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Canadian Ski Year Book, 1936

At a meeting in Port Carling, October 5, 1935, a chairman, secretary and four directors, as well as a technical board of six and a committee in charge of publicity, tests, slalom and downhill racing were elected. The new executive soon had plans formed to develop skiing in all its branches throughout the Zone clubs. Assistance was given in organizing clubs and twenty were visited by Zone representatives who travelled over 6,000 miles in carrying out this work. Moving pictures were shown, ski instructors gave assistance and every possible help was given in the handling of competitions, ski tests and in other problems which the clubs were faced with. This work soon brought results, and although we started with only four clubs it has now grown to 15 member clubs which comprise a membership of 4,000 active skiers, and in 30 non-member clubs there are 60,000 skiers, making a total of 10,000 skiers under zone organization.

The financing of the Zone was a problem. We started with no money but we were able to carry on an extensive program and finished the season with a small balance. An active publicity campaign was carried out by P. H. Rice in keeping skiing before the public. Articles appeared in thirty weekly papers in Ontario in addition to the daily papers in the larger centres. This allowed us to carry on a great deal of general propaganda on the sport which was the means of increasing the public interest in skiing.

The Test Committee was very active in assisting the clubs to develop ski tests for their members and the C.A.S.A. was asked to revise their present ski tests to eliminate the jump which had the effect of killing the interest on behalf of a large number of candidates.

The Gratis Ski Fund was formed to raise money to purchase ski equipment which was to be given away free to children who were unable to purchase this equipment themselves. Great assistance was given in this work by the Canada Ski Company and the Peterborough Canoe Company who donated to the Zone 200 pair of new skis for distribution. These were turned over and distributed to the member clubs in the Zone who in most cases supplied harness for them and the result of this work was so encouraging that it is being expanded again this year.

The Technical Board secured a great deal of valuable information on the new jumping hill standard as laid down by the F.I.S. The specifications were given out in the form of bulletins covering three sizes of hills which fit into the Ski Jumping Tests. This allows the younger clubs to start off with a third class hill and gradually build up ski jumping on a sound basis, the same as other branches of the sport.

A representative of the Zone attended all competitions to see that they were handled properly and also give assistance to the local club in organizing.

A meeting of the Technical Board was held in Port Carling on October 5, at which all technical matters were dealt with and plans for the coming season drawn up and approved.

A Zone Library was started last year and a number of valuable books on all phases of the sport collected. From many of the European publications, articles were translated and kept which have been carefully compiled by the Technical Board. The library will be kept up-to-date with new books which are issued from time to time, as it is important for the successful operation of Zone affairs that authoritative information must be on hand.

As there are a number of new clubs in the Zone, it is felt that there are a number of subjects which must be covered. The following bulletins were sent out:—(1) Objects of the Ontario Ski Zone Committee; (2) Copy of Canadian Ski Year Book with important articles marked; (3) How to form a Ski Club; (4) Minutes of the Port Carling Meeting; (5) How the Norwegian Ski King, Thorleif Haug, trains; (6) Standard design of Ski Jumping Hills in relation to ski tests and the promotion of ski jumping; (7) Classification of competitors and skiers—Zone ratings; (8) Approved judges and officials for competitions and tests—season 1935-36. The comments on some of these reports were encouraging and this is the policy we have adopted for disseminating information to the clubs in this Zone.

At the Annual Meeting of the Ontario Zone in Toronto, there were thirty-two members present representing twelve clubs from different parts of Ontario. A recommendation was sent forward to the C.A.S.A. that we should start at once to provide for funds to send our next Olympic Team to Japan. This should be done each year so that when the year of the Games arrives, a substantial fund has been built up which will allow our team to be trained on the same basis of those of other nations.

At the special meeting held in North Bay, on October 4, there were fifty members present representing sixteen clubs, which have now built up a membership of over 4,000 active skiers.

Toronto Ski Club

WE ARE again pleased to report another successful season. The amazing growth in popularity of skiing through America during the past year certainly did not overlook Toronto as our membership jumped from 1,500 to 2,000 paid-up members. It is difficult to say to what this rapid growth may be attributed but undoubtedly the excellent snow conditions which we were blessed with had a large part to do with it. We also firmly believe that people are taking up skiing because it is so inexpensive compared to other recreational sports. It is fast

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becoming a popular sport for the whole family and it was a great pleasure to see so many parents bringing their children up for a day of healthful recreation in the open.

Our club quarters were crowded to capacity every Saturday and Sunday and the trails around our headquarters at Summit became so beaten down that we were forced to employ a number of men equipped with rakes and shovels to keep the trails in a safe condition.

Fortunately, we had very few accidents considering the number of skiers and we hope this was partly due to an organized safety first campaign. The doctor members of the club co-operated with us by wearing a red cross insignia on an arm band and on several occasions first aid was rendered by doctors in a comparatively short time.

The ski school which was inaugurated on a small scale last season was considerably enlarged upon and important data was secured from Europe as to their methods of instruction. We have arranged to have a competent instructor and coach from one of the leading ski schools of Switzerland to instruct our members in modern up-to-date technique during the season of 1936-37. At time of writing he is at present conducting dry ski courses in preparation for the coming winter.

"The Ski-Runner," official publication of the club, was again distributed to the members in ten issues and helped greatly to stimulate interest in the various competitions and aided materially in boosting the snow trains and other items of club interest.

The Canadian Pacific Railway co-operated with us in inaugurating a snow train to Caledon, Orangeville, Flesherton and Owen Sound. Owing to the fact that there was an abundance of snow at Summit all season the more distant centres were not as popular as they would have been if there had been a scarcity of snow. There is no doubt, however, that they will become increasingly popular when our members realize that the comfort, relaxation and security is well worth the small fare charged.

The Club Library was considerably enlarged and the results of this service show that our members are keenly interested in the study of skiing as well as the practical angle.

We are enthusiastic over the successes of our competitors at home and abroad. In the Dominion Championship, Doug. Mann placed first in the Combined Downhill and Slalom by virtue of winning the Slalom and placing fourth in the Downhill. Dunc. Heriot placed third in the Slalom and Jack Tache, eighth. C. Skavaas placed seventh and Merritt Putman eighth in the Downhill race. In the Jumping events C. Skavaas placed fourth. Incidentally he had the longest jump in the competition, 118 feet, but his first jump of 106 feet lost him first place. After the competition Skavaas jumped 130 feet but Punch Bott of Montreal edged him out with 131 feet to win the free style event.

In the Cross-Country events, Tod Laflamme of Toronto, who came to us from Ottawa, placed fourth, W. Cook placed eighth, Ross Wilson tenth, and C. Skavaas eleventh. C. Skavaas placed third in the Combined event, Ross Wilson fifth and Julian Sale in his first senior competition placed ninth.

Our lady competitors also took their share of the season's honours. The team of four, Mary Slater, Posie Zinkan, June Merrill and Frances Westman placed third in team standing at the Seignior Club Invitation Meet, June Merrill winning the Slalom.

Toronto Ski Club competitors also took most of the major honours in the various Zone events held in Ontario.

The greatest event of the season was of course the Dominion Championship, which was held in Toronto for the first time. Prior to the events, the Annual Meeting of the C.A.S.A. was held in the Royal York Hotel and due to its convenient location many Ontario clubs had an opportunity of attending as delegates. Mr. Robert Fennell, a Director of the club, gave a luncheon for the officials and the Civic authorities, among whom was the popular Controller "Bill" Wadsworth. Mr. Fennell was unfortunately unable to be present owing to an accident suffered previously.

The Jumping events were formally opened by Controller Wadsworth and the 40 competitors representing 15 clubs gave an excellent display on the Thorncliffe Hill. About six thousand spectators watched the events under ideal conditions, a loud speaker with "Nipper" Cliff at the "mike" keeping them well informed of all the details and distances.

A banquet was given by the City of Toronto to competitors and augmented by all members of the visiting clubs. Following the banquet some 2,000 competitors, officials, skiers and spectators boarded two special trains to Flesherton. After a doubtful night's sleep on the train the crowds were transported by truck to Eugenia, the centre of the day's activities. Three government snowploughs had been working for days to cover the seven-mile stretch from the railway station to Eugenia in order to hold this meet. Special facilities for meals also had to be provided in this small village which had overnight increased its population tenfold.

The Cross-Country Race which was laid out in a clover-leaf pattern got under way sharp on time and was keenly contested; A. Back of Sudbury, winning the short race in 1.05.06 with C. Delisle of Voirie, P.Q. just one minute behind.

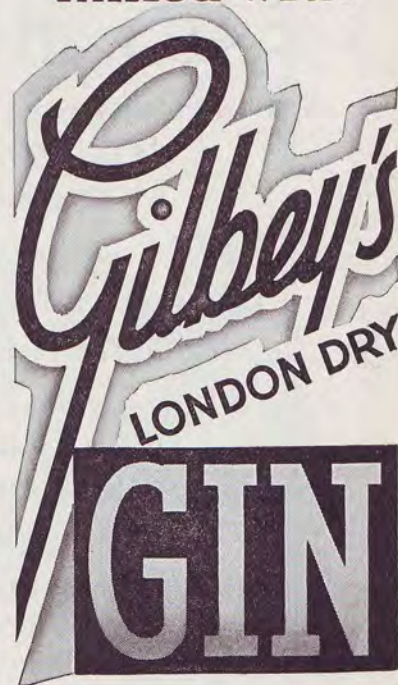
The Downhill Race was started by the signal bomb system immediately after lunch and was won by Ross Sommerfelt of the Viking Ski Club.

The Slalom Race was run off immediately following the Downhill Race and was won by Doug. Mann of Toronto with Ab. Hansman of North Bay second.

This was the first time all four events had been run off in a Dominion Championship and we hope we have set a precedent for others to follow.



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