

# Ski patrollers easier to spot with new look

By John Macdonald Toronto Star

The Canadian Ski Patrol, which has been saving lives and rescuing skiers for decades, is getting a new look.

The familiar rust-brown jackets worn by the Good Samaritans of the ski slopes are being replaced with a brighter uniform of yellow and blue.

"We are starting a conversion program," commented Toronto's Doug Simpson, president of the patrol's Central Ontario zone. "We should have 50 per cent of the patrol in the new outfits by the end of this winter. It will be up to 90 per cent by the end of next season."

"The new colors conform with most European countries — a skier shouldn't have a problem recognizing a ski patroller anywhere in the world."

"We have to take our time because the majority of the patrol are volunteers and don't get paid," said Simpson. "Many of the patrollers pay for their own outfits. As for the officials, they give us titles, not money. For example, we have lots of presidents — we have a national president, provincial presidents and then zone presidents."

There are 740 patrollers in the Central Ontario zone, which takes in an area from Highway 10 on the west to the east Metro boundary, and from Lake Ontario north to Georgian Bay, an area which includes the major ski resorts and the highest density of skiers.

The Canadian Ski patrol has one of the best first aid setups in the country and it moved up another notch by making it mandatory this year for all patrollers to be certified CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) users.

For further information on the Canadian Ski Patrol, Toronto area skiers can call (416) 745-7511.

## No to snowboards

Snowboards are the latest thing to hit Ontario's slopes, but ski area officials and resort operators don't like them.

Snowboards, which are like an ocean surfboard or the more familiar skateboard, are banned at all but one of Ontario's ski areas. Only Dagmar, at Clarendon, east of Toronto, will allow the new toy on its hills. The other operators are waiting to hear from their insurance and legal advisors.

A person rides a snowboard down a snow-covered hill much the same as a skateboard down a street. It started in the mid-1960s in Michigan and is now big business in many U.S. areas.

## Jake hits the slope

Retired CFL commissioner Jake Gaudaur is a busy man, bouncing from the beaches of Hawaii to the ski slopes of the Swiss Alps. This weekend, he will be a headline celebrity at Barrie's Horseshoe Valley for the Great Canadian Underwear charity ski race. Gaudaur has his football team practising to go against other ski teams representing the Metro Police and OPP in the zany competition Saturday, with the proceeds going to help the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

## Protect your skis

The Ontario Provincial Police is setting up a 40-foot trailer at Barrie's Horseshoe Valley to engrave skis against theft, and it's free. The OPP will offer this service every day from this Saturday until Jan. 31.

"It's great insurance against skis being stolen," said Horseshoe Valley's Liz Conway. "We did it last year and averaged a hundred skis a day being engraved with special identification numbers. We strongly recommend every skier to get their skis engraved. It can save a lot of grief."

## Thaw hits slopes

Rain and mild weather have closed many ski areas in Southern



Ontario. Most of them expect to be back in business for the weekend if they get snow and lower temperatures.

Don't waste a trip, call the skiing hotlines for the latest conditions.

The alpine (downhill) information line is (416) 963-2992 . . . and the cross-country line is (416) 963-2911.

The taped report is updated daily at 7:15 a.m. and revised again at 11:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m.

