

BRIEF

SUGGESTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

Presented by: The Executive of the Miramichi Cross Country
Ski Club.

To.

1. Mrs Marie Foley.
Area Representative. N.B. Recreation Association.
2. Mr. Julien Breau.
Dept. of Youth. Newcastle, N.B.
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Contents.

- I Objectives
- II Résumé
- III Financial considerations
- IV Priorities
- V Facility Assessment
- VI Development considerations

1 Objectives

This report is being submitted to :-

- 1) Provide concrete proposals concerning the development of outdoor recreation in the Miramichi region, with particular reference to the interests of the present and future members of the Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club.
- 2) Explore the possibilities of a Federation of individuals, groups and clubs interested in outdoor recreation within the Miramichi region.
- 3) Continue the dialogue already begun on behalf of skiers with representatives of local Government Depts.
- 4) The Provincial division of the C.S.A. of which the M.C.C.S.C. is a member, to aid in the discussion concerning the development of cross country skiing within the Province.

11 Résumé

- 1) Interest in cross country skiing is developing rapidly in the Miramichi region since Feb. 1975. At this time two open meetings followed by two informal instructional sessions were given at a private home. There were no qualified Instructors at this stage.
- 2) A steering committee to develop this interest was formed in April '75, and negotiations were developed with the following:-
 - a) Dept. of Tourism. To use The Enclosure Provincial Park for instruction, day and night skiing.
 - b) The Miramichi Golf and Country Club. A Private Club, to use the fairway verges and woodland.
 - c) The Department of Natural Resources. To use some cabins for warm-up or overnight if necessary.
- 3) The Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club was formed by a motion of the Steering Committee in Oct. 1975. Two general meetings to encourage membership were arranged. Membership is available to any interested adult or youth residing in any area of this region. It is therefore an "area" club and not town based.
- 4) Applications for Recreational grants were made to two Recreation Councils in the area. One application was turned down on the basis that the Club is not based within the town. A small grant for one sixth of the amount applied for was granted from the other Council.
- 5) Three candidates attended the 1975 C.S.A. Instructional Clinics and returned to organize 4 snow Instruction Workshops at The Enclosure Provincial Park.
- 6) It must be noted with regret that no notification of the re-

cently introduced Coaching Certification Program was given to the Club Executive at the local level. Information concerning this Program was received at a C.S.A. meeting. This demonstrates that there is no established means of communication between the clubs and Recreation Authorities at the local level.

- 7) A map and compass course was held for Tour Leaders and a dry-land clinic for general members.
- 8) A varied programme of long, short and "away" tours were offered by the Club. Examples of "away" tours are:- a) Members attendance at the Maritime Ski Marathon held in Fredericton. b) Visit to a Youth Hostel in Nova Scotia.
- 9) The Club through its membership in the C.S.A. made the local arrangements for Mr. Einar Thu, a Norwegian coach, retained by the C.S.A. to visit two local High Schools, thus introducing the sport to an increasing number of youth.
- 10) A C.S.A. racing meet scheduled to be held in Chatham by N.B. Northern Zone C.S.A. was cancelled by the Club executive on the grounds that racing was not one of the Clubs priorities at this stage.
- 11) A meeting to arouse interest in skiing for the handicapped was also not recommended until there exists a larger core of experienced skiers.

111 Financial Considerations

- 1) Financial considerations are not one of the prime priorities of the Club at this stage. However, if recreation grants were made available, further projects could be considered by the executive. For example, the possibility of obtaining a varied selection of equipment available for rental purposes for both adults and children. Individuals could have the opportunity of trying the sport prior to their personal financial outlay of equipment.
- 2) It must be noted that the number of experienced skiers is very small at present. It was not considered valid by the executive to overload their purely voluntary involvement with large fund raising projects at this stage.
- 3) Membership dues are low in keeping with other Cross Country Ski Clubs in the Province.

4) Application for Recreation Grant, see section 11 no. 4.

5) Travelling Expenses, see section IV no. 2.

IV Priorities

- 1) At present the priorities of the executive of the M.C.C.S.C.

differ from the present priorities of the Dept. of Youth and N.B. division of C.S.A. The Club executive has always considered its prime priority to be assessment of facilities, see section 11, no. 2 and section V.

- 2) Overtures to the Club President have been made regarding the possibility of financial assistance for racers to attend racing meets. In the event that there may be financial assistance available for travelling expenses, it is requested that this assistance could be given to representatives of the Club travelling to C.S.A. meetings, which would assist the C.S.A. at both the local and Provincial level.
- 3) It is felt that interest in racing may develop in the future for small percentage of Club members. Interest for the majority of skiers in this area is anticipated to be as follows, in order of preference:-
 - a) general touring.
 - b) light touring.
 - c) Racing.

To clarify these terms.

- a) General Touring. is ski touring on any type of snow. In addition to skiing near ones residence, it may involve exploration of trails with grid map reference, orienteering on skis, wilderness skiing with perhaps use of cabins, hostels or lodge. No mechanically prepared tracks. Day or Night skiing.
- b) Light Touring. is ski touring on fairly firm snow, or on a prepared track. The track can be prepared by a machine pulling a track setter or the work of a general Tourer!
- c) Racing. skiing on a prepared track and following guidelines laid down by C.S.A. using tracks of 5km. and 10km. usually.

V Facility Assessment.

1) The Enclosure Provincial Park.

The use of this area has been greatly appreciated by the Club. It is ideal for beginners instruction, for daily practice and night skiing.

It is not suitable for Intermediate and Advanced Instruction or for Touring.

2) The Miramichi Golf and Country Club.

This is a private club and the privilege to use the fairway verges and woodlands has been greatly appreciated.

The golf course property is not large enough for Touring, however it does provide access to the undulating terrain surrounding the lake owned by the Municipality of Chatham, thus providing access to more extensive Touring.

The area is close to schools, and all localities and is a highly suitable area for Intermediate Instruction, for daily skiing and for night skiing. It is also suitable for short tours, housewives tours, intermediate length tours.

The area would be suitable for a racing meet if required.

There is adequate parking facilities at the golf course clubhouse, and the clubhouse premises are available for hire if required.

There is no assurance that this facility will remain ideal for the following reasons.

- a) The golf course property does not directly unite with the property owned by the Municipality of Chatham.
- b) The proposition to build the Chatham by-pass road which will dissect this area and destroy its Recreation potential. It is doubtful whether Recreation potential was a consideration prior to the decision to place a major road through the area.

3. D.O.N.R. Cabins. Interest in this facility has not developed much yet. However, with skiers gaining more experience and becoming more adventurous, there is a growing need for facilities, such as, cabins, hostel or lodge, in an area which provides a large acreage for general touring of a wilderness nature. An area providing a network of trails allowing skiing for distances of 10 km. to 50 km. or more.

It must be pointed out that flat land with no undulations is not suitable to maintain skiers interest. Note for example the failure of the Kouchibouguac Park to attract skiers from this region in the winter.

4. Hostels. Representation be made to the N.B. Hostel Assoc. to negotiate the opening of hostels within N.B. during the winter months as a service for skiers wishing to explore N.B. further.

VI Development Considerations.

It is the opinion of the executive of the M.C.C.S.C. that the interests of skiers in this area, in terms of financial considerations, facility assessment, communication and development are not able to be served by the town based Recreation Councils. It is therefore the desire of the executive to see the establishment of an area Outdoor Recreation Council to serve these interests.

It is furthermore felt that some of the considerations presented in this brief, overlap the considerations of other individuals, groups or clubs at present involved with outdoor recreation in the Miramichi region and that a Federation of these individuals, groups and clubs might strengthen the development of outdoor recreation within the area.

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