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Subject: Gore Upgrades Ski Experience / Post Star 8/17/2007...
Date: Saturday, August 18, 2007 10:04:22 AM

Gore Mountain Upgrades Ski Experience

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Updated: Friday, August 17, 2007 9:17 PM EDT

NORTH CREEK -- All summer long, construction crews have been hard at work on Gore Mountain making improvements to the center's facilities that will enhance the experience of thousands of skiers this winter.

The biggest project for those crews has been transforming the old gondola loading station into the new Learning Center.

"The old gondola was built in 1968 and was retired in spring of 1999," said Emily Stanton, Gore's marketing manager. "The new gondola began servicing skiers in the fall of 1999."

This winter, the old gondola station will again be serving skiers as the new base of operations for equipment rentals, day care and ski programs.

"We're offering up a new facility for families to take advantage of," Stanton said. "It's in a very convenient location next to the Base Lodge — it's a one-stop shop for everything you might need."

Gore Mountain officials chose to renovate the old 17,000-square-foot station, which with new additions is now about 20,000 square feet, because they needed the space.

"The need was fairly obvious because of our lack of square footage, and because of increasing interest in the (ski) programs," General Manager Mike Pratt said. "The program has grown 160 percent in the last 12 years, and the lack of space was beginning to affect our ability to provide the product we wanted to provide."

The new Learning Center not only provides more room by giving the rental shop, the ski school and the day care more room, it also opens up space in the Base Lodge where all these amenities used to be housed.

With the relocation of rentals, day care and ski programs to the Learning Center, there's more room in the lodge to make additional lockers, storage and seating available, Stanton said.

In preparation for the upcoming season, Gore Mountain has also added three new snow pumps.

"These make snow more efficiently and will allow us to provide skiing earlier in the season," Stanton said.

The center also purchased another new groomer machine for use this winter.

"This is the fourth new groomer in just three winter seasons," Stanton said, adding that like the Learning Center and snow pumps, the investment in the new groomers represents Gore Mountain's dedication to providing skiers with the best possible experience each time they visit.