

## Toronto Ski Club Develops New Ski-ing Properties

### Caledon

THE CALEDON property, located forty miles from Toronto, owes its existence as a ski terrain to the towering Caledon mountain down which the slash of our great downhill run can be plainly seen, a white zig-zag band on the face of the mountain.

We have a beautiful log cabin situated at the base of the mountain and from these headquarters skiers leave in every direction for trail running or for the open hills.

Caledon is the home of the competitors of the Toronto Ski Club. All our Inter-Club competitions for both the men and the women are held at this location. Flag Pole Hill has been the scene of many a hard fought slalom race, long and steep with many natural hazards that lends itself perfectly to the flag setters' art.

In the opposite direction from Flag Pole Hill are the downhill courses. The big Senior A course, cut and blasted down the face of the mountain, is comparable to the best runs in Quebec, albeit somewhat shorter. This run drops over 500 feet in a little over half a mile, and although loudly denounced as a man-killer, it has proven itself to be perfectly safe when negotiated by the better-than-average skier.

On a fast day, the women's downhill would curl the hair of the average male skier and it is a matter of no little pride to us that our women skiers can negotiate this like veterans.

But enough from the competitive angle. Caledon has ideal spots for all types of skiers. If you can imagine yourself ski-ing over a mile down rolling fields, dropping from field to field, gathering speed on even ground and ending up with a great rush at the bottom of the last field, you have a picture of the field ski-ing at Caledon. There are trails through the bush which any tyro can negotiate, the only difficulty seeming to be having once gotten to the top of the mountain how to get down to the bottom again. We hope to remedy that this year by devising some simple way of getting down which does not include taking your skis off and walking.

### Summit

Times have changed somewhat since the good old days when a trip to Summit was regarded in the light of High Adventure to be accomplished only by the daring. Today the bolder spirits hie further afield to where the hills are higher and the snow lies deeper. But Summit remains, and always will, the training ground of the Toronto Ski Club and one of the best places in the world to spend a completely enjoyable day on the wooden wings of Norway.

There is no sport in the world that is so suitable to "show-offs" as ski-ing. There is probably no place in the world where the "show-off" gets as good an opportunity of demonstrating his wares as at Summit.

We have at Summit three lodges belonging to the club and around seventy-five miles of trails through the bush. Summit golf course is cut out of this bush and makes excellent open country ski-ing and although we have no towering mountains to dash madly down, we have what D'Egville called "the best pot hole ski-ing" he had ever seen.

Summit Lodge is located on the Yonge Street Highway and is the jumping-off spot for oftentimes well over a thousand skiers of a Sunday. This great army migrates in an easterly direction all morning, seeping like water through the bush and across open fields, pausing for rest and refreshment at the Halfway House and to chat with the genial coach, Fritz Loosli, flowing on to Silver Birch at the eastern extremity of our property and receding back to Summit at dusk, tired, healthy and happy.

Unless one has had the experience of ski-ing for a day at Summit, it is a thing that it is impossible to describe and do justice to. The property is dotted with well-known gathering spots and one may ski all day from one to another, meeting friends and acquaintances. The most popular spot is the Halfway House and three hundred people may be seen on Sunday afternoon ski-ing around the slopes or chatting at the lodge, the skis stuck in the snow around the lodge looking like rows of drift fences.

### Dagmar

The Dagmar property, a new acquisition of the Toronto Ski Club will prove to be, this year, one of our most popular spots. It is located in the heart of rolling, open country with an occasional bush here and there. The hills are all of a good size and it is the type of terrain that gladdens the eye of any skier. In this country a skier may go miles, up hill, down dale, over ridge after ridge on open rolling ground, with the option of taking to bush running should the north wind blow.

One arrives at Dagmar on the ski train and either takes the sleigh or skis a mile up the road into the hilly country. Here the option of hills is so large that for a while it is bewildering which one to take first to. The best thing to do is not to worry about it, but just to start in on the nearest one and work from there in any direction but south. Of course, headquarters, food and rest are to be had at our new lodge which will be the most popular meeting place

and rendezvous of the Toronto Ski Club members.

This property is ideal for average all round ski-ing and has proven itself tremendously popular. We believe that the future will see more and more of our members taking advantage of the inexpensive transportation afforded to enjoy a real day's ski-ing in this beautiful rolling country which may be favourably compared to the Laurentians.

### *Ski-ing de Luxe*

Ski-ing in the past few years has made tremendous strides in popularity. We now find that even those who are fat and over forty have become enthused over the thrill of a downhill run. As we speed down the hill, banking and turning, there is always one thought which seems to mar the thrill to a certain extent. If we could only continue on our downward course, without any worry of having to toil to the top again it would be ski-ing de luxe.

At the Blue Mountain Ski Club, five miles west of Collingwood, Ont., the uphill toil has been eliminated by several members who have used their heads to save wind and limb. An old motor car, shorn of its mode of travel has been pressed into service. The engine with the transmission, instrument panel and half of the chassis represents the motive power. The drive shaft, which originally drove four wheels, is now adorned by a small brass pinion, which in turn meshes into one of two large gear wheels, which are attached to two large drums upon which has been neatly wound fifteen hundred feet of steel cable. The end of this cable is attached to the downhill end of a nine passenger sleigh, with a rack on one side to carry the necessary ski equipment. Attached to the uphill end of this sleigh is a half-inch steel cable which passes through two sturdy blocks, securely anchored at the top of the fifteen hundred foot climb, and fastened to the uphill end of another sleigh of similar capacity. From the front of this sleigh is attached another fifteen hundred feet of cable, which winds on and off the second drum.

The sleigh at the bottom is loaded with nine happy skiers and the uphill ride is commenced. Midway up the hill they pass the empty sleigh on its way down for another load, and in less than three minutes they have reached the top of the incline, ready to enjoy the downhill run on one of the numerous trails which are upwards of a mile in length, with a drop in altitude of some eight hundred feet.

The climb at the Blue Mountain Club is a strenuous half hour's work, which to the less energetic is a lot of toil for two and a half to three minutes slide. In addition to this, most of us like to do as much ski-ing as possible in the limited time at our disposal. At

the Blue Mountain Club two runs per hour were considered good work, whereas by means of the lift twelve runs per hour are possible, thus in one hour the enthusiastic skier can enjoy as many thrills as he would normally in six hours ski-ing.

The original lift installation consisted of a 1927 Star car. During the season of 1937-38, Mr. Timothy Eaton visited the Club, and was so impressed with the ingenious device that he donated a new eight cylinder Buick, completely overhauled and converted to suit the conditions, thus providing a reserve of power so that four sleighs can be operated if conditions warrant.

### *Cedar Springs Ski School*

That the idea of the Toronto Zone Ski Schools was excellent and timely was proved without a doubt at Cedar Springs last season. And the keen desire of new skiers to learn the turns and tricks of ski-ing as quickly as possible was also made obvious. There has been a need of the Ski Schools idea for a long time; especially in smaller clubs which possibly could not find their way clear to support a professional.

Cedar Springs found that the Ski Schools system was made to order for the club. Jimmy Low and Chic Hunter attended the class for instructors under Sam Cliff at Collingwood and came back with sufficient learning to be able to relay fundamental instruction to many enthusiastic beginners.

Classes were held on Sunday mornings between ten-thirty and noon and on Wednesday afternoons. The school was divided into two groups: Group I for out and out beginners who were on skis for the first time and had to be shown the primaries of ski-ing on the level and climbing without getting tied into knots; and Group II for such as were able to get around in fair style.

Ski-ing on the level, the various methods of climbing and kick-turns were dealt with first. Considerable time was spent on snow-plowing before proceeding to the more advanced turns. Frequently the instructor called on one of the club's experts for a demonstration of some particular turn which gave the instructor a chance to explain the important phases of the manoeuvre to the class.

The progress made by most of the beginners who took part in the classes was surprising. After three or four lessons a beginners' slalom was run on an easy slope and the instructors themselves were slightly amazed at the way some of their pupils negotiated the flags: some of these beginners had been on skis for only three weekends.

The members of Cedar Springs are lavish in their praise of the idea and they hope the Zone Ski Schools will be a permanent feature in their club.