

Skiing in Fernie 1879 to 2002

1879 to 1969

Era	Year	Information
The Griz	1879	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A baby boy was born in the midst of a cruel and bitter winter. Later this boy was found and named “<i>The Griz</i>” by locals. As legend goes, it is said that the baby was born in a grizzly bear’s den high in the mountains. One day while local skiers were ascending the peaks above the resort area, they found the Griz. While the skiers were watching him, the Griz stood shooting his enormous musket into the clouds and cause more snow to fall from the sky. This, of course, delighted the skiers who loved that special brand of powder snow. Thus, the legend of the Griz continues to this day
Ski Club	1950’s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Handle Tow was operated on the south face of Mt. Procter, which is behind the present Fernie Chamber of Commerce
	1960/61	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Handle Tow was operated in Liverwurst Bowl for one season
	1961 Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A-Frame Lodge under construction at the present Day Lodge location • Rabbit Ridge Rope Tow & Elk T-Bar installed
Fernie Snow Valley Ski Resort	1962 January 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day Lodge completed • “Fernie Snow Valley Ski Resort” opened <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rabbit Ridge Rope Tow (~1968) located between the Griz Inn and the bottom of the present Cornerstone Lodge location ○ Elk T-Bar (~1989) from the present Deer Chair location to the top of Elk Quad Chair location ○ Day Lodge (~present)
	1968	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ski school started on weekends only by Mr. Heiko Socher’s wife, Mrs. Linda Socher • Rabbit Ridge Rope Tow moved • A-Frame ski shop opened at the present Cornerstone Lodge location (building itself later was moved to the present Bear’s Den location) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ski School, Lift Ticket Service, & Rental operated
	1969	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lizard Bowl and part of Cedar Bowl opened <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bear T-Bar (~2000) opened at the present Bear Express Quad Chair location

1970 to 1979

Era	Year	Information
	1970	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-Season Motel (20 units) opened – the first on-hill accommodation at the present Griz Inn location
Fernie Snow Valley Ski Resort <Heiko Socher & Linda Socher>	1973	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr & Mrs Heiko & Linda Socher became co-owner shareholders, owning 30% of the ski resort
	1974 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-Season Motel burned down • First of five expansions of Day Lodge (North Side)
	1975	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deer T-Bar (~1993 Summer) opened on the present Deer run to Terrain Park
	1976	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weasel Handle Tow (~1979) opened at the south side of the present Face Lift Handle Tow
	1977 Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction started on the Tamarack Building (Present) • Griz Chair (~1978) opened at the present Lizard Lower run location. Chairlifts started from the present Tamarack building location • Avalauncher was introduced
	1978 Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamarack Building completed and opened • Griz Chair Towers 12 & 13 were wiped out by avalanche (February 13) • First Griz Competition held on the Griz Weekend in March (~1995) • Griz Chair Towers 12 & 13 cast in concrete and Griz Chair reconstruction completed (March 15) (~1990)
	1978/79	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first snow cat was introduced
	1979	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weasel Handle Tow motor caught fire & burned (Later replaced by Face Lift Handle Tow in 1990)

1980 to 1989

Era	Year	Information
	1980	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First reservoir for the Timberline village Subdivision constructed
	1981-1982	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction began on the Timberline Village Subdivision (52 houses)
	1982 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Griz Inn built the second on-hill accommodation • Second expansion of Day Lodge (South side) • Expansion South Side of Tamarack building – Ski School & Day Care built • First inaugural Powder-Pedal-Paddle Race (~Present)
	1984	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third expansion of Day Lodge (West side)
	1984/85	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,050cm of total snow fall recorded
	1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boomerang Triple Chair (~Present) installed • Second reservoir for Timberline Village Subdivision constructed
	1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Dummy Downhill Race (~Present) begins
	1988	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rabbit Ridge Rope Tow moved to clear the site for Pizza Pit • Decline Run cut • Access road from Highway 3 to the resort was reconstructed, and created the present Ski Hill Road
	1988/99	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,160cm of total snowfall recorded
	1989	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elk T-Bar moved • Elk Quad Chair (~Present) installed • A-Frame ski shop moved to the present Bear's Den location • Pizza Pit opened at the present Cornerstone Lodge location • First Timberline Condominium [Pine Lodge] completed by Mr Mike Delich

1990 to 1995

Era	Year	Information
	1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face Lift Handle Tow (~Present) and Wolf's Den Lodge opened • A deck, cooking facilities, fire pit and roof constructed at Bear's Den
	1990/91	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,179cm of total snowfall recorded (<i>greatest snowfall to date</i>)
	1991	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rabbit Ridge Rope Tow towers used and the site grounded for Mighty Moose Platter • Timberline Village construction completed • All lots sold at Timberline Village
	1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fourth expansion of Day Lodge (East side) • Second expansion of Tamarack Building (North side) • Stag Leap & Sky Drive Runs cut
	1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deer T-Bar closed and moved (summer) • Deer Triple Chair (~Present) opened • Deer T-Bar moved and renamed Haul Back T-Bar (~Present)
	1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highline Subdivision lots (52 houses, 5 condos) went on sale • Second Timberline Condominium [Spruce Lodge] completed • Third expansion of Tamarack Building (East side)
	1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of road to Timber Bowl • Signed 50 year Crown Land Plan with Province of British Columbia (Lands Development) based on Master Development Agreement in building construction of 4 chairlifts in Currie, Timber, Siberia Bowls plus lodge on top of Timber Express

1996 to 2002

Era	Year	Information
	1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italian Restaurant “Gabiella’s Pasta Place” opened at the Pizza Pit • Road to Timber Bowl completed • First ski runs in Timber Bowl and Siberia Bowl cleared
	1996/97	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cat-skiing operation started in new bowls, Timber and Siberia bowls • 1,108cm of total snowfall recorded
Fernie Alpine Resort <Resorts of the Canadian Rockies Inc>	1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resorts of the Canadian Rockies Inc (Skiing Louise Ltd. [Owner: Mr. Charlie Locke]) purchased “Fernie Snow Valley Ski Resort” • Renamed “Fernie Alpine Resort” • Highline Village construction completed • All lots at Highline Village sold
	1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Expansion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Timber Bowl Express Quad Chair (~Present) opened ○ White Pass Quad Chair (~Present) opened ○ Timber Bowl, Currie Bowl & Siberia Bowl opened • Lizard Creek Lodge, Third Timberline Condominium [Aspen Lodge], Twelve Polar Peak Lodges, Stone Creek, and Thunder Ridge Chalets are completed
	1998/99	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,099cm of total snowfall recorded
	1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini Moose Conveyor Belt (~Present) opened • Cornerstone Lodge, Kerrin Lee-Gartener’s Snow Creek Lodge, and Cedar Ridge completed • Pizza Pit moved down to the Wolf’s Den Lodge where Gabiella’s Pasta Place is now located • Resort Center and Mountain Pantry added below Gabiella’s Pasta Place
	2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bear T-Bar removed and replaced by Great Bear Express Quad Chair (~Present) opened
	2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lizard Creek Condominiums, Bear Paw Lodges, and Snow Creek Cabins completed
	2002 Jan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fourth Timberline Condominium [King Fir Lodge] will be completed

Special Thanks

Fernie Alpine Resort

Heiko Socher

Linda Socher

Dave Wall

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