

# *Cross-country ski club programs*

In April 1975, John & Marilyn Boston, Dianne White, Bill & Jaunita Purtell, Dianne Kethro, Jan Truka, & Mike Cashin formed the steering committee for the Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club.

They gathered again in October and elected their executive. The first president elected was Marilyn Boston. Dianne White was chosen vice-president & Bill Purtell as treasurer. All other members were appointed to various committees.

The original aim of the Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club was to develop a club to provide recreation for people of all ages. This continues to be the club's purpose.

During the first couple of years, the club operated mainly out of the homes of the executive members. Major activities focussed around organized tours and "escape weekends" to other

clubs & ski areas.

In 1977 & 1978, the Department of National Defence donated a building located on the rifle range. This building served as the club house.

It was during these years, as well, that the trail system still in use today was developed. During the spring of 1979, the building was destroyed by fire. Once again, the club was without a building to use as a base.

In 1979, under the leadership of Bunny Dempsey, the Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club obtained five sections of "Woodlands Camps" from Boise Cascade, Canada.

These camps served as their first official club house. The executive committee, with the help of a federal grant, had the camps moved from their location to Newcastle - a distance of 60 miles.

The camps were set up on Tom

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Preston's land on Old King George Highway overlooking the French Fort Cove. The club used this site from the winter of 1980 until the end of the 1982 season.

During the period, the Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club expanded its trail system. New programs such as the "Jack Rabbit Program", which is a national ski program for children between the ages of 8 & 13, were introduced.

A ski school was established within the club to provide instruction for all levels of skiers.

In the fall of 1982, with Ray Thibodeau at the helm, the Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club was once again moved; this time to

# *second to none in province*

the Williston Road in Douglastown.

This move was justified by the fact that in order to obtain grants for club improvement, the building had to be located on land for which a 10 year lease could be obtained.

This leased land was obtained with the co-operation of the McCosh family and the Douglastown Village Council under the leadership of Warren Harris.

## **One of tops in N.B.**

The "82-83" season saw club house improvements & new trails added, to link up to the existing trail system. The groundwork was laid to enable the Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club to become one of the top cross-country ski clubs in the province.

In the spring of 1983, with Norman Brown as the new president, a federal grant was obtained which enabled three

Miramichi residents to complete the club house renovations & improve the trail systems.

This year the Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club is in a position to offer the Miramichi area residents a program that is second to none in the province.

As well as the local club programs which will be offered, two events of the provincial calibre will be held this season.

The first big major event will be the "North 100 Marathon" which runs between Douglastown & Bathurst, a course of 100 kms., skied over two days.

This event, which is to be held on the weekend of February 25th, 26th, 1984 will be followed by the Provincial Fraser Cup Race scheduled for March 10th at the Nordin Recreation Centre.

The latter is expected to attract the top skiers in Atlantic Canada as well as potential members for the Canada Games Ski Team.

The Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club has an active membership in excess of 200, with an executive staff working year-round in planning & organizing events for the club's programs.

The current executive is as follows: president, Norman Brown; vice-president, Jan Ellingsen; secretary, Rena Snell; treasurer, Cathy Billak; trails, Dave Veysey; tours, Dave Tweedie; youth development, Vernon Goodfellow; instruction, Ray Thibodeau; North 100, Jan Ellingsen; social, Edith Boudreau.

On November 25th & 26th, the Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club will hold a membership drive at Northumberland Square. Any questions you may have can be answered at this time.

Take this opportunity to become involved in one of Canada's greatest winter sports. **THE MIRAMICHI CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB** has much to offer.