

"Our hero" completes North 100 marathon

Sunday it took me 30 minutes to drive to the starting point of the North 100 ski-marathon and nine hours and 17 minutes to ski out. On Saturday it took us one hour to drive to Bathurst for the start of the marathon and it only took me eight hours to do the first half of the event.

My skiing experience started last year when some friends told me about the joys of skiing. You know all the old ones like, "Skiers are better lovers" and "Skiers live longer". Some showed me their official Sex-Ski Instructor pins as well as a few tips on Skiing, like, always use wax on your ski's and don't eat yellow snow.

A HAZARD

I did quite a bit of skiing that year, maybe registering about 80 or 90 kilometers. I was also declared a hazard on the course. So much for my first year.

Now this year was different. Our very low snow fall made my skiing season stretch to exactly 10 kilometers. I was out twice, once with the family on a short two kilometer hike and the other with Kevin on his eight kilometer Mini-Thon Marathon two weeks ago.

WHY DID I DO IT?

I still don't know why I entered the North 100 but whatever the reason was, it was in a moment of weakness.

Let me tell you about my 17 hours and 17 minutes on the ski trail. When you register they give you some helpful hints as what to do when skiing: when someone behind you yells "Trail" you move to the right and let the faster skiers through; what to bring with you and what to eat (chocolate bars for energy, etc.)

So I fill up my packsack with a change of socks (two), sweater, hat, loaf of bread, first aid kit (weight 5 lbs), camera (3 lbs), ski wax, scrapper etc (4 lbs) and a thermos of tea, salami roll and a few other things I didn't need but threw in anyway to fill the sack.

Now that was my second mistake--taking a full pack that weighed 20 lbs. When I finished the first day my shoulders were so sore I thought I got run over by a herd of skiers.

In the kit there was also a map of the check-points and how far they

were to go to the next one and so on. Like most maps, it told you everything except how to refold it. I learned a lot of things about skiing on this marathon.

WHAT I LEARNED

Things like: most hills are made for walking. Not all hills can be skied. Don't look back--someone might be gaining on you. Natural laws have no pity. For every good hill you can ski down there is one equally as bad you have to walk up.

Before I started I thought I had all the answers to skiing, then they changed all the questions. There were times when I felt like quitting and I really don't know what made me go on (maybe it was that beer) I was so tired I thought I was going to die.

There was one hill, between checkpoint 2 and 3 that looked as if it could be skied. When I got to it I debated with myself for about 10 minutes whether I should walk or ski it. There was a young boy (15 or 16) who went down with not too much difficulty so I gave it a try. I hit a bump and went right over the ski's and landed, every which way but up, and hurt my right wrist, left elbow and both knees. Aside from that, I was great.

Now here was a case where I should have listened to an old theory "what you don't do is always more important than what you do do."

A girl behind me saw me take this fall, which recorded 5.6 on the open ended Richter scale.

HELP IS ON THE WAY

She immediately came running to my assistance thinking I was dead or every bone in my body was broken and she slipped and fell and hit me on my sore bruised right wrist. Here again was another theory. I should have applied if I could only have moved. "If you see someone approaching with the obvious intent of doing you good, run for your life."

There were 161 skiers who started in Bathurst and only 79 finished the 62 mile course and yes I finished 79th--but I finished! I may be tired, sore, exhausted, sleepy, wet, hungry, thirsty and in pain but I enjoyed it.

Next year I will definitely be taking part in the North 100--as a time keeper.

Locals win "100" club trophy



Bathurst to Tabusintac to Nordin

Edith Boudreau, Shore Road, crosses the finish line in the North 100 ski marathon. The marathon began Saturday in Bathurst with skiers ending the day in Tabusintac. From there, they left the next morning to complete the 100 kilometre trek in

Nordin. The annual North 100 ski marathon is co-sponsored by the Bathurst Ski Club and the Miramichi Cross-Country Ski Club. Photo by Gary Tozer.

The North 100 marathon held March 1 and 2 went smoothly with only one injury. The CFB Chatham ground search team was "johnny-on-the-spot" to evacuate Michael Ramsay when he injured his ankle on Sunday. Michael is the son of Rose and Bernie Ramsay of Chatham.

Bruce Warriner and his team of Doug Thompson and Ray Mace got Michael off the course and out of the bush very quickly. Allan King and John Nimchuk assisted. Upon examination by Saint John Ambulance, Michael was released into the care of his parents.

One hundred and sixty-one entries from across New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Maine participated. In spite of the wind chill factor the first day, 94 completed the course from Bathurst to the Tabusintac air strip.

Sunday's weather was nearly perfect for the marathon. It is believed that 79 completed the course, although the tally is not yet final.

After refreshments at the Nordin Recreation Centre, the skiers arrived at the Lions Club Centre, Newcastle, for a hot roast beef supper and trophy presentations.

FIRST FROM CHARLO

The first finishers on Sunday were from Charlo and came in at 12:50.

The first Miramichi skier, Denis Boivin, came in at 1:30, with Gary Hansen and David Hayward arriving at the finish line at 1:49. Jan Truka arrived at 2:10.

The oldest finisher was 76-year-old Sam Ouellet. The youngest was 11-year-old Robert LeClair from Charlo, with special mention to Serge Lavolette and Tanya Wolstenholm of Fredericton. Les Aventuriers of Charlo