Ottawa Ski Club News

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE OTTAWA SKI CLUB CIRCULATION 2000 COPIES

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR READERS!

One more fall of snow and the ski-ing will be perfect. We are off! Are you coming? Lay your cares and worries aside with the "Tin Lizzie". Get in your old faded blue shirt and blue trousers, pack your troubles in your old haversack, with a bit of bacon and a loaf of bread,—enough for one will do for two—strap on your skis, pick up your poles and come out on the trail, to take your share of slides and falls,—of freedom and sunshine.

As the rolling land of the Gatineau unfolds before you in the splendor of a Canadian winter day, you will begin to live again; you will realize that you have been merely existing since last winter. Come out on the trail and be happy. All out for the season of 1927!

A Better Ski News?—We are striving to make it so. A new departure this year is the technical page, containing practical and useful information, based on personal experience, and given in simple language. If you can add to this store of knowledge by a leaf from your own book, please do so. Our pages are open to all. The main purpose of this circular will always be, as in the past, to keep our members informed of current events, and maintain among them a proper "esprit de corps", but we also plan to help the beginners by timely and useful advice. Ads will be published without charge for members desiring to buy, sell or exchange ski equipment. Short stories and suggestions will be welcome. The Editor earnestly solicits the co-operation of all. Address "The Editor Ski News, P.O. Box 65."

Please pay your fees at once, or a little sooner if your can. Fees may be paid by cheque addressed to Miss M. Ashfield 150 Third Avenue; at Byshe's, 223 Bank St.; at the Dominion Bank, corner Bank and Sparks; the Royal Bank, Sparks St.; the Bank of Toronto, Union Station; Holbrook's office (above McGiffin's, Sparks St.). Have you changed your address this year? Have you forsaken the state of single blessedness to marry a girl from the Ottawa Ski Club? In both cases, please notify Miss Ashfield so that the necessary corrections may be made on our mailing list.

Patronize our advertisers—Our members are specially requested to patronize our advertisers. Please do not forget to tell them, "I saw your ad in the O.S.C. news."

A very happy suggestion has been made by one of our members. He proposes that special badges should be given to members who have stuck to the Club, through thick snows or thin snows, since they joined. We have two classes of members: those who stay with us for a year or two and then come out as "guests" for one or two seasons. "Have not joined this year, you know; only been out to a lodge two or three times." Meanwhile they do not give their resignation and stay on the mailing list, as they only finally make up their minds "not to join" at the end of the season, after they have received all the issues of the Ski News. There are also those,—fortunately far more numerous—who pay their fees every year to help the Club out, whether they put on their skis once or fifty times during the season. The latter should receive some special recognition, possibly in the shape of a silver star or stripe on their badge for each year of continuous service. The matter will be taken up by the Board of Directors. In the meantime we will be glad to receive further suggestions along this line.

THE DOME HILL JUNIORS

For three years, each Saturday during the Ski-ing season, Mrs. Semple has been taking from a dozen to twenty youngsters to Ironsides. Because of the limited number she could look after on the trail and in the Lodge, the number she could take has been restricted. The Club highly appreciates the value of this work and is glad to announce to parents and others interested that this activity is to be extended.

The Lodge. With the enlarged accommodation and improved facilities, and with a resident caretaker, there will be plenty of room, the Lodge will be heated, and children will be warm and comfortable while there.

Individual Care. The Club will provide as many people as are necessary to look after the children on the trail to and from Ironsides and while there. From the time they reach the Hull Electric Station at the Chateau, they will be looked

after by the guides supplied by the Club.

Instruction. Under the leadership of Jerry Loa, eleven of the best skiers of the Club have generously offered their time and experience to instruct the Dome Hill Juniors. These instructors have been selected because of their foot work and because they could give the time. One of these good skiers will be with the children at Ironsides each Saturday.

Name. "Dome Hill Juniors" has been chosen as the name of this little organization within the Club. It is felt that a name will be be source of interest and pride to the members, will hold them together and distinguish them, and will develop into an institution of the Club. From its members will come our most enthusiastic workers and best skiers. Special Badges will be supplied.

Membership. Membership in the Dome Hill Juniors will be open without charge to all children under twelve who are already Junior Members of the Ottawa Ski Club. Children who are skiers but not already members of the Club will be welcomed once, but after that they should become Junior Members of the Club at

\$1.00.

Information. The names of those who will act as instructors, and of those who will look after the children will be published in the circular each week. For details of information as to lunches, carfare, clothing, etc., telephone Mr. Semple, Queen 6747.

We can take care of as many as want to come. Children who have been out may invite their friends. Parents may rest assured that their children will be looked after and will be learning to ski under good care and proper instruction.

For he is a jolly good fellow!—Premier MacKenzie King recently purchased some three hundred acres of land back of his summer cottage at Kingsmere, including practically all the moor through which lay the Mica Mine trail to Pink Lake. With characteristic kindness and thoughtfulness, he gave orders to leave openings at strategic points, through the fence enclosing his property, so that skiers might not be deprived of this wonderful run, and the Ottawa Ski Club got in touch with the surveyors and arranged to have this done. The warm thanks of the Club and of the skiers of Ottawa are extended to Premier MacKenzie King—for he is a jolly good fellow.

And our congratulations are also extended to Mayor Balharrie, who has done a great deal for ski-ing by reopening Rockliffe Park and the Rockliffe Tea-House.

A real club house.—For years our members have said: "What this Club wants is a real club house,—a spacious comfortable place, not too far out, amidst good ski-ing grounds, where one could drop in any time of the day or evening and always be sure of finding warmth and refreshments." All these requirements will now be found in the new Dome Hill Lodge, which affords 80 x 30 feet of clear floor space and can be divided by movable partitions in rooms for smaller parties. It is surrounded by sixty acres of splendid training grounds, belonging to the Club. It can be reached by a splendid trail in three-quarters of an hour or in fifteen minutes by bus or train. You can leave a pair of skis there, and hop out

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any time you want to practice swings or turns. A resident caretaker will be in charge. It is hoped that it may be opened immediately after Christmas; if so you will be notified in the newspapers.

The Dome Hill Lodge will be run as follows:

(1) Open every day and evening until 10.30 p.m. (2) A limited variety of hot, substantial foods will be available on short notice at any time during the day; cooking facilities by members will no longer be available. (Who wants to carry food anyway when you can get it there?). (3) Parties of ten or more desiring supper at night must notify the caretaker by mailing letter at Central Post Office before 1 p.m. the previous day. Address letter to "The Caretaker, Ottawa Ski Club, Ironsides, Que." Captain Haultain is now busy figuring how little he can charge you for food without losing money.

Camp Fortune.—Some one broke into the lockers at Camp Fortune and spread the contents all over the floor without apparently finding what he was looking for. Everything was picked up and carefully put away by the caretaker, to whom you may apply for your belongings.—More frying pans will be available this winter.

East Side—Tenaga— Two big kitchen ranges, affording 80" by 30" of cooking space have been installed in place of the two small and unsatisfactory box

stoves.

An illustrated circular out.—A very pretty circular, containing illustrations of all our lodges and of ski-ing scenes, from photos taken by our very good friend, W. G. Annand, is now ready and will be forwarded to all members who will apply for it. This circular has been prepared specially for prospective members. We will be glad to mail it to your friends, on request from you. Write to the Secretary Treasurer, P.O. Box 65, city. Copies may be procured at Holbrook's (above McGiffin's).

Those night hikes.—The rendez-vous for the night hikes of 1927 will be the Chaudiere Golf Club; hikers will have to pay ten cents more this year (60c instead of 50c) but they will get full value for their money. Hikes will start, weather permitting, first week in January. Definite announcement will be given

in next circular.

For Splendid Work, in connection with securing ads for the News, the Club is indebted to Clifford Herbert; for cutting trails and building bridges around Camp Fortune, to K. Chisholm, C. Herbert, George Hurdman, Sigurd Lockeberg, Colonel Hill and many others; for cutting a new trail from Old Chelsea to the East Side Lodge, to Jack Bourgault.

WHAT SKIS TO SELECT

by C. E. M.

"My, aren't they light and nice! And long too! I think I'll take these.

And another pair of skis has gone out of the store, and another unfortunate gone to her fate. One more casualty will soon be added to the long list of those that are recorded almost weekly on the bumps of George's, or of the Canyon's.

What should we look for in skis?

The quality of the wood is the first consideration. The wood should be light, springy, tough and cheap but our choice is restricted to the species generally used and which are ash, hickory, maple, birch, and pine. Other woods are not used because they are not suitable.

It cannot be said that any of these species of wood comes up to the ideal in every respect; perfection is not of this world. Beginners all want light skis, a very natural desire in those who are about to start in the wide world with a pair of planks attached to their feet; they do not realize that lightness and strength do not generally go together. Most of us also want cheap skis, regardless of the fact that cheapness and quality are strangers, at least in this age.

The writer must confess to a preference for ash, based perhaps more on senti-

ment than on valid grounds.

My first ski years were painfully spent on a pair of eight foot maple blades, as stiff, as heavy and unbending as as maple can be when there is lots of it, and



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Ladies' and Gentlemen's Ski Caps, best design and make. Special \$1.95.

Leather Ski Helmets \$5.00.

Real Basque Beret Caps \$2.50.

Ladies' and Gentlemen's Ski Jackets and Windbreakers, straightline as well as bloused models \$5.50 to \$15.00.

Blue and fancy overcheck Ski Shirts \$2.95 to \$3.50.

Blue Ski Slacks \$5.50 to \$7.50.

Ladies' Ski Slacks \$5.50.

Norwegian pattern, hollow steel frame and canvas, Rucksacks. Regularly \$22.50. Reduced to \$7.50.

Ski Mitts and Ladies' Woolen Ski Gauntlets \$2.50 and \$3.00.

A new selection of Ski Baands, from 75c to \$1.50.

REGENT Christmas Day

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I experienced such a tremendous feeling of relief when I left them for a pair of light, springy ash skis, that ash and I have remained good friends ever since,—although that first pair of ash skis has long since shredded its fibre over the hard trails of the Gatineau, while that pair of maple planks, intact though badly warped, is still in my cellar, looking reproachfully at me whenever I take a dive in the underworld.

I have since learnt that the word "ash" covers many good qualities and a multitude of defects. There is ash of different vintage, like wine. Ash may be brittle as glass, or resistant as iron. I have seen beautiful ash skis go triumphant out of the shop to come back in sad, broken bits, an hour later. I have seen a pair of ash skis that had been in constant use for over twenty years, and that was still almost as good as the day it had been cut out of the log. Ash—good ash—stands perhaps supreme among all species of wood, but good ash is getting very scarce to-day.

Are you thinking of buying a pair of ash skis? Look for weight. Light ash contains soft layers of wood which wear away more quickly than the rest of the fibre, or it may be light because it has been severely kiln dried; kiln dried wood has not the elasticity not the strength of wood that has been properly seasoned. Beware therefore of any light pair of ash skis.

Now look at the grain of the wood, on the running surface. This is a characteristic of ash, that it bears its character printed on its face, more so than any other wood. Look for grain straight and wide apart. The less grain showing, the better the ski. Close grain is an indication of weakness. The grain itself is made of softer fibre than the rest of the wood; it wears away on the running surface, leaving a groove in its place, and the more lines of grain there are, the more grooves there will be eventually, greatly increasing the friction and reducing the speed of the skis. See also that the grain is straight, not running out at the edge, or the skis will soon have frayed edges. This running out of the grain is not so serious if it occurs only in a direction leading from the toe of the ski to the heel and if it does not occur under the forward bend, or under the foot, but if it is in the opposite direction,—from heel to toe—then the ski is worthless, as the splinters forming would point forward and check the speed.

Much as I hate to do so, being fond of ash, I must, in fairness, acknowledge the superiority of hickory, which by the way practically all comes from the Southern States, whether it is termed Canadian or Norwegian. True, it is heavy, but after all no heavier than first grade ash; it is expensive, but little more so than ash. It is strong, hard and its smooth running surfaces get beautifully polished with use; it absorbs less moisture perhaps than any other wood, and, above all, its quality is fairly regular. There is light hickory however, which should be looked upon with suspicion. It cannot be too often stated that lightness, in any hard wood, is a strong indication of weakness. If two pairs of skis of equal merit are available and if one is a bit heavier than the other, choose the heaviest.

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BRING YOUR TROUBLES TO US and then forget them

ALL KINDS OF REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS OF SKI BOOTS AT THE SHORTEST NOTICE

J. HACKETT, 196 Bank St., Q. 752

Remember—The feeling of the feet is reflected in the face

Maple, as we have seen, is stiff, and unbending. There are maple skis offered for sale to-day that appear to have plenty of spring, but this is because they have been thinned down almost to vanishing point. Will they stand the strain, or will they not? That is the question.

I have always admired pine and birch skis. They are so light and cheap! But they look so porous, so brittle, that I never dared to trust them on the hard trails of the Gatineau. They are splendid however for kids who will soon outgrow their skis. I have read somewhere that birch skis impregnated and reinforced with tar, are of common use in Sweden. Canadian manufacturers, why not try it? We have got the birch, and we can get the tar. What we want is cheaper skis.

Elm, which is light, extremely springy and very tough would be the ideal wood, if it were not for an unfortunate characteristic; a pair of elm skis is no sooner made than it starts to turn and twist into corkscrews. Elm won't stay put. A fortune awaits the man who will find a way to keep elm from warping.

So much for the material and the strength of the ski. What about the shape? This includes the length, the width, the trueness and the absence of warps.

We all want a pair of skis that can be easily controlled, and that will be steady in straight running, not wobbling about. These two qualities are governed mostly by the length and the width of the ski.

But here again we must compromise. We cannot have the maximum of ease in turning and the maximum of steadiness combined in the same ski, because that ski would have to be both short and long. It is said that Norwegians tried to solve the problem in the early days, by wearing a short ski on one foot and a long one on the other, but this method went out of fashion. Let it be understood at any rate that all ease in turning is purchased at the expense of steadiness in straight running. The shorter the ski, the easier it turns, but the less steady it is on a bumpy trail. Ski experts, who come down a hill in beautiful curves, invariably use short, broad skis, but they are very slow on the trail. On the other hand very long skis are a great handicap in turning and in climbing. The difference between a short ski and a long one is pretty much the same as between a low geared and a high geared bicycle.

For mountaineering in the Alps, they recommend skis reaching the base of the wrist, but we can be more generous here, seeing that we do a great deal more of straight running in the Gatineau country than the "plank hoppers" of the Alpine regions. However, it may be set down as a general rule that people of average weight should never take skis reaching higher than the middle of the fingers, arm extended straight upwards. Skis of extreme length are an abomination. They are unmanageable and a nuisance everywhere. Do not, under any circumstances, let a salesman persuade you to buy an eight foot or even 71/2 foot pair of skis when a pair of sevens reaches comfortably to the middle of your fingers.

As to the width, leave the racing skis, of the tooth-pick kind, to the racers; do not take anything narrower than the cross-country ski, also called "trekking", "touring" or "semi-racing". Narrow skis sink to a tremendous depth in fresh snow and cannot be controlled by the average skier on a steep hard slope. Long and narrow skis were in fashion here some years ago; the pendulum is swinging the other way now; we are learning to ski.

Now make sure that your skis are absolutely "true". A ski is "true" when a straight line, drawn from the point of the toe to the middle of the heel divides it into two exactly similar halves. Hold the point of the ski to your eye and look down the groove. Place your skis side by side on the floor, first, right side against left, then left against right, and you will readily notice any deviation from the straight line. There are more twisted skis offered for sale than you think, especially among the cheaper brands. Imagine both skis twisted, one wanting to go east and the other anxious to go west, while your objective is south. You have

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about as much chance of standing on George's trail as the proverbial snowball has of keeping whole in that very hot place that we have all heard about!

Now see if the skis are not warped, like the bottom of an old tin kettle. Most skis warp in the cellar, drawing moisture from the wall or heat from the furnace, but a good many are already warped before they have left the shop. If you cannot trust your eye sight, drive a pin into the middle of each end and stretch a thread between the two pins; the defect will at once become apparent. Another good way is to place the ski on a perfectly plane surface; if it is warped it will "wobble". Have nothing whatever to do with a warped ski. If your own skis get warped, you may try to have them straightened, but never buy warped skis on the understanding that they will be straightened for you. Some skis are naturally vicious and cannot long stay good.

Now look at the "arch" or the spring of the skis. Put the skis face to face and squeeze them together in the centre. There should be no slackness in the wood, but plenty of spring. The distance between the skis at the arch should be from 3/4 to 11/4 in. according to the strength of the wood. Very little spring is required in jumping skis however.

There is little comfort in a post-mortem, but it may be interesting to know if an accident is due to poor wood or excessive strain. If bad luck overtakes you on the trail and your ski breaks, pick up the pieces and look at them. Is the break clean across the ski? Then the wood was weak. It is a long slivery break? Then the chances are that it was your fault, not the wood's.

Is a high price always an indication of quality? In other words, does it pay to buy high grade skis? My experience, based on much breakage and a good deal of dissatisfaction with poor skis, shows that it does. A realiable firm, dealing in high grade skis, is the best guarantee. The novice, who is making a start at the

game, might try a cheaper brand of skis provided the shape is good, but skis poorly made, twisted or warped should never be purchased at any price.

A final word: If you cannot trust yourself in the selection of a pair of skis, get the advice of some one of experience. Don't take a chance. A great deal of money is being wasted every year on poor skis.

Who is who in the Lodges.—The Lodge Committee, of which Frank Semple is chairman, feels that an apology is due to the small band of enthusiasts who, for the past few week ends, have been scraping their skis—as well as more sensitive things—on various thinly-covered stumps and stones, for the fact that some of the lodges were not fully prepared for their arrival. This apology should really come from the President, who was so busy with his well-digging, extensive building program, and many other plans for the comfort and accommodation of our members, that he forgot to notify us that he had ordered winter a month earlier than usual. We hope, however, to have everything in readiness soon, even if we have to charter our

friend Henderson to take in supplies by dog team.

To the old members, Camp Fortune needs no introduction. It is again under the capable and enthusiastic direction of Colonel Hill who, for several seasons, has so heroically withstood its pervading aroma of fried onions and sausages. For those desiring a longer trip with the Western Lodge as their goal, Melville Taylor may be relied upon to furnish the necessary information as to trails and the wonderful views to be enjoyed en route. Pink Lake, always the mecca for those who "must get home early", and the club's centre for afternoon teas, is again under the genial direction of Herb Wetmore, whose tireless energy was apparent to visitors at that lodge last winter. After devoting himself in the most efficient manner to the welfare of the Tenaga lodge during its opening season, Dick Guy has been called to new fields. To test out our theory that there is something in the name, another

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Palmer-McLennan Ski Boots	\$4.45 up
Northland Ški Wax	\$.35
Sostbye Ski Wax	
Ladies' Breeks, Heavy Norwegian Style	\$3.95
Men's Slacks	\$4.50 pair
Horse Hide Ski Mitts	\$1.50 up
Leather Wind Breakers, with wool trimmings	\$9.50
Suede Wind Breakers	\$16.75
Buckskin Cloth Wind Breakers, all colors	\$4.75

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Telephone Queen 5007 :-: 35 Sparks Street

Dick has most fortunately been secured to follow in his trail, namely, R. G. (Dick) Lewis. Although not an old skier in years, Mr. Lewis secured the ski-ing experience of a lifetime last season by following his two young sons all over the Gatineau. After such a strenuous experience, we trust he will find his duties at Tenaga as restful and refreshing as we are sure his fulfilling of them will be gratifying to the members who visit the lodge.

We have made a mistake in following the old rule of leaving the best till the last, as we have no room left to tell you about the wonderful improvements at Dome Hill Lodge. Sufficient to state that Kenneth Chipman, who leaves Ottawa for several months every summer, and who spends many sleepless nights during the winter, just to give himself an opportunity to think of schemes for the improvement of facilities at Ironsides, has some surprises in store for you. So come along, and bring your friends too-provided, of course, they are wearing a 1927 badge.

That wicked Canyon.—Our members are advised to leave the descent of the Canyon trail (from the top of the world into Camp Fortune) severely alone until there are at least three feet of snow. Two accidents have already been recorded.

Do not take chances so early in the season.

Ski Exchange-For Sale, Lady's Skiing Outfit, orange suede coat, camel's hair breeches, boots, size 41/2, golf stockings, size 41/2, hand knitted cap, mitts and scarf in orange and flame colours. Will sell separately. Phone Rideau 1942. For Sale, one pair Osby's skis, 7'3" hickory M. E.'s fittings. Phone Rideau 6545.—Two pairs skis 7' one with Huidtfeld fittings, the other with shoe fittings. Phone C. 5223, preferably mornings.—One of our members offers to supply, at cost, any quantity of deer-skin slippers, just the thing for the dance after the night hike. Will save your socks and can be be carried in your vest pocket. \$1.35 a paid. Drop a line to the Editor. (P.O. box 65) and state how many pairs are wanted, and what size.

Wanted—Pair second hand skis (light) and pair ski boots (No. 9). Phone

R. 2076.

Permit No. 284

Edition No. 2

Ottawa Ski Club News

Just received direct from Norway 300 pair finest Hickory Skis which I offer at the following very low prices:

Jumping Skis, 8ft. long _____\$18.50 Racing Skis, 7 ft. to 7 ft. 9 \$17.00 to \$18.00 Semi-Racing Skis 6ft. 6 to 7 ft. 9 \$15.50 to \$18.00 Regular Skis 6 ft. 9 to 7 ft. 9 \$11.50 to \$16.50 M. E. Fittings put on right _____ \$3.00 Ski Poles from ____ \$1.50 to \$3.50 per pair Norweglan Ski Wax _____ 25c to 75c

Repairs of all descriptions. Merry Christmas and best wishes for a good long winter!

SIGURD R. LOCKEBERG.

NOTICE

We have just received a shipment of unusually fine skis, in racing and semi-racing patterns, finest Norwegian design, priced from \$6.75 to \$15.00. The quantity is limited and they are of such remarkably good value that they will soon be snapped up. Those interested are therefore invited to call and inspect them at the earliest possible moment. A small deposit will reserve a pair.

BYSHE'S, The Ski Centre
223 Bank Street