



**VANCOUVER ADAPTIVE SNOW SPORTS**

VIRTUAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

November 8, 2023

7:00 pm – 7:30 pm

By ZOOM

Chair Person	<i>Anne Bethune – President</i>
<b>AGENDA</b>	
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	
<b>2. Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	<i>Anne Bethune</i>
<b>3. Approval of Agenda</b>	
<b>4. Approval of the Minutes from November 9, 2022</b>	
<b>5. BUSINESS: Reports</b>	
A. President	<i>Anne Bethune</i>
B. Treasurer	<i>Tom Gillespie</i>
C. Operations	<i>James Peters</i>
Motion to Approve all Reports Motion to Accept the Financial Statements and Review Engagement Report for the year ended August 31, 2023 Motion to waive the requirements for an audit of next year's Financial Statements and to engage Baker Tilly WM LLP to perform a review	
<b>6. ELECTIONS:</b>	
A. Election Process Explained	<i>Anne Bethune</i>
B. Introduction of Nominees for VASS Board Positions	
C. Election of Board Members for VASS 2023-2024	
<b>7. Other Business</b>	
<b>8. ADJOURNMENT:</b>	
Motion to Adjourn	

## VASS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Many thanks to the dedication from the following 2022/23 Board Members;

Anne Bethune - President  
Ewa Holender - Vice President  
Tom Gillespie - Treasurer  
Sandy Millar  
Tom Mooney  
Jack Hughes  
Liisa O'Hara  
Bryce Eyton  
Jim Neal  
Amelia Gillies  
David Bell

VASS Paid Contractors  
James Peters - Executive Director  
Alison Scholefield - Financial Controller, Secretary  
Alex Cavanagh - Administration Assistant for ED  
Sarah Abbott - Grant Writer

## 2022/23 SEASON SUCCESSES

After a cancelled 2020-21 and a partial 2021/22 season, we were grateful to be back on snow with a full capacity season and a good snow year in 2022/23!

## EVENTS

- 10th Annual VASS Movie Night at Centennial Theatre raising - \$12,427  
Thank you to our fabulous Movie Day committee Tom Mooney and Jim Neal
- Fall 2022 Online Silent Auction - Funds Raised - \$12,413  
Thank you to our fabulous committee Debbie McLean & Bev Malcolm
- 13th annual (with exclusion of 2 COVID years) VASS Snowfest at Grouse Mountain  
Thank you Leila Jaakkola for your dedicated leadership
- New Ski/Board-a-thon (VASS-a-thon) raised \$21,613

## Training & Programs

- VASS delivered approximately 1700 lessons - highest ever!
- CADS Certifications
  - CADS 1 Ski - 125
  - CADS 2 Ski - 6
  - CADS 3 Ski - 5
  - CADS 1 Snowboard 32
  - CADS 2 CC. Ski - Adam Tynan
  - CADS 1 CC SB - Babette de Bruin
  - CADS 2 CC SB - Teresa Medina
- CADS Precourse - James Peters, Adam Tynan, Babette de Bruin, Teresa Medina
- BCAS Summit - VASS Session Leaders - Anne Bethune, James Peters, Adam Tynan, Simon Cho plus 19 participants
- hosted bimonthly well attended Instructor Skill Improvement Nights
- Blue Streaks Adaptive Racing Program - a successful 19th season
- Had our TETRA ski in action at Mt Seymour - VASS is the only club in Canada to have this special sit ski.
- see ED report

### **MAJOR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS TO VASS in\_2022/23 (\$3,000 or more)**

Healthy Communities Fund = \$54,000  
Unity for Autism = \$10,000  
Monat = \$10,000  
Christ Spencer Foundation \$8,000  
G&F Financial Group \$5,000  
Arc'Teryx \$5,000  
viaSport \$3,000 + \$3,000 = \$6,000  
PepsiCo \$5,000  
John Hardy Mitchell Foundation \$3,000

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

- Renewed the annual contract with James Peters, Executive Director
- VASS renewed our part-time annual contract with Alison Scholefield, Financial Controller
- VASS continued with the services of Sarah Abbott, Grant Writer
- Thank you to our HR Team - Ewa Hollander, Amelia Gillies, Anne Bethune, Tom Gillespie

### **Facilities**

- 11th season in Yurt home on Grouse - thank you Bryce Eyton for Yurt floor repairs
- Funding set aside for a new trailer at Mt Seymour

### **2022/23 SEASON CHALLENGES**

VASS Snowfest - keeping the workload manageable for leadership  
Instructor training capacity & meeting the student demand in our community

### **LOOKING FORWARD**

- see 2023/24 Strategic Plan
- VASS 50th year and celebrations - stay tuned!
- Veteran's Camp
- Invictus Games support
- VASS Vehicle
- Mt Seymour trailer

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Bethune  
VASS President

**TREASURER'S REPORT – YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023****2022/2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

The fiscal 2023 year saw a return to fully unrestricted programming operations for VASS for the first time since 2020! In 2022 we ran at 50% for our typical capacity and unfortunately had to cancel the 2021 snow sports program due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Total revenues recognized in 2023 increased to \$253,526 (2022 - \$193,009) which is an increase of \$60,517 or 31% over the prior year. A detailed assessment of the increase in revenue is included in a subsequent section of this report.

Total expenses incurred in fiscal 2023 were \$234,259 (2022 - \$189,628) which represented an increase of \$44,6631 or 24% over the prior year. A detailed assessment of the increase in expenses is included in a subsequent section of this report.

As shown in the table below VASS increased its cash balance by \$66,105 over the prior year. VASS finished the year with a cash balance of \$342,200 (2022 - \$276,095). VASS' cash balance remains strong, and the organization is well prepared for the upcoming 2024 snow sports program and beyond. Below is a comparative reconciliation of the 2023 financial results on a cash basis:

<b>Financial Summary (all amounts in CAD \$)</b>	<b>Year Ended Aug 31, 2023</b>	<b>Year Ended Aug 31, 2022</b>
Total revenues and other income	\$ 253,526	\$ 193,009
Expenses	(234,259)	(189,628)
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 19,267</b>	<b>\$ 3,381</b>
Add: Amortization of equipment	32,985	35,880
Add: Deferred contributions for equipment	19,200	6,500
Less: Amortization of deferred capital contributions	(4,720)	(2,620)
Less: Capital Expenditures	(21,512)	(14,986)
Adjust for Change in Non-Cash Working Capital	20,885	(77,014)
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Cash</b>	<b>\$ 66,105</b>	<b>\$ (48,859)</b>
<b>Cash at Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$ 276,095</b>	<b>\$ 324,954</b>
<b>Cash at End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 342,200</b>	<b>\$ 276,095</b>

As noted above, revenues increased substantially in 2023 as they did in 2022 and were close to the levels that VASS obtained before COVID.

**2022/2023 REVENUE SUMMARY**

Grants for program and equipment funding received in 2023 amounted to \$117,084 (2022 - \$55,333) which represented an increase of 111% over 2022 and 35% over 2021.

Fundraising revenue in 2023 was much higher than fiscal 2022 but still lower than it had been pre-pandemic. Fiscal 2023 saw a significant increase in the movie night and online auction fundraising revenues. Furthermore, it saw the introduction of the VASS-A\_THON which was a significant contributor to 2023 fundraising efforts. However, the VASS Snowfest (formerly the VASS Cup) that did not run in 2022 and 2021 was below the fundraising levels that VASS had seen in previous years.

As VASS was back at full programming capacity the membership and program fee revenues returned to pre-pandemic levels after running at half capacity in 2022 and having no membership and programming fees collected in 2021.

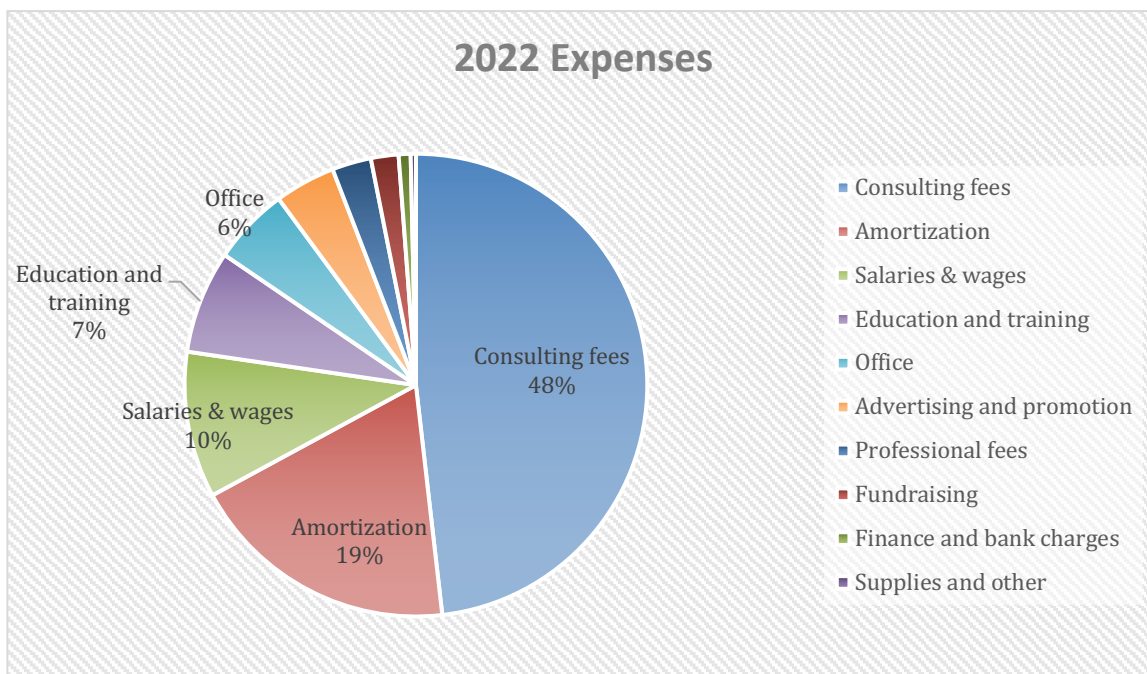
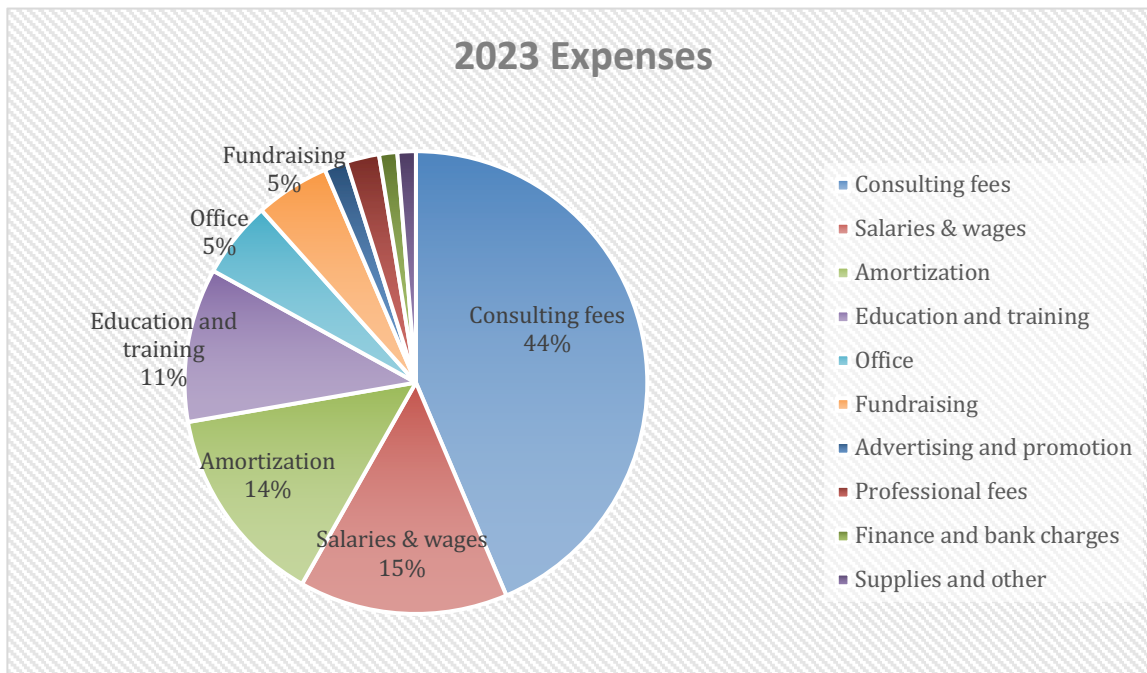
<b>Total Revenues by Major Category</b>	<b>Year Ended Aug 31, 2023</b>	<b>Year Ended Aug 31, 2022</b>
Donations and grants	\$ 119,449	\$ 138,350
Membership and program fees	67,385	33,378
Fundraising revenue	63,043	15,128
Government grants	-	5,248
Interest income	3,332	147
Foreign exchange	317	758
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 253,526</b>	<b>\$ 193,006</b>

During fiscal 2023, VASS received significant donations from many organizations. Below is a list of VASS' Key Financial Supporters who provided funding of \$5,000 or more.

<b>Key Financial Supporters</b> (grant funding of \$5,000 or more)	
Healthy Communities Fund	\$ 54,000
Unity for Autism	10,000
MONAT	10,000
Chris Spencer Foundation	8,000
G&F Financial Group	5,000
Arc-teryx	5,000

**2022/2023 EXPENSE SUMMARY**

A breakdown of VASS’ fiscal 2023 and fiscal 2022 expenses are illustrated in the charts below:



Consulting fees, salaries and wages, and education and training constituted the bulk of the cash expenses for VASS in 2023. Amortization, while a significant accounting expense, is a non-cash item and thus did not have an impact on the organization’s cash resources.

## CONCLUSION

Looking ahead to the 2024 fiscal year, we will aim to build on our success in 2023.

Thank you to the Board Directors and all VASS stakeholders for your ongoing support!

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Gillespie – Treasurer

*(Please see appendix for 2023 financial statements)*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – James Peters

### OVERVIEW

Free at last, free at last, COVID did not mess up a season. Which led to a very typical season, with the core of the programming being held over a 6-week period as typical. We have continued to grow, reaching a new high 554 volunteer instructors and delivering over 1700 lessons to 320 students. A banner year for VASS.

### PROGRAMMING

In total we ran 22 specific programs in the past season, all of them listed below. Many have run in the past, with our 2 family programs and the peer-to-peer program in their second year and thriving. The family programs were an opportunity for family and/or support people in the student's lives, to be able to come up and get ski or snowboard lessons before the season started and then join the student for the regular programming. The goal is very simple, to create skiing/snowboard units that no longer need the support of VASS. With this initiative the hope is that we'll be able to service more and more participants as the years go on. The peer-to-peer program works on the same basis although the peer just joins in the lessons and is taught at the same rate as the student. With these pairings we have allowed for an extra volunteer to join the group to ensure that everybody stays safe and gets the required knowledge they need. This will continue to be the direction that VASS grows in with the belief that we will be able to have more people graduate from our teaching programs.

Having failed at creating a sustainable snowshoe program 2 seasons ago, we knew there needed to be a better solution. That solution was to work with the snowshoe program at Grouse Mountain and train 6 of their guides to safely secure people into a sit ski and then walk behind the sit skis to make the trails accessible to all. It was a huge success and we will be repeating the training again this season. We will offer the training to Mt Seymour.

Here is the list of programs:

Monday Night Grouse ASD Learn to Snowboard

Monday Night Grouse Learn to Snowboard

Tuesday Night Cypress Intermediate Ski

Tuesday Night Grouse ASD Learn to Ski

Wednesday Afternoon Grouse BC DEAF SPORTS Group

Wednesday Night Grouse Learn To Ski

Wednesday Night Mt Seymour Learn to Sit ski

Thursday Night Grouse Blue Streaks PRACTICE ONLY

Thursday Night Grouse Intermediate Sit ski

Friday Night Club Ski and Ride

Saturday Grouse Blue Streaks RACE SKI TRAINING

Saturday Grouse Blue Streaks RACE SNOWBOARD TRAINING

Saturday Morning Grouse Learn To Ski

Saturday Mt Seymour Sit ski

Sunday Morning Grouse Learn To Ski

Sunday Morning Grouse Learn To Snowboard

Sunday Afternoon Grouse Blue Streaks All Mountain

Family Program NEVER SKIED OR SNOWBOARDED- ONLY for people wanting to support students

Family Program SKI AND BOARD AT A GREEN LEVEL OR BETTER- ONLY for people wanting to support students

Peer-to-Peer Program-ONLY Added once a student has a spot in a program

Drop-in Lessons

TETRASKI PRIVATE Drop-In Lessons

## TRAINING

We were able to fulfil all of our typical training cycles through January, while adding a December session, producing over 150 new CADS 1 Instructors in both skiing and snowboard. We ran CADS 2 Ski certification and had 4 candidates achieve CADS 3 SKI. 2 of those people are attending the COURSE CONDUCTOR training in a few weeks, which deepens our pool of course conductors. I must tell you how incredibly proud I am of all of these individuals, who not only attended training sessions that VASS provided, but then also organized team training sessions so that they could all shine by the time the evaluation came around. Please join me in congratulating:

### *CADS 2 Ski Instructors*

Stanley Tse  
Derek Tomkin  
Annie Li  
Rebecca Johnson  
Jack Elliot  
Robert Baker

### *CADS 3 Ski Instructor*

Ewa Holender  
Lorne Milne  
Craig Dickson  
Jacqueline Middleton

*CADS CC 2 Ski*  
Adam Tynan



In other training initiatives, I was able to complete my certification as the CANADIAN TETRASKI Instructor Trainer, which now allows us to certify as many instructors for Tetraski as VASS requires. And we need to have a giant shout out... to Mark Hopkins and Lorne Milne. These two rockstar instructors have taken it upon themselves to develop curriculum for the iSkiBike. We will be rolling out training on this device for the 2023-2024 season and the equipment will be featured at the VASS Sit Ski Summit 2023.

VASS has also worked hard to provide training to our local ski schools at all 3 mountains. Grouse Mountain is now in a position to offering adaptive private lessons in all disciplines with the exception of sit skiing. This makes it the first time we are in a position to offer adaptive lessons anytime someone wants to take them.

## THANK YOU

I know how incredibly lucky I am to be surrounded by amazing people that make everything at VASS possible. First, I'd like to just give a giant thank you to all of our board members, as they work behind the scenes to support our shared vision and are always there should I need guidance in any circumstance. Next, a big thank you to Alison and Tom who make sure that all the things that we do financially are not only recorded but are responsible, keeping VASS on a good trajectory for years to come. Next thank you is to our newest team member, Alexandra Cavanaugh, who came on with us this year dealing with many of the day-to-day communications, as well as taking a passionate interest in all VASS endeavors. It is this small and fast team that makes all things are plausible. Thank you.

And finally, I would like to thank all of our volunteer instructors and event committee members, that are truly the core of what VASS is. Without the time and passion of so many people in our community, it would be impossible to deliver the incredible experiences that we do. It is an honour to help guide this group.

## CONCLUSION

The shift in thinking, to involving more family and support people, is what will allow us to continue to grow so that more individuals can enjoy the mountains has been a positive one. I'm very proud of what VASS was able to deliver in the 2022/23 snow season. A continued, strong foundation in training, our volunteers will provide us with the strength of community and commitment to the work that we do. There are some exciting new programs set up for next year that will even allow us to train faster and more efficiently through the use of some technology... our PocketCoach beta program will be released this winter. It will allow instructor to access a library of teaching strategies based on simple assessment of ski and hopefully snowboard, if that can get that part developed fast enough. It will dramatically increase the knowledge of our instructors and the results we can deliver to participants. I thank everybody involved for their continual sharing of passion and open communication as we strive to "Make the mountains accessible for all."

Respectfully submitted,

James Peters  
Executive Director

PLEASE ACCEPT MY REPORT AS SUBMITTED