Nels Nelsen Hill

Nels Nelsen Hill , originally Big Hill , is an abandoned ski jumping hill located in Mount Revelstoke National Park near the town of Revelstoke , British Columbia , Canada . The original hill , Big Hill , was built in 1916 and was the first permanent ski jump in Canada . By 1933 , four world length records had been set on the Big Hill . It fell out of use in 1939 , with Revelstoke instead using the Big Bend Ski Jump .

Big Hill was rebuilt to a K @-@ 80 hill in 1948 and was named in honor of Nels Nelsen , a local ski jumper who had set two world records on the hill . Among the events hosted there were the annual Tournament of Champions and the 1949 edition of the Western Canada Ski Championships . In the vicinity was a K @-@ 60 hill and other smaller hills . The hill record of 94 @.@ 5 meters (310 ft) was set by Kjell Sjöberg in 1967 . The last major tournament was held in 1974 . The venue has not been used since 1975 and has fallen into disrepair .

First hill

Skiing in Revelstoke started in 1890 with the influx of Norwegian immigrants who brought with them their tradition of home @-@ made skies . By the early 1910s , ski jumping was a major pastime during winter , with small ski jumps being built all around the town . Revelstoke Ski Club was founded in 1914 and reached 102 members within a year . Starting in 1915 , the club 's annual high point was the Winter Carnival Tournament . The first tournament was held in 1915 , and featured competitions in cross @-@ country skiing and ski jumping for boys under 16 , and awarded the title of Champion of British Columbia . The inaugurate tournament was won by Nels Nelson .

One of the jury members for the jumping competition , Ambassador Iverson of Norway , helped find a suitable location for a new , permanent ski jumping hill . The hill selected was located in Mount Revelstoke National Park near Revelstoke , British Columbia . It would allow for world @-@ record jumps , and the natural inclination of the hill allowed this to be done without an artificial tower . As the site was located within the national park , a lease was obtained , which was financed through a $ 1 @,@ 200 grant from the chamber of commerce and the municipality . Revelstoke was the largest town in the British Columbia Interior at the time , and easily accessible due to its location on the Canadian Pacific Railway mainline .

Big Hill was first used for the 1916 Winter Carnival , in which Nelsen set a hill record at 56 meters (183 ft) . He beat his own record several times and kept the hill record until 1921 . The tournament was gradually expanded , and by 1921 it cost $ 5 @,@ 800 to arrange . That year , Henry Hall set a world length record in the hill , jumping 70 meters (229 ft) . Three thousand spectators watched the games , in which many of the world 's elite skiers competed . To accommodate the extra spectators , Canadian Pacific Railway stationed sleeping cars at Revelstoke to supplement the hotels . In 1922 , Isabel Coursier debuted as Big Hill 's first women jumper . In 1923 , the tournament climaxed with 99 participating ski jumpers . In 1925 , while sick with the flu , Nelsen beat Hall 's world record by jumping 73 meters (240 ft) . The record would remain until 1930 .

In 1928 , the hill was expanded to allow for jumps to 79 meters (260 ft) . A car was offered to anyone able to beat Nelsen 's record jump at the Big Hill , provided that at least three outside jumpers participated in the competition . The prize was offered by local fur dealer J. H. Munro , who hoped to attract the world 's elite ski jumpers to Revelstoke . Many of the world 's best ski jumpers attended that year 's tournament , such as Henry Hall , Henry Lien , Ivan Knudsen and Alf Engen . Nelsen won the race , but failed to break his own record . The record was eventually broken by Adolph Badrut at Tremplin de Bretaye in Swtizerland in 1930 , who jumped 75 meters (246 ft) . However , Bob Lymburne was able to again claim the world record for the Big Hill , when he jumped 82 meters (269 ft) in 1932 . He lost the record to Sigmund Ruud the following year , but by the end of the season , Lymburne reclaimed the title with a jump of 87 @.@ 5 meters (287 ft) . Birger Ruud exceeded Lymbourne 's record in 1934 and no further world records were set in Revelstoke . Big Hill is the only ski jumping venue in Canada to have set world records .

Hill replaced

On 15 January 1939 , the Big Bend Ski Jump replaced Big Hill . It was located just north of town , allowing for a short walk to the venue and easier maintenance . It had been built to allow Revelstoke to host the Western Canada Ski Championships . It was a success for Revelstoke , with " ski trains " being set up from Vancouver to bring people in from the city to watch the events . The championships were broadcast on radio and received unprecedented newspaper attention for a Revelstoke skiing event . During the Second World War , only junior tournaments were contested . In 1946 , the Big Bend was renamed Hans Gunnarsen Ski Jump in honor of local jumper Hans Gunnarsen who had died in action . In 1947 , Revelstoke again hosted the Western Canadian Ski Championships .

Last hill

In April 1948 , the Big Hill was rebuilt and renamed Nels Nelsen Hill . With grants from the National Parks Department , Revelstoke Ski Club rebuilt the hill to meet the profile criteria set by the International Ski Federation , giving the hill a construction point of 80 meters (260 ft) . The first tournament was the International Invitational Ski Jumping Tournament held in March 1949 , and attended by 2 @,@ 500 people . It was inaugurated by local ski jumper Art Johnson and the tournament was won by Petter Hugsted of Norway , who jumped 75 meters (247 ft) . In 1950 , the first Tournament of Champions was held to which seven Norwegian jumpers were invited . Art Johnson re @-@ mortgaged his home for $ 8000 to pay for the expenses of the Norwegians . The event was won by Arnfinn Bergmann . The tournament was held throughout the 1950s and started attracting jumpers from Sweden , Finland , Germany and Japan . The 1958 edition was the first to be televised , although this resulted in fewer spectators . That year 's event saw a new hill record of 82 meters (270 ft) be set by Norway 's Odd Brevik . The following year , Finland 's Kalevi Kärkinen broke the record , reaching 85 meters (278 ft) .

In 1961 , the wooden judge 's tower was replaced by a new one in steel . Tournaments were held every year except in 1963 , when it was canceled because of lack of snow . The 1960s also saw the construction of a smaller hill with a construction point of 60 meters (200 ft) which was used for Olympic trials . The town even considered placing a bid for the 1968 Winter Olympics . However , throughout the 1960s , the interest in ski jumping was declining , resulting in lower attendance . The North American Nordic Championship was held in 1962 , and two years later Nels Nelsen Hill hosted the Canadian Nordic Championships , attracting crowds of up to 3 @,@ 000 spectators . In 1967 , Kjell Sjöberg set a Canadian jumping record of 94 @.@ 5 meters (310 ft) . The Tournament of Champions , which had with a few interruptions been running since the inauguration , continued into the early 1970s .

The hill required a lot of volunteer work to maintain and run during the season and particularly for the tournament . It also lacked a ski lift . Combined , this made it increasingly difficult to recruit new ski jumpers during the 1960s , particularly after a lift was installed on Mount Revelstoke in 1961 . Skiing activities moved to Mount Mackenzie during the 1960s and in 1973 , the ski club also relocated to there . The Tournament of Champions during 1971 and 1972 incurred a heavy loss . The last major tournaments in Nels Nelson Hill were the Western Canadian Ski Jumping Tournament , the Canadian Junior and Senior Ski Jumping Championship and the International Cross Country Championship , held in February and March 1974 . The last tournament was a junior event held in 1975 . The venue has since fallen into disrepair .