

## Ardent cross-country skiers

# Glad for fresh snow, sharp skies

1981

by Janice Cowan

The weather is -29 C, the roads are icy, and a previous day's storm has dumped 20 cms of snow on the ground.

Most Miramichiers are glad it's a weekend -- an extra hour in bed, or a day indoors...

But others--and here there's a growing number--are elated by the sight of fresh snow and sharp blue skies.

Donning long underwear, several layers of thin sweaters, pants and warm jackets, they step outside to 'test' snow conditions.

Is it a day for dry snow wax, wet snow wax, wax for extremely cold weather conditions, or wax for moderately cold conditions?

The matter finally decided, the skiers-- for we are talking about the Miramichi's cross-country ski enthusiasts--adjourn to their basements and start tackling their skis with scrapers and waxes.

Miramichi skiers are lucky. There are numerous ski trails they can follow-- trails of their own making or trails made for them.

And then again there's an extra bonus, they can become members of the flourishing Miramichi Cross Country Ski Club, near French Fort Cove, between Chatham and Newcastle.



photo by Janice Cowan

### On the slopes

President Don Wilson on the slopes with Wade Lane, 17, one of the top junior members of the

Miramichi Cross-Country Ski Club, who has his sights set on the National Championships.

### Group of cross-country skiers



## REASONABLE FEES

The fees are reasonable, and include a ski school, club house facilities (hot stove, hot chocolate) and access to 20 kms of ski trails in and around the French Fort-Nordin area.

Costs are: \$10 for first adult; \$5 for second adult; \$5 for students; \$2 for children 7 to 13 years; no charge for children up to 7. Family membership does not exceed \$20.

Equipment required includes skis and bindings, ski boots, waxes, cork, scraper, wax remover and warm clothing.

Starter ski training lessons will run throughout the month of January, with more advanced lessons being given in February.

The lessons include, base preparation and wet and dry snow waxing; basic ski movements and short tour; downhill running and skiing uphill; snow ploughing, and snow plough turns and herringbone uphill.

The ski clinics are included in the membership fees and classes are limited to about 12 skiers.

The lessons are invaluable for beginning skiers and are usually only available for many dollars at cross country ski clubs in other parts of the country.

The club is eager for new members. The atmosphere in the club house is friendly and informal.

Everyone, from senior citizens to families with young children, are welcome to join.

Ski tours, for all ages, are organized approximately every second week, to explore the trails around the club.

For the more adventurous, there are marathons and time trials.