail that follows the U.S.-Canadian border from Derby to Holland.

The new section includes an “awesome” panoramic view on the top of a farm hill overlooking Jay Peak in one direction near Lake Memphremagog and the White Mountains to the east. The stunning view is nearly 360 degrees.

The covered bridge is on the east side of Derby Pond near Route 111 near Derby Center.

The bridge is on Trail 14 and is wide enough not only for snowmobiles but for the groomer as well.

The international trail extension adds more trail between Derby Line to Prairie Road in Holland. The international trail shares a bridge.

The trails - one on one side and one on the other of the border - run parallel and are maintained by clubs on both sides of the border.

The trails here will also feature new signs, donated by Pick and Shovel in Newport City. The Orleans County Sheriff's Department has agreed to patrol major crossings for the club this year, Gosselin said.

The border trail will be as close as snowmobilers will get this winter to crossing the border this season, Gosselin said.

With the border closed to non-essential travelers, the Drift Dusters club and its counterpart in Quebec are not grooming the trails to the border. But snowmobilers will be able to ride past each other on the trail.

The club would like to hold a



Members of the Drift Dusters Snowmobile Club work on the new snowmobile bridge in Derby. (Courtesy Photo)

ribbon-cutting ceremony sometime for the bridge, but that might have to wait until next year, he said.

They are expecting to open trails to snowmobiling come Dec. 16, the start of the season in Vermont - if Mother Nature allows.

But there are broad restrictions on how snowmobilers can interact, just like in every other part of society in Vermont. Masks will be needed at trail heads and intersections where

snowmobilers usually stop and remove their helmets. Social distancing will be required. And the governor has said that people have to remain in their household groups, not mingle.

Out of state visitors will be able to come but they won't be able to snowmobile in groups of friends or extended relatives but stay in the household group.

There's a long list of dos and don'ts on the VAST website, where anyone can buy a mem-



Gov. Phil Scott readies to begin an hour-long group snowmobile ride in Island Pond, Vt., on Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019. Scott and his cabinet spent the day touring Essex County. (Photo by Paul Hayes)

bership that is needed to use Vermont trails.

The trails are groomed with grants from VAST, which is paid for from the membership fees.

Gosselin said he hopes that visitors will still buy memberships and plan to come to snowmobile this year.

“I feel very confident” that snowmobiling will go forward this year, despite the pandemic and the emergency orders from the Vermont governor, Gosselin said.

Snowmobiling can be a sport that is safe and still allows everyone to enjoy Vermont in winter, he said.

Of course that all depends on a little help from Old Man Winter.

The Farmers Almanac is predicting a snowy winter in Vermont, Gosselin said.

That might not be a reliable forecast but, like snow on the ground on a winter morning, it makes the heart of a snowmobile enthusiast beat a little faster.

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# Resorts Making Snow, Tuned Up For 2020-21

## Mountain Staff Ready To Begin Safely Welcoming Guests

BY AMY ASH NIXON  
Staff Writer

**NORTHEAST KINGDOM** — Snowmaking is well underway, and spirits are high as the ski and snowboard season gets underway in northern Vermont.

After the pandemic killed their spring seasons last year, Burke Mountain and Jay Peak are excited to get started on a strange new year.

“‘Flexible vigilance’ has been the catchphrase since this all began last March 13, and it’ll continue to be so as the snow flies,” Jay Peak spokesman JJ Toland said. “We expect to be spun around every week, if not every day, and have to play *Pin the Tail on the Future* as the operating landscape is continually changing.”

Toland says there are great deals available for locals.

“We do expect that there will be plenty of room to roam at

Jay Peak as 50% of our typical guests won’t be able to physically get to us by virtue of the border being closed,” said Toland.

Jay Peak relies on its Canadian visitors for a good portion of its guest traffic, and the border closure has been ongoing since the spring and was recently extended another month to Dec. 21 with no end in sight.

“All that said, we are ready...” Toland said.

Jay Peak created several cleaning protocols “to maximize team member and guest safety,” Toland said. Resort staff will patrol public spaces to ensure everyone adheres to safety measures.

“The overarching goal is to keep people safe,” he said. “To that end, we’ve also expanded our outdoor dining options with the addition of the Box - a food truck that will sit just outside the loading area of the tram. Plus, we’ve expanded our in-



Snowmaking at Burke Mountain. (Courtesy Photo)

room dining options.”

Burke Mountain began snowmaking last week. Opening day is slated for Saturday, Dec. 12th (weather pending).

“We’ve launched a new e-commerce site to support advance purchases of tickets, lessons, and rentals online,” said spokeswoman Jessica Sechler. “This will allow skiers and

riders the opportunity to make their plans well in advance with reduced contact at the ticket window as well scheduled pick up times for equipment rentals and lessons providing for more time on snow.”

She says there will be more signage and some adjustments to comply with state health guidelines, “but their ski and

ride experience will be the same,” Sechler said.

The resort’s operational plan can be found at [skiburke.com](http://skiburke.com).

“Since reopening in the summer, we developed the Burke Safeway promise, which continues to evolve as we invest in the safety of our staff and guests heading into the winter season,” Sechler said. “Staff undergo a daily health and wellness check and continue to be great ambassadors of their individual responsibilities to ensuring a safe ski and ride season.

More details on the Burke Safeway promise can be found at [skiburke.com/safeway](http://skiburke.com/safeway).

At both properties, masks are required in all public spaces.

Limited seating will be available in lodges, and guests will have to provide contact tracing information. No bags will be allowed in lodges. Limited storage will be available for guests renting skis or boards only.

“Love it or hate it; this sea-

son, your car will be your best friend. Trust us on this one. Boot up at your car,” Burke advises visitors.

As of now, food and beverage options at Burke will include:

- In the Hotel: The View Pub will be open seven/days/week, serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Reservations required. Grab-n-go options are available.

- At the Base Lodge: Tamarack Pub & Grill will be serving lunch and dinner on the weekends with special hours during holiday weeks. Reservations required. Grab-n-go options are available.

- Mid Burke: The plan is to open Bear Den Thursday through Sunday with special holiday hours.

- Food from a truck? Yep, that’s a thing. Maybe two trucks. Details to follow.

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# Origin Stories: A Brief History Of Winter Sports

Many people spend winter huddled indoors. For winter sports enthusiasts, however, the arrival of snow and chilly temperatures means the start of a season of outdoor fun. Those who see winter as a time to embrace their love of sport may appreciate learning more about some of the sports that are most popular during the colder months of the year.

### Ice hockey

Hockey is one of the most popular winter sports. In 1994, Parliament passed the Canada's National Sport Act, which declared hockey the official national winter sport of Canada. The origins of ice hockey are somewhat uncertain, though some historians claim the first set of rules to govern the sport were written by students at Montreal's McGill University in the 1870s.

### Downhill (Alpine) skiing

SnowSports Industries America indicates that, in the 2014-2015 season, more than nine million American Alpine skiers took to the slopes, and the sport continues to attract new devotees each year.

Historians state that skiing evolved as a method to cross the landscape in the winter when marshlands froze over. Cave drawings suggest



St. Johnsbury Academy junior Tommy Zschau hammers a turn during the first of two runs at the Vermont high school slalom championships on March 3, 2020. Zschau went on to capture the slalom state title.

that man used skis during the last Ice Age in the Palaeolithic period. Yet the birth of modern downhill skiing is often traced to the 1850s when Norwegian legend Sondre Norheim popularized skis with curved sides and made skiing a sport

instead of just a mode of transport. Skiing ultimately became quite popular in Russia, Finland, Sweden, and Norway. Today there are various types of downhill skiing, including mountain skiing, extreme cat skiing and heli skiing.

### Curling

Curling may now be seen as a largely Canadian sport, but it is widely believed to be one of the world's oldest team sports, tracing its origins to Great Britain. The World Curling Federation states paintings by the 16th Century Flemish artist Pieter Bruegel portrayed an activity similar to curling being played on Scotland's frozen ponds. The earliest known curling stones came from the Scottish regions of Stirling and Perth, dating all the way back to 1511.

### Ice skating

Speed skating and figure skating are derivatives of early ice skating, which is believed to have started in Finland more than 3,000 years ago. Skates were sharpened, flattened bone strapped to the bottom of a shoe and glided on top of the ice. The Dutch added edges to steel blades around the 13th or 14th centuries. Eventually, skating was brought to England from the Netherlands.

Winter sports draw millions of participants each year, giving people a reason to leave the house even when temperatures dip below freezing.

--Metro

## Survival Tips: Enjoy More Time Outdoors

The amount of time people spend outdoors has dramatically decreased, as the Environmental Protection Agency now reports the average American spends 87 percent of his or her time in a residence, school building or workplace.

Being outside is linked to better moods, more physical activity and less exposure to contaminants (concentrations of some pollutants are often two to five times higher indoors). Also, people who spend time outside may not come into contact with surface germs or develop various illnesses spread as often as those who spend a lot of time indoors.

Cold weather can make the

desire to be outside less appealing, but it is important for one's mental and physical well-being to get outside. The following activities might coax people outside for some crisp air.

### Create snow critters

Why do snowmen and women get all of the fanfare this time of year? Just about any living or fictional creature can be molded from snow and embellish landscapes. Use food-grade coloring in spray bottles to add even more creative flair to snow designs.

### Go on a nature hike

While many plants and animals hibernate in winter, there is still plenty to see. Bring along a sketch book or camera

and capture nature in winter. White-washed hills can be beautiful to behold, and many small animals and birds look even more vivid against the white backdrop of snow.

### Make an obstacle course

Turn an area of the yard or park into a homemade obstacle course. It's much more difficult, - and a great workout - to try to jump over snow mounds or run down paths when decked out in warm layers. Engage in lighthearted competitions with friends and family members.

### Build a bonfire

Children can set off in different directions to gather up firewood to craft a bonfire with adults in a safe location.

S'mores taste equally delicious whether it's warm or cold outside, and in winter they can be accompanied by toasty mugs of cocoa.

### Get sporty

Sledding, skating, snowshoeing, and ice hockey are just a few of the winter sports that can get the heart pumping and muscles working outside. These activities are entertaining and also great exercise.

When venturing outdoors in winter, dress in layers. This way clothing can be put on or taken off to reduce the likelihood of hypothermia.

--Metro

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The Kingdom All Stars (above left) and Academy Hilltones are among the performers for the First Night North 2021. (Photo Courtesy of Derek Campbell Fauxtography)

# Celebrate At Home This New Year's Eve

BY JAY SPROUT  
First Night

Ever since Dec. 31, 1993, several thousand happy revelers have gathered annually in St. Johnsbury to take their pick of as many as 100 shows and activities in the region's biggest New Year's Eve festival of the arts.

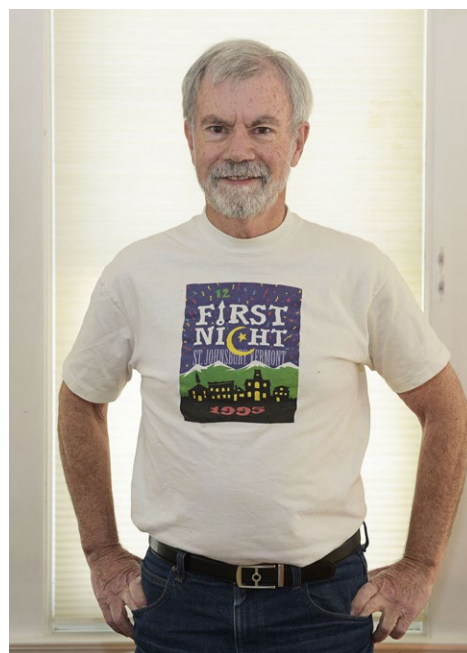
For the record, celebrating New Year's Eve with the arts actually began in St. Johnsbury in the 1870s when Horace Fairbanks opened wide the doors of the Athenaeum he built for a public reception. Hundreds of townspeople enjoyed the annual festive occasion with band or orchestra music playing throughout the night.

Over a century later, our current festival of the arts came into being. It's called "First Night."

Of course, since First Night takes place on the last night of the year it's a bit of a misnomer. But the visionaries in Boston who originated the festival in 1975 saw it as an occasion to look forward, rather than behind. So they trademarked the first such event as First Night 1976. Thus the celebration is always marked by the date of the coming year.

In St. Johnsbury, it all started when a few people in town saw the inherent potential of St. Johnsbury to join the fast-growing movement that had spread from Boston to several hundred cities across America. With the many suitable entertainment venues clustered on and near Main Street — all within easy walking distance and eager to open their doors — the town seemed destined for such a spectacular event.

"Destiny" may strike one as too grand a notion, but consider the fact that right at that time there was a new organization in town, funded by a federal grant and charged with the goal of reducing drug and alcohol abuse by young people. The Community Partnership, as it was known, agreed that offering a safe, entertainment-filled, family-friendly New Year's Eve in place of alcohol-centered partying was in perfect keeping with their mission. Their staff contracted an



Jay Sprout has taken part in First Night since its beginning.

impressive array of regional talent to stage a remarkable variety of entertainment for all ages, recruited a large band of volunteers to host the shows, enlisted the support of town agencies to handle safety concerns, all underwritten with the generous support of local businesses and non-profit organizations.

The first First Night was an immediate success. A calm, seasonably mild winter night with a light fall of lovely snowflakes falling on throngs of happy people strolling up and down Main Street created a magical scene that even Hollywood could not improve upon. By the time hundreds of people crowded on the street at midnight to sing "Auld Lang Syne," we all felt we had witnessed something very special.

Memories of that perfect night and the attendant word-of-mouth advertising have motivated people to come out no matter how cold, wet, or

icy the conditions have been on New Year's Eve since then. First Night enthusiasm has inspired creative additions to the festivities to make it bigger and better each year.

By the time that the Community Partnership's funding ended three years in, First Night St. Johnsbury had become a treasured tradition and an independent institution. A succession of directors was contracted each year to pull together the festival. By the turn of the next century, a team of long-time volunteers took over to follow the established pattern and keep First Night going. But ongoing financial problems and volunteer fatigue threatened the future of First Night in St. Johnsbury. Just when it looked like First Night St. Johnsbury had run its course, Catamount Arts stepped up to marshal their professional strength to manage the event.

First Night has flourished ever since, even as so many other towns across the nation have been unable to sustain their momentum. Rebranding the event as First Night NORTH in St. Johnsbury for the 2018 edition has proved entirely appropriate since ours is the only remaining licensed First Night celebration in Vermont.

Of course, the biggest obstacle to First Night this year is the global COVID-19 pandemic. This past August, it became clear to the First Night organizers that we could not safely put on a live festival with crowds of people potentially spreading the deadly virus. But we also recognized the community needs First Night more than ever to lift our spirits and give us hope for a much better year ahead.

So we have called upon dozens of our most popular artists, plus several new acts, to provide short videos especially for First Night North. They are submitting wonderful performances that will be woven together by the staff of Kingdom Access Television into an eight-hour show. People far and wide will be able to watch the program from 4 p.m. to just after midnight on Thursday, Dec. 31, on KATV's Spectrum cable channel 192 or stream it online at [www.KATV.org](http://www.KATV.org).

No admission button required!

This at-home First Night will again feature music of all kinds, from folk to classical, from American show tunes to songs from around the world. Three or four acts will take the virtual stage each hour. There will be performances by solo artists Jon Gailmor, Colin McCaffrey, Annemieke McLane, and Ray Walker; duos Bob and Sarah Amos, Dan Houghton and Rachel Clemente, Keith Murphy and Becky Tracy, Dana and Sue Robinson, and Shady Rill; and choral work by St. Johnsbury Academy's Hilltones, Northern Harmony, and Windborne. Bands like Annie and the Hedonists, Fifth Business, Footworks, Pete's Posse, and Va-et-Vient — will be playing and singing, with Tritium Well closing out the final hour with a dance party and a musical finale by the Kingdom All-Stars.

In between musical acts, there will be moments of delightful magic by Marko and moments of graceful movement by Lyndon Institute Dance, North Country Union High School Dancers, and St. Johnsbury Ballet Studio. Laughter will punctuate the evening with comedy sketches by Modern Times Theater, along with their classic Punch 'n Judy Show, and circus routines by Troy Wunderle's Big Top Adventures and stand-up comics Nathan Hartswick and Natalie Miller of the Vermont Comedy Club. It's going to be great show.

We can't have our fireworks finale this year, but The Foundry's enormous First Night ball of lights will still rise high into the sky atop a giant crane for the countdown to 2021. You'll hear the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" welcome the New Year. Sing along!

Plan now to celebrate the New Year safely at home. The detailed line-up of entertainment can soon be seen at [firstnightnorth.org](http://firstnightnorth.org).

Jay Sprout has taken part in First Night since its beginning. He has served as a volunteer director and continues as chair of the First Night Committee for the Board of Directors of Catamount Arts.



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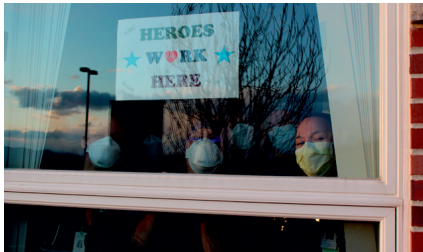
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