

= Big Thunder Ski Jumping Center =

Big Thunder Ski Jumping Centre was a twin ski jumping hill located in Thunder Bay in Northwestern Ontario , Canada . It constitutes part of Big Thunder National Training Centre . The first hills were built by Knute and Thor Hansen and opened in 1963 . They were originally known as Lille Norway Ski Area , then Mt . Norway Ski Area , and Sundance Northwest Resort before taking the current name . The large and normal hills were built in 1974 and the venue was taken over by the provincial government in 1985 . The hills hosted 29 FIS Ski Jumping World Cup and 50 Canadian Ski Jumping Championships tournaments between 1975 and 1995 , climaxing with the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships 1995 . Funding was then cut and the venue has since been closed and unmaintained .

= = History = =

The location was first identified by Knute Hansen , a ski jumper who felt that a location in Mount McRae in Lakehead would be ideal for a ski jumping hill . He and Thor Hansen built the first jumps , which were opened in 1963 and named Lille Norway Ski Area . In 1969 , after the Hansens had fallen into financial difficulties , the venue was sold and renamed Mt . Norway Ski Area . Additional land for the complex was also leased , and the provincial government provided funding to construct the main twin hill . Construction of the 70 meter and 90 meter (current K @-@ 90 and K @-@ 120) hills was completed in 1974 . The following year , the venue hosted its first Canadian Ski Jumping Championships . Three years later , the venue was again sold , this time being named Sundance Northwest Resort . In 1981 , the Provincial Government of Ontario started redeveloping the site to transform it into a national training center . In 1985 , the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation bought the site . In the course of five years , they built a K @-@ 64 hill , as well as Little Thunder , which consisted of K @-@ 10 , K @-@ 20 and K @-@ 37 hills . The two largest of these were equipped with porcelain in @-@ runs and plastic landing slopes , allowing for their use during summer .

In 1990 , the venue was awarded the hosting of the 1995 Nordic World Ski Championships . This required a major upgrade to the infrastructure , including floodlights . World Cup tournaments were placed on hold after 1991 for the upgrades . The venue hosted the Pre @-@ World Championships , part of the World Cup , in 1994 . In the final jumping event in the 1995 World Championships , Tommy Ingebrigtsen set a hill record of 137 @-@ 0 meters (449 ft) , 9 meters (30 ft) beyond the previous hill record .

During the campaigning for the 1995 Ontario provincial election , Conservative Party leader Mike Harris deemed Big Thunder a " cash cow " as part of his Common Sense Revolution . Following the party 's victory in the election , the venue was closed . Even though the venue closed , it still costs the province several hundred thousand dollars per year . The citizens group Friends of Big Thunder Bay announced on 1 March 2010 , following the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver , that they had sent a letter of intent to the provincial government where they stated that they wished to re @-@ open the sports park . They intend to not only reopen the hill , but also the associated sports area and provide year @-@ round training of ski jumping , freestyle skiing , cross @-@ country skiing , mountain biking , event hosting and hiking . Ski Jumping Canada has asked the province to establish a training facility for ski jumping in Ontario , stating that lack a facilities make it difficult for Canada to produce ski jumpers for the world scene , and that this among other things will result in poor performances in the Olympics .

= = Events = =

Big Thunder was a regular site for the FIS Nordic Ski Jumping World Cup , and arranged a world cup round , typically with two jumps , every season from 1980 through 1991 . Nordic combined was , in addition to the World Championships , hosted twice , in 1989 and in 1994 . The last World Cup tournament was held in 1994 as a Pre @-@ World Championship tournament .

Contested between 9 and 19 March 1995 , the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships is the hallmark of the venue , and the only major world championship to be contested in Northern Ontario . The Nordic combined individual took place on 9 March , and was won by Fred Børre Lundberg ahead of Jari Mantila . The following day saw Japan win ahead of Norway and Finland in the Nordic combined team event . In ski jumping , the individual normal hill event took place on 12 March , which saw a double Japanese victory with Takanobu Okabe winning ahead of Hiroya Saito . The team event in the large hill on 16 March saw Finland win ahead of Germany and Japan . In the large hill individual event on 18 March , Tommy Ingebrigtsen set a new hill record and won ahead of Andreas Goldberger .

= = Results = =

The following is a list of all FIS Ski Jumping World Cup and FIS Nordic World Ski Championship tournaments held at Big Thunder , with the date , hill and top three finishing athletes or teams .