

THE CLIFFSIDE SKI CLUB OF OTTAWA

By JOHN GRAHAM

EQUIPPED to supply the every desire of the skier—jumping, running, cross-country touring, or an afternoon spent among a series of fascinating hills—is the enviable position into which the Cliffside Ski Club of Ottawa has developed. Established on a solid basis and progressing always in a vigorous manner, it is now a model organization. Situated at the doorway of the far-famed Gatineau Hills, made more readily traversible by the intelligent choice and subsequent improvement of trails leading to and from its lodges, has added materially to the enjoyment of the sport by the Cliffside Club, membership in which is indeed something to be prized.

The Club was fortunate in establishing its base some years ago on a large tract of land at Fairy Lake, made up of a series of the most wonderful hills varying in height and in steepness, suited alike to the beginner, big or small, and to the proficient ski-er. Fairy Lake is situated a few miles from



FAIRY LAKE SKI LODGE, THE SPACIOUS HEADQUARTERS OF THE CLIFFSIDE SKI CLUB

Ottawa and may be reached by a twenty-minute car ride. It is a place of enchanting beauty. As the name indicates, a lake is there and it is surrounded by these myriad hills, on the steepest of which is erected a huge tower, one of the finest ski jumps on the Continent.

THE FAIRY LAKE LODGE

A new headquarters was erected last season, and its situation, together with its size and type of construction, make it a rendezvous for the close-to-town activities of the Club. Its location at Fairy Lake is a most favoured one on account of the close proximity to Ottawa and the scenic beauty; then it is the terminus of the Keogan's-Kingsmere-Pink Lake Trail, and the gateway to the Gatineau country.

On a spot cleared out among the thick evergreens, adjacent to the jumping tower, and part way up a hill, is the Lodge. The building itself is of solid construction and attractive appearance, and accommodates approximately two hundred ski-ers. It is of fine size and the large central portion is ideal for

dancing and entertainment. Along the sides are placed tables and chairs for refreshment. The nearness of this Lodge to the ski jump, while at the same time being but five minutes from the well-known Fairy Lake hills, is of great advantage. It is about ten minutes from the car line, which is reached by a trail through the trees. On ski-jumping days the convenience of a large building for shelter and refreshment is apparent, and has proven advantageous to the public as well as to the ski-ers. This Lodge is decidedly popular on week days and evenings particularly. On Sundays a large percentage of the members bend their energies to the more distant Gatineau slopes wherein they find

KEOGAN'S IN THE HILLS

Keogan's Clearing (to use the name left by the original settler many years ago) has long been known to ski-ers and others who roam the Gatineau



KEOGAN'S IN THE HILLS

WHERE TRAILS CONVERGE FROM CASCADES, MCCOSKEY'S, KIRK'S FERRY, MEACH LAKE, ALEXANDER'S, DUNLOP'S, CHELSEA, FORTUNE LAKE AND KINGSMERE

country as one of the most delightful spots in a district noted for scenic grandeur. On a knoll situated in the centre of the old-time clearing and surrounded by half-grown pine and spruce, rests Keogan's Lodge, the mountain home of the Cliffside members. The clearing itself is about one hundred and fifty acres in extent and is formed of gently rolling slopes and knolls. Surrounding it on all sides are wooded heights heavily interspersed with large fir. The ski trails from Wakefield, Cascades, Kirk's Ferry, Chelsea and Kingsmere all converge at this point, and the run leading from Dunlop's Farm on the Meach Lake road passes directly beside Fortune Lake, which is about half a mile from the Lodge.

The building itself is large and bright and of substantial character. It is most comfortable and is thoroughly heated. As the view is very interesting on all sides, good window space has been provided. From the east end of the Club, ski-ers coming up from Kirk's Ferry or Chelsea may be seen half a mile away down the valley. Winding in from the north around the base of a big hill and through country heavily timbered with fir trees, can be seen the hikers taking the journey from Wakefield or Cascades via Alexander's. The trail from McCloskey's comes in from the west via several smaller clearings, while parties leaving Keogan's for Kingsmere, the Pink Lake trail and Fairy Lake may be followed for half a mile over on to the shoulder of the slope opposite the Lodge. As well as its strategic position from the point of view of convenience to nearly all the best trips, the clearing itself is a wonderful playground for beginners and juniors as well as for the more experienced.

THE SKI TOWER

The Fairy Lake Ski Tower has well stood up to the standard expected of it. Constructed on the plans of a recent member, Mr. Gunnar Schjelderup, of Christiania. The tower and hill has produced many excellent tournaments in which fine style and distance were recorded. Early competitions on this hill were won with distances of 80 and 90 feet. A few minor changes have brought the winning distances up to over 110 feet. A little further development will undoubtedly produce from 125 to 130 feet. The tower itself rises to a height of 74 feet, and is atop high land overlooking the cities of Ottawa and Hull on the south-east and the Gatineau Hills to the north. The landing is very steep and at exactly the right angle, which is born out by the fact that out of one hundred and forty jumps made in the Canadian Championship event, February, 1924, with entries from Norway and Sweden, as well as from American and Canadian points, only four falls occurred in spite of the fact that many entrants did not have the opportunity of a trial jump.

ATHLETIC SUCCESSES

This Club, though only started in 1920, has had notable success in many competitions in which it has entered, and its members held firsts, seconds or thirds in such notable events as the Canadian Championship Ski Jumping, Canadian Championship Ski Running, Quebec Championship Ski Running and Jumping, City of Ottawa Ski Jumping Championship held now for three years, also events at Lake Placid, Montreal and Brattleboro.



PAUL QUESNEL, CLIFFSIDES, THREE TIMES HOLDER OF THE OTTAWA CITY CHAMPIONSHIP AND DEVONSHIRE SKI JUMPING CUP

ALL OTTAWA CITY SKI JUMPING EVENTS WON BY CLIFFSIDES

The City of Ottawa Ski Jumping Championship of the 1923-24 season was held in conjunction with the Canadian Championship events at the Fairy Lake Tower and was won by Paul Quesnel, of the Cliffside Ski Club, thus holding the Duke of Devonshire Trophy for another year.

The Senior Intermediate and Junior Events were also won by the Cliffside, L. Lefebvre winning the Intermediate and Jean Roussell, J. W. Neville and J. Cosgrove taking first, third and sixth in the Junior events. This competition also decided the Club Championship, the P. D. Ross Cup going to Quesnel, the Bilsky Trophy to Lefebvre and the Anrep Cup to Roussell.

OTTAWA SCHOOLS TO COMPETE FOR NEW CLIFFSIDE TROPHY

To the unusually handsome collection of Cliffside trophies a fine cup has been added this year. It is for annual competition between the pupils of

Ashbury College, Glebe Collegiate, Lisgar Street Collegiate, Ottawa University and the Technical School.

The most experienced of the Cliffside Ski Jumpers will be on hand Saturday afternoons at the Fairy Lake Ski Tower, and the boys from the schools will be thoroughly coached, commencing on small snow take-offs and gradually working up through the different stages.

Large entry lists are promised and the sport will receive a wonderful impetus from this influx of young material, which, from the progress already noted in past few seasons, will develop ski jumpers from our Canadian boys able to compete with the Norwegians.

SENIOR CLUB RACE

Samuel Levin, one of the old members of the Cliffside Club, and a ski-racer for the past three years, won the Club's premier running event. The course was the same as that used for the Collegiate race, and was between eight and nine miles in length. Levin's time was 1 hr. 24 min. and 50 sec. George Hamilton was only 5 seconds behind, and "Dick" Reynolds was third in 1 hr. 25 min. and 5 sec. Levin thus captured the Gowling Cup.

CLIFFSIDE LADIES' RACE

Over a course of about two and one-half miles, Miss Dorothy Reynolds won the ladies' racing title of the Cliffside Ski Club, and majority points to apply to the Mrs. T. Franklyn Ahearn Trophy, emblematic of the Ladies' All-round Championship of the Cliffside Club.

The start and finish of the course were at Fairy Lake. Miss Reynold's showing was a particularly good one, as she came in almost three minutes ahead of the second entry. The lady who captured third position was only seven seconds behind the second to finish.

	TIME
Miss Dorothy Reynolds - - - - -	20.10
Miss Mildred Schyre - - - - -	23.05
Miss Eileen Bruce - - - - -	23.12

The next six places were taken by the Misses Paradis, Rainboth, Beaudry, Mrs. Gordon Blackadar, Miss MacNulty and Mrs. A. MacDonald.

Orville Moore was chief officer and Messrs. Levin, Reynolds and Quesnel were in charge of the course surveyors.

GRAY CUP

The Club held its annual Gray Cup Competition over the week-end for the Lisgar Street Collegiate. The competition was devoted to racing, turning and jumping. In the aggregate points total ski racing events, the candidates finished in the following order: 1st, West; 2nd, MacCormac; 3rd, Ellis; 4th, Taylor; 5th, Skuce; 6th, Taylor.

Skuce was leader in the Jumping Competition, leading Brownlee by several feet. West, Dave Ellis, MacCormac and Taylor finished in the order named. Skuce also took first place in the turning competition with Dave Ellis second and West and Brownlee next in line. MacCormac and Taylor took fifth and sixth positions.

In the final for the Gray Cup, Skuce was the leader in the aggregate with 47 points. West captured second place with 40 and Dave Ellis was third, with 35. MacCormac came forth, with 29 points, while Brownlee and Taylor had 23 and 20, respectively.



THE CLIFFSIDE COLLECTION OF SOLID SILVER TROPHIES

In the Canadian Championship Ski Running, starting at Fairy Lake, up into the Pink Lake country and finishing at the Homestead Inn, of which a full report is given elsewhere in this booklet, Cliffside entries finished as follows:

								TIME
6th	D. Reynolds	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.31.31
10th	G. Hamilton	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.38.03
13th	S. Levin	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.38.18

In the City of Ottawa Cross-Country held at Camp Fortune, Cliffside entries ran strong races, but none finished in the money. Compared with the clean sweep made by Cliffside Ski jumpers in the city events, this was felt to be disappointing, and it was determined to do vastly better in the coming year.

A COMPLETE ORGANIZATION

The Cliffside Ski Club is, in every sense of the word, a complete organization. If a member desires an afternoon or an evening's indulgence in the sport, he has a ski-er's paradise abounding in hills at Fairy Lake and the facilities for refreshments and rest after the outing at the Fairy Lake Lodge all within a half-hour of the City.



HALF A DOZEN OR MORE PARTIES LIKE THIS PASS THROUGH KEOGAN'S LODGE EACH SUNDAY.

When the fancy takes him or her for a day's run, there are beautiful trails, distinctly marked, in the marvellous Gatineau Hills. Keogan's Lodge is strategically situated as the ideal luncheon place, and after luncheon other trails lead right on to Fairy Lake for tea—and home. For jumping, the most perfect arrangements are provided.

The members' privately owned ski tower is constructed to include three starting points for those of varying ability, and all around are snow take-offs for jumpers of both sexes.

LAST YEAR'S OFFICERS

To the untiring energy and boundless enthusiasm of an able executive must go great credit for the splendid position the Club occupies, which last year was composed of: W. F. C. Devlin, *President*; E. G. Blackadar, *Vice-President, Chairman of Membership, and Beginners' and Juniors' Committee*; Miss Eileen Bruce, *Chairman Ladies' Committee*; D. G. Currie, *Secretary-Treasurer and in charge of week-end hikes*; David P. Kirby, *Chairman Ski Jumping and Building Committees*; Orville Moore, *Chairman Ski-Running Committee*; Donald S. Kirby, *Chairman Lodge's Committee*; W. J. B. Bookey, *Chairman Moonlight Hikes*; A. MacDonald, *Chairman Skis and Equipment*; A. J. H. Bruce, *Secretary Canadian Amateur Ski Association, 1923-24*.