



Dear Nova Scotia climbing community,

With the ice season upon us, we want to share an important update with you, one that we know will be disappointing to many.

After considerable discussion, we have made the difficult decision to cancel Ice Fest 2026 as a Climb Nova Scotia organized event. This was not a decision taken lightly.

Historically, Ice Fest has existed because of the dedication and generosity of a small group of incredible volunteers who invested enormous time and energy to make it happen, often with little to show for their efforts beyond a successful event and tired arms. This season, we just learned that our primary volunteer organizer has stepped back from that role and will instead be guiding with Granite Guides, who will be offering introductory ice climbing courses independently rather than operating within an Ice Fest framework.

Without a volunteer team in place, and given the significant financial and logistical costs associated with running Ice Fest at the scale we have in the past, the Board could not responsibly justify or support delivering the event this year.

That said, we want to be clear: we deeply value ice climbing in Nova Scotia. Despite our short and fickle ice season, this discipline matters, and so do the climbers who are passionate enough to swing tools into frozen water whenever conditions allow.

If ice climbers are interested in identifying a date, organizing a grassroots gathering, or proposing a new model for Ice Fest moving forward, we want to hear from you. Your ideas, feedback, and willingness to help shape a sustainable path forward are essential.

We remain hopeful that Ice Fest can return in future seasons, but that will require early engagement and leadership from within the community, with support from Climb Nova Scotia.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with thoughts, concerns, or suggestions by emailing climbnovascotia@gmail.com. We are committed to discussing your feedback at the Board level as soon as possible.

On behalf of the Board, we sincerely apologize to the ice climbing community for not being able to deliver Ice Fest this season. Thank you for your understanding, and for continuing to show up for this unique and challenging part of our sport.

Warm regards,

Will Sarty

President, Climb Nova Scotia