

## **Ski Association Going Strong at Northport**

The Northport Ski Association  
Ski Association started in 1963 as  
a joint venture of Northport and  
Leland citizens who were interested  
in promoting a winter recreation  
area at reasonable family rates.

The original board of directors  
were Anthony J. Brendel, Dwight  
Schroeder, M.D., Bob Buehrer, John  
Travis, Bruce Smith, Jack Charter,  
Glen White, John Simpson. Robert  
Spinniken, George Grosvenor, Stanley  
Ball, Ray Alpers and Gayles  
Dame.

The present site was rented from  
Glenn Braman and the rope tow was  
powered by a tractor at the top of  
the hill. All the work on the hill  
was done on a strictly volunteer  
basis.

The Leelanau Township Foundation  
supplied the necessary funds  
to purchase new rope which was an  
expensive item. Lights were soon  
included for night-skiing.

By 1968, the Leland group started  
its own ski area at Stanley Ball's  
place and the board of directors  
changed to Donald J. Dalzell, George  
Fredrickson, George Anderson,  
Bob Buehrer, Gerry Dechow, Fred  
Charter, Doris Schroeder, Jack Larimore  
and Ed Bowen.

Though the long, hard efforts of  
George Fredrickson, Bob Buehrer,  
Don Dalzell and the Leelanau Township  
Foundation, the decision was  
made to buy the hill from Mr. Braman  
Then George Fredrickson, David Allen,  
the Township supervisor, worked on a  
federal grant through which the property  
would revert to money available would be  
utilized by the township but the present site  
and the Northport Ski Association, now

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renamed, "Braman Hill Recreation  
Area."

The ski club was able to obtain a  
complete rope tow unit from the Red  
Eye Skiing Co. in Port Huron. George  
Fredrickson has been in charge  
of getting three phase power to the  
hill from Consumers, Ron Kalehik  
of Kal Excavating has been bulldozing  
an area for the new rope-tow  
The new location of the tow will  
enable all levels of skiers to have a  
bigger variety of slopes to ski rather  
than just one steep one.

Chuck Kalehik of Bay View  
Orchards is grooming the slope and  
will transplant trees for wind protection  
next year. Carl Young of  
Young Electric is setting up the  
new lights and underground wiring.  
Chuck Reynolds of C&R Plumbing  
is coordinating the site installation.

Lloyd Freeman is in charge of setting up a ski team and co-ordinating school activities.

George Anderson is organizing ski instruction classes taught by qualified personnel. Lou Young is busy mapping out cross-country ski trails, Wendie Jacobson is in charge of promoting extra funds which are needed for lighting and power.

The first fund-raising function will be a barbecue dinner and dance, Saturday, Dec. 7, from 7-11 p.m. El Northport School.

Stan Fischer of the Happy Hour donated the services of Rick West & his Blue Grass Boys for the occasion. Families are asked to come and enjoy an evening of fun.