

# trailhead

# ridgelines



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falcon  
ridge  
ski & recreation  
area

falcon  
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## book now save later

What a great deal! Receive 10% off your next stay at Falcon Trails if you book on your departure.

## gift certificates

It's never too late, nor too early, to think about graduation gifts, wedding presents, birthday presents, or just a generous gesture to a friend or colleague. Falcon Trails (and Falcon Ridge) gift certificates make great presents, especially for the people you know who love the outdoors. Ask at the Welcome Centre or call or email us. Ask about our "relax baskets." We also make up gift baskets for any occasion.

# trailhead



## what's that log cabin?

Sitting pretty in the Falcon Ridge parking lot is a 10' x 10' log cabin. Built over a 12-day period, the cabin is the product of four students taking a log-cabin building course offered by Walter Keller of Elma. Despite close working conditions and four chainsaws a-blazing, the students and instructor came out unscathed and the cabin is awaiting its next life as a lakeside sauna for Falcon Trails. Get ready to sweat and head for the lake. (Learn more about Walter Keller's log cabin building and chainsaw carvings in a spring issue of *The Cottager* and visit the beautiful eagle he carved (with chainsaw) perched inside the Welcome Centre.)



## seasons in transition

Winter activities abound around Falcon Trails, but watching the seasons change is something worth experiencing. Stand by the water's edge to watch, and hear, the ice break up. Feel nature bursting alive as the first warm rays from the sun heat up the thawing ground. Enjoy hikes through the woods where birds are more visible because the leaves are yet to appear. Find the first crocuses of the season. Come anytime, but try Falcon Trails in the seasons' transition. And enjoy it all mosquito-free!

## romance in the wilds

Weddings, honeymoons, anniversaries. Romance needs no reason nor season. Anytime of the year can be romantic at Falcon Trails. Sit in front of the fire after a day of skiing or hiking. Relax in the hot tub while the stars glitter above. Call us about romantic adventures away from the madding crowd. Enquire about romance baskets, too.





## energize your staff

Meet and retreat at Falcon Trails where a spacious meeting room provides wonderful vistas, great natural light, and room to think and breathe. A change of scene, a fireplace to meet around, trails for outdoor breaks, and meals and snacks to keep you going. Call us – 204-349-8273 – about hosting your next meeting at Falcon Trails, and ask about our “stretch your mind team building” sessions.

Craig’s drive helped turn the ski area into a desirable destination. His construction and carpentry skills have been invaluable in overseeing the creation of Falcon Trails and Falcon Ridge. He continues to put his energies and knowledge to use in any building requirements at Falcon Trails or at the Ridge, in lending a hand to install major equipment such as the snow-making machine, and serving as a backup to groom the trails. Despite his university training and his subsequent work experience, Craig is more likely to talk to you about books and magazine articles than insects or building. He’s worth catching up in a conversation. If you can find him indoors long enough.

## falcon trails/falcon ridge profiles

The friendly faces around Falcon Trails and Falcon Ridge may be familiar, but you just can’t put a name to them. Here’s our second profile, introducing you to Falcon Trails partner Craig Christie.



## whiteshell outfitters

Falcon Trails is pleased to offer booking arrangements for our guests with the Whiteshell Outfitters. Spend a few hours or much longer touring the Whiteshell this winter on a snowmobile. Machines, safety gear, and snowmobile clothing provided in the deal. Get picked up and dropped off at Falcon Trails. Call Mike Edey at (204) 369-5354 for more details.

## craig christie



Raised in Winnipeg in Norwood, Craig grew attached to the Whiteshell from spending most of his summers at the family cottage at Red Rock. After studying entomology at university (earning a masters degree), and spending a couple of summers at Red Rock at the university’s research camp studying insects, Craig eventually moved permanently to the Whiteshell to work in construction. After a few years, Craig and his wife (and Falcon Trails partner), Barb Hamilton, started Christie Hamilton Construction, building cabins, additions, docks, and more.



While Craig was busy with his business, and growing family, he spent many hours volunteering at the ski hill, then run by the provincial government. Fearing its demise, Craig was instrumental in encouraging Biathlon Manitoba to start using the ski area as its main training centre. It was a great, and successful, idea, but it meant many more volunteer hours developing and building the cross-country trails. For 10 years, Craig did the majority of the trail grooming, again as a volunteer. He also was chief-of-course for two national biathlon events.

## wildlife abounds

While savouring the solitude of a winter’s morning at the soon-to-be available remote High Lake cabin, Falcon Trails partners Craig Christie and Barb Hamilton looked out on the frozen lake and were thrilled by the sight of a wolf trotting along the lake. Exterminated from Atlantic provinces, Mexico, and much of the United States, wolves still are relatively common in less populated areas of Canada. Seeing a wolf is exciting, Hearing it howl is truly remarkable.

# ridgelines



## beaver days



Head for Falcon, February 8 and 9, and join in the annual Beaver Days festivities. Here are some of the activities you can enjoy at the Ridge: Ski joring, a sport imported from Scandinavia where Laplanders put on skis and harnessed themselves to reindeer to travel. Since we're short on reindeer at Falcon Ridge, we bring in horses from the Falcon Beach Ranch. You can be pulled either on skis or snowboard around a short track for a taste of this fun activity.

Shoot-out at the range gives you a chance to try target shooting at the biathlon range. You don't have to cross-country ski to get there, but if you want to experience the hard work of a biathlon, try skiing to the range and lying down, telling your beating heart to be still as you aim for the target. Sleigh rides, courtesy of Falcon Beach Ranch; Snowblast 2003, a downhill ski demo day from Gord's Ski Centre, sponsored by Volkswagen and Q94; and cross-country ski demos from Salomon.

## mark these dates

**Sunday, February 16** – Biathlon Manitoba Cup Race. Cheer on the biathletes.

**Sunday, March 9** – the Slush Cup. All ages and abilities are welcome to enter this fun, sanctioned cross-country event run by the Falcon Snow Club. Registration starts on site at 10:00 a.m.

## terrific tubing

Wow.

That's all we can say to the response to the new tube lift. Tubers are spending whole days going up and down the tube run, now that they can ride up with ease on the tube lift. If you haven't come screaming down the run yet, ride up the tube and race down the run.



## february Fridays

Take a break and head for the hills at Falcon Ridge on Fridays during February. We'll be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on February Fridays and will be waiting to help you make the most of a long weekend. Call ahead (349-8935) to book tubes and other rental equipment – they go fast when schools are visiting.



## food, glorious food

Head for the chalet for a rest and nourishment to keep you going. Our licensed café has hot and cold drinks and food to warm you up, cool you down, or just fill you up.

## winter thrills & chills

It may be cold outside, but the winter is waiting to be enjoyed. Head down the hills on skis or a snowboard, explore the woods on beautiful cross-country ski trails. Try snowshoeing, or tubing. Take a lesson from certified instructors. Just head outside and feel the thrills and chills of a Manitoba winter.

