

Ottawa Ski Club News

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The Real Dome Hill Juniors, at Dome Hill

OFFICIAL SKI TESTS

"It is a matter of deep concern to us" wrote the President of the Canadian Ski Association that none of the members of your Club, which however boasts of having the largest active membership in the world, has ever yet entered any of our official tests. Your club stands alone in this respect among all the clubs affiliated with our organization. Our proficiency badges are displayed from coast to coast, save in the City of Ottawa. Perhaps your members have never heard of these tests; possibly also they do not know of any other way of stopping on skis other than the old crude and dangerous way of sitting down. If this is the case, I would urge etc."

The President of the Ottawa Ski Club was visibly annoyed. Persons of high standing, like the official head of the Canadian Ski Association, may be allowed a certain freedom of talk, but this went beyond all possible limits. The President looked wistfully for a minute at the snow clad hills of the Gatineau dimly showing through the window of his office across the smoky expanse of lower town, then he reached for his phone and called up Bryce Gillis.

"Bryce, can you turn on skis?"

"Who wants to know, said Bryce, a bit aggressively?"

"Mr. Douglas wants to know. He seems to think that none of us in this Club, has ever heard of a Telemark or a Christiania."

"Who is this guy Douglas."

"This guy Douglas is the President of the Canadian Ski Association."

"Is that so! Well say, listen. Tell him that I came second in his slalom race at Shawbridge last year, against half a dozen Olympic champions, and there are lots in the Club who can turn better than I can. Tell him also that there are

more good turns made on our own Gatineau back-yard on a week-end than in the rest of the American continent. Don't let him stuff you!"

"That's all very well, Bryce, but we have no proficiency badges to show, and we won't have any until we pass the tests. We are like engineers without diplomas."

"Why don't you wire him to send a couple thousand badges by return mail. I would attend to their distribution. That would be quicker wouldn't it?"

"No doubt it would, but the officials of the Association are hard boiled doubting Thomases. They want to be shown."

"What are these silly tests, anyway?"

"There are three classes of tests, third, second and first. Each class is a little more difficult than the preceding one. Those who qualify in the third class test get a bronze badge; those who qualify in the second, a silver badge, and in the first, a gold badge, worth \$5. It does seem a bit queer that none of the twenty-five hundred members of our Club has any of these badges to show, does it not?"

"Where are those tests conducted, and who is in charge of them?"

"They can be run right here on our own hills, at Dome Hill, or Camp Fortune, anywhere. All we have to do is to notify the Secretary of the Association that we have so many boys or girls wishing to enter the tests and the Technical Board will appoint judges. The First Class Test is generally held in conjunction with the Annual Tournament of the Association, which will take place in Ottawa this year. No one can enter the First Class Test, of course, until he has qualified in the third and second."

"Well, why don't we go after them? I am for it. Are they very difficult?"

"Simple as A B C. I believe any one of Mrs. Semple's Juniors could take the cake, at least in the third and second class, after a little practice of course. The First Class is a little more difficult because it includes a standing jump on a championship hill. As to the rest, they are mainly stemming turns, which every one should know, right and left Telemarks, right and left Christianias, right and left jump turns at fair speed. They are explained in full detail on pages 13 and 14 of the Canadian Ski Annual, which may be purchased for 25c at Byshe's on Bank St. or at McGiffin's on Sparks St."

"I will get a copy right away."

"I want you to do more than that, Bryce, I want you to form a Test Committee to get entries for these tests and give them proper instructions. You should arrange for demonstrations and classes at Dome Hill on Saturday and at Camp Fortune on Sunday. We should have at least a dozen men qualifying for the Second Class Test this year, and half a dozen for the first one. Get after them, and get them to practice."

"I will form my committee right away. Tell those who want to enter to apply to me."

And so Bryce Gillies, of Salmon race fame, is in charge of the tests. If you desire to enter, report to him—(C.4144 W.) He will arrange for classes and provide instructors. In the meantime get a copy of the Canadian Ski Annual and read up the description of the tests on pages 13 and 14. Please enter these tests, so that the poor officers of your Club may be spared such stinging letters as have been received from the President of the Canadian Ski Association "Noblesse oblige" you know. Our club has a great reputation; we have to live up to it.

Night Hike, Thursday, Jan. 16.—The place of rendezvous for the next night hike will be the Glen Lea Club house. Start from end of Hull electric car line at Wrightville at 8 p.m. Bring your friends. Guests will be admitted this time.

Senior Sleeping Accommodations—Senior members wishing to sleep at Camp Fortune may now get a bunk in the old dormitory. Please phone Q. 2501 giving name and address.

Cliffside Competition.—On Jan. 19, our friends of the Cliffside Ski Club are holding an **open race** for Juniors from Keogan's to Birch Valley, and for Seniors from Keogan's to Pink Lake.



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The Evils of too much clothing. I had come down at vertiginous speed from the Top of the World over a hard packed trail and under a hot March sun to catch the four o'clock bus at Old Chelsea, and as there happened to be no four o'clock bus that day, I was slowly cooling off on Trudeau's verandah, gloomily waiting for the six o'clock one, between two barrels of coal oil, when a big Lincoln hove in sight and stopped in front of the little store. A foreign looking gentleman, with a round face, barely showing through several thicknesses of sweaters, a heavy leather coat and a thick woolen tuque, stepped out of the car, painfully bent over to fasten his skis, and turning round, caught sight of me on the verandah. "How iss de snow conditions" he said in a guttural voice. I hastened to reply that the condition of the snow was, indeed, very good, that I had had a glorious descent, etc. He said "Gutte", and laboriously went on his way, I watched him slowly disappear over the little rise in the direction of the Meach Lake Road and the Canyon Trail. Fifteen minutes later, his rotund frame again showed on the line of the horizon and in less than ten minutes more, during which he got the worst of several fights with rebellious skis, loath to turn homewards, he stood, panting and freely perspiring at the side of the car. While the chauffeur was quickly strapping skis and poles on the running board, he luxuriously sank in the much cushioned seat, a broad smile spreading over his countenance. Then he again caught sight of me on the coal oil barrel, a frown came over his face and he raised a finger threateningly. "Ah!" he said, "the snow condition is nott gutte. It iss too hot, too fast and too hard." Then the car noiselessly slipped away. I had missed a free ride!

The Western Lodge!—A little over half the money required for the construction of a Western lodge has been raised, but we would like to see a little more in the Treasury before making a start. Please send in your subscription to Herbert Marshall, Secretary, Ottawa Ski Club, P.O. box 65. Give what you can; every dollar counts. We are not proud, we will accept small donations as well as life memberships (\$50), Foundation memberships (\$100) or Treasury notes for any amount from ten dollars up, bearing interest at 6 p.c. and redeemable in three years. Come across with your money; we have got to get this lodge built!

The week-end of Jan. 11 might have been a little more sunny but conditions were ideal otherwise. Sleet and rain threatened at one time, but did not materialize. There was a full house at Camp Fortune for the first time this season. Your Editor ski-ed to Wrightville and enjoyed himself as he never had; he was looking for that "long stretch of flat country" after Pink Lake that a few have been complaining about, but could not find it. Where is it, anyway?

Three thousand members wanted! If you do not get them this year with such marvelous week-ends, we never will. Please get busy recruiting. Every one of our present members should get a new one. If you have not paid your membership fees for the current year, you are reminded that the place to pay them is at McGiffin's, Sparks St. (near the Royal Bank). Application forms will be found there. If you desire application forms to be mailed to you, call up Q. 2501, the Ottawa Ski Club private phone.

The checking nuisance.—Checking is now in force at all our lodges and those of our members who desire to bring a friend over the week-end will do well to secure a visitor's permit at McGiffin's or to take an extra dollar with them. If they still have the 1929 badge they had better exchange it at once for a new one. It is a bit provoking, we admit, for a member of long standing to be held up at a lodge, but after all a rule is not a rule unless it is applied, and if exceptions are to be made, there is no reason why everybody should not be excepted. A visitor's permit is good for a rebate of \$1 on membership fees; it simply means therefore that guests are called upon to pay \$1 on account, which appears to be quite fair.—As usual when checking is started, wild stories have been circulated. There was a rumour for instance that a young man, belonging to another club, and begging for admittance because he had sprained his ankle and broken his ski, was brutally turned out. It is hardly necessary to say that this story is a pure fabrication without a vestige of truth. As a matter of fact, two members of another club were allowed to stop at Camp Fortune to get warm before resuming their journey on that very day! Our checkers are strict, but not stupid.

Results of Preliminary race, held over Dome Hill course on Saturday, Jan. 11, **Seniors**—1. J. Currie—31-39; 2. H. Worden—33-02; 3. W. Clark—33-08; 4. J. Veit—33-21; 5. H. Heggveit—34-37; 6. H. Douglas—35-10; 7. S. Robbins—36-45; 8. P. O'Keefe—37-44; 9. L. Lagimodière—38-59.

Junior—1. C. Darch—37-55.

Novice—1. O. Boulay—35-18; 2. J. Edwards—40-50; 3. D. Fraser—40-52; 4. G. McKenna—43-25; 5. G. Bessette—43-50.

Starter—Louis Grimes. **Timer**—Jim Nininger.

Next Preliminary Race over same course on Saturday, Jan. 18, starting from Wrightville at 3 p.m.—There were three girls entered in the last race but they withdrew at the last minute because they did not want to put the boys to shame. Don't worry about the boys' feelings, girls; come in the race, and win your share of prizes.—A Preliminary ski jumping competition will be held on Saturday, Jan. 18, on the Tower in Rockliffe Park. The slide is now being put into shape. Please phone your entries before 6 p.m. Friday to Q. 2501.

The Fairmount Golf Club.—Arrangements have been made with the Directors of Fairmount Golf Club at Fairy Lake, whereby all members of the Ottawa Ski Club wearing the 1930 badge will be admitted free of charge. They say there is a splendid Chef at the Fairmount Club house, and a very good tea or dinner may be had for a very moderate charge. Those of our members who practice on the Fairy Lake hills, or who may desire to stop on the long trip from Pink Lake, will, we feel sure, be glad of this opportunity.

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OTTAWA WINTER CARNIVAL . . . FEB. 1ST TO 11TH

Ski jumpers and would be jumpers, this is for you:—While Sigurd Lockberg is in Norway, recruiting honorary members for the Ottawa Ski Club, **Keith Saunders** will have charge of the jumping. This branch of the game was the object of a lively discussion the other day in the President's office. The situation is not at all encouraging. No new blood has come in the royal sport of ski-jumping for at least two years, and as the older participants are dropping off one by one to engage into a less strenuous and more peaceful form of activity, such as marriage, etc. (wives are death on ski-jumping) a time will come—and it is coming rapidly—when that great tower, of which we are so proud will be as deserted as the descent of the Canyon on a June day, when the flies are biting. The consensus of opinion of those present was that the greatest handicap is the lack of facilities to learn to jump. No one of course would expect a novice to buy a costly pair of heavy jumping skis such as would be necessary to jump from the tower until he has mastered the principles of the game, and these principles cannot be mastered on the tower. The Rockcliffe Ski Tower is for the seasoned, trained, veterans, not for novices. What is needed therefore is a number of small jumps, here and there, good for a leap of from fifty to seventy-five feet, and which could be taken with ordinary skis and by ordinary skiers—jumps where the element of danger does not enter and where one could gain that confidence and that balance which are necessary to take a spectacular leap from the tower. Novice competitions could then be arranged on the tower, by means of a special stand half way down the big apron, and jumping skis could be given as prizes. In this way novices could be attracted and ski-jumping revived. Our friend Keith Saunders is looking into this. Instructions have already been given the caretaker at Ironsides to build a small take-off, providing for a leap of fifty or sixty feet on a steep and unfrequented part of the Dome Hill. Attempts will also be made to provide facilities at Camp Fortune, possibly on the Great Divide Hill or on Traveler's hill. There used to be a very good natural jump on the slope of

the Rockcliffe hill, on the left of the tower where competitions for juniors were held in past years, but the judges' stand is now in the way. Perhaps this stand could be removed sufficiently to allow for the jumpers to pass under it or beside it. Something has to be done and done quickly. Knowing Keith, as we do, we have no doubt that something will be done, and that very soon a new generation of ski jumpers will arise. It will be a great day when everyone of our twenty-five hundred members shoots over the take-off of the Rockcliffe Tower, and when they say to each other, as in the old days of 1910, "Let us go 'a' yumping" instead of "Let us go ski-ing." In those days no doubt Ol' Man Joe will put little bumps all over his trails, which are altogether too smooth now.

Fred Wrangell, of ski-jumping fame will attend to the competitions and act as judge. Please phone your entries for next preliminary competition (Sat. Jan. 18) to Q. 2501.

General Information and Tid-bits.—Back copies of all issues of the Ski-News may be had at McGiffin's by those who, somehow, were left off the mailing list. Please give your name and address.—"It is regrettable" writes a correspondent that more skiers do not go around the Little Switzerland Trail, which is undoubtedly one of the finest around Camp Fortune. It would need however a little attention from the Night Riders, who have already done such splendid work on the Canyon. The trail is far too narrow in parts for the speed which is attained on a fast day, and more trees should be removed. (Submitted to the attention of Captain Joe Morin.—It may be stated here that we have now purchased most of the land through which runs Little Switzerland, and the offensive trees will be removed. Sorry you sprained you ankle, Albert).—The Ski News is one of the high spots in the life of the skier," says Bill. Think what it would be like if you could not sit by your fire with your News and think what you are going to do when this darn January thaw is over. (Thanks Bill)—"How in the world do you imagine we unfortunates who live where the snow does not exist would survive the winter months if we did not have the Ski News" says Bob Burns, of Welland. "For the past six years, I have depended upon your cheery weekly letter to keep me in touch with the people who really live by ski-ing. But tell me, what does a trail fifteen foot wide look like, without handy trees to hug. I never saw one like that?" (We don't hug trees any more, Bob, just step around them.)—"Our Editor is not gallant" says a young lady. "He states that it is not often that girls are wanted on a ski trip. We know it, but why say it?" (Oh, we did not mean that; we were only referring to the little tots, who get snowed in all the time. Why there are no better skiers and no better companions than the girls of the Ottawa Ski Club!—"I'll bet some of those graduates shown in your photo must have been more than eight years old when they started six years ago as "Juniors" under Mrs. Semple" says Mabel. (Perhaps they were Mabel, some people remain "Juniors" an awful long time, in this Club.)—The Gatineau buses now leave from the Corner of Dalhousie and George St.—two blocks further east than their old starting point. You will get that much more driving for your money.—Ottawa Ski Club's crests may be had at McGiffin's (50c.)

Ski Exchange—Lost on Saturday afternoon at Ironsides or on the trail a pair of dark glasses with webbed sides finder please phone R. 274.—For Sale—Ash skis with poles. C. 5518 J.—For Sale—Skis (51½ feet) and fittings. Apply C. 5527.

Tea house at Old Chelsea—Our friend E. B. Bambrick has opened a tea house at Old Chelsea, where substantial refreshments are available at all times. Drop in while waiting for your bus.

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Night hike
Thursday
Jan. 16
to Glen Lea
from Wrightville
8 p.m.

All communications regarding this Circular to be addressed to
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