



No slowdown in growth Cross-country boom still booming

By LEN COATES
Star sports writer

There have been millions of words written about the "cross-country ski boom," making the expression something of a cliché.

But, backed up though it may be, it's true to say there is no sign of a slowdown in growth of cross-country skiing in Ontario. A sure indicator is the number of cross-country ski areas that have rushed into operation in the past year.

Even officials at the Ontario Ministry of Industry and Tourism frankly admit they can't keep up with the

constantly growing numbers of areas opening to cater to cross-country skiers.

The ministry's handbook, Winter Adventures, lists 88 areas. But, since the listing was compiled last summer, at least a dozen areas could be added.

The book also lists more than 300 conservation areas and winter parks in Ontario — 9 within Metro — and a number of them offer some facilities for cross-country skiers.

The book is available from the ministry office, 900 Bloor St. W. (at Wellesley) or at 900-4008.

Inis Nowell's excellent 114-page guide, Cross-Country Skiing in Ontario, had to be updated this year to include several major new areas. The book, available at most major bookstores, lists over 100 places to ski in Metro and southern Ontario.

Not even considering that you can ski just about anywhere there's snow and a trail through the bush, a fair guess would put the number of designated cross-country ski areas in Ontario at 400-500.

There are excellent trails right in Metro, most accessible by TTC. Any large park will do, but the most

popular are those that offer washrooms, refreshment stands.

Following are some of the better known and used spots in Metro:

Don Valley: A 9½ km. chain of trails, starting at Edwards Gardens on the north (Leslie at Lawrence east) through Sunnybrook Park, Wilket Creek Park, Serena Gundy Park, Thompson Seton Park to Taylor Creek Park at the south (off Victoria Park Ave., north of Danforth Ave.). Skiing is free and there are several lookout areas along the way. Phone 367-8186.

Humber Trail: Runs from Dundas St., between Jane and Edward Gardens on the north (Leslie at Lawrence east) through Sunnybrook Park, Wilket Creek Park, Serena Gundy Park, Thompson Seton Park to Taylor Creek Park at the south (off Victoria Park Ave., north of Danforth Ave.). Skiing is free and there are several lookout areas along the way. Phone 367-8186.

Thomson Memorial Park: In Scarborough at Brimley Rd., north of Lawrence. About 2 km. of trails; skiing free; lessons \$8, children \$5 and families \$12; refreshments; changerooms; washrooms. Phone 438-1141.

Etobicoke Centennial Park: Hendrich at Rathburn 300 acres, free skiing, child. Phone 625-1181.

Highland Creek Park: Handy for Scarborough residents. Access to most popular trails off Morningdale between Kingston Rd. and Ellesmere Ave. Contour facilities. Phone 367-8186.

High Park: 340 acres between Bloor St. and Gardiner Expressway west of Parkdale Dr. Snack bar, washrooms, changeroom at skating rink. Phone 367-7231.

Marie Curtis Park: In Etobicoke on Lake Ontario, off Lakeshore Rd. at 42nd St., west of Brown's Line. Phone 625-1161.

Three goals in the last period give Rams winning edge

By PETER KRIVEL

Richmond Hill Rams secured their way into third place in the Provincial Junior A Hockey League standings last night.

In their game with North York Rangers which Rams won 6-4, Rangers jumped into a 2-0 first period lead only to have Rams come back with three consecutive goals. Rangers went ahead in the second period again when Joe Kovacs scored his second goal of the game and Steve Palminter added another one 12 minutes later.

However, Rams took the lead for good in the third

period with another three goals. Kevin Street notched the winner with his second goal of the night. Rick Pabio also scored twice for Rams.

Whyby Knox Hill Farm's two-game series with Flyers starting tomorrow night looks more important as a result of its 3-0 loss with Markham Warriors. Whyby is two points behind Semco.

Toronto Nats have scored five goals in their past two games. Last Night they defeated Weston Dodgers, 9-7, with Les Makins getting the hat trick for the third

time. In Metro Junior B play, the two league teams that are going to this month's Ontario Games in Thunder Bay both won last night.

Pefferlaw Panthers won 7-4, over Wexford Warriors with Panther's Steve Palko getting three goals while D.A. Walker's two goals enabled Bramalea Flyers to edge Peterborough Lions, 5-2.

In other games, Pat Boyle scored twice in a losing cause as Etobicoke Selects lost 7-5 to Belleville Bobcats while Hill/McDon's two goals were what St. Michaels' Buzzers needed to beat Whitey Bruins, 9-2.

SKI BUREAU OPEN IN HOLIDAYS

During the holiday season, The Star will keep skiers informed of various conditions on a daily basis.

The Ski Report will appear every day for the next few weeks on these pages, and The Star Ski Bureau's telephone service (367-2228) will be in operation every day through to Monday, Jan. 6.

ONTARIO'S SKI SPOTS

Alliston	Barry's Bay	Bolton	Bracebridge	Burlington	Caledon	Collingwood	Dagmar	Haliburton	Hamilton	Huron	London	Maple	Muskoka	Oakville	Orangeville	Ottawa	Ottawa Valley	Owen Sound	Pembroke	Powassan	Pushkin	Richmond Hill	Sundridge	Toronto	Welland	Western New York	Woodstock	
LORETT-2 miles north of Loretto (447) 78-1261	MADANAWAGA-1 1/2 miles north of Barry's Bay on Hwy. 100 (447) 88-1261	ROSEVILLE-10 miles north of Bolton (416) 709-1261	RAINBOW RIDGE-1 mile west of Bracebridge (705) 625-1261	CELESTIAL-10 miles north of Burlington (416) 632-1261	CALEDON-2 miles north of Caledon (905) 871-1261	BLUE MOUNTAIN-1 1/2 miles north of Collingwood (705) 862-1261	ROSEWOOD HIGHLANDS-10 miles north of Collingwood (705) 862-1261	DAGMAR-10 miles north of Dagmar (905) 871-1261	HILTON-10 miles north of Haliburton (705) 862-1261	CHERRYBROOK-10 miles north of Hamilton (905) 871-1261	HURON-10 miles north of Huron (519) 862-1261	LORETT-10 miles north of Loretto (447) 78-1261	MAPLE-10 miles north of Maple (905) 871-1261	MUSKOKA HILLS-10 miles north of Muskoka (705) 862-1261	OAKVILLE-10 miles north of Oakville (905) 871-1261	ORANGEVILLE-10 miles north of Orangeville (905) 871-1261	OTTAWA-10 miles north of Ottawa (613) 862-1261	OTTAWA VALLEY-10 miles north of Ottawa (613) 862-1261	OWEN SOUND-10 miles north of Owen Sound (519) 862-1261	PEMBROKE-10 miles north of Pembroke (613) 862-1261	POWASSAN-10 miles north of Powassan (705) 862-1261	PUSHKIN-10 miles north of Pushkin (705) 862-1261	RICHMOND HILL-10 miles north of Richmond Hill (905) 871-1261	SUNDRIDGE-10 miles north of Sundridge (905) 871-1261	TORONTO-10 miles north of Toronto (416) 709-1261	WELLAND-10 miles north of Welland (905) 871-1261	WESTERN NEW YORK-10 miles north of Western New York (705) 862-1261	WOODSTOCK-10 miles north of Woodstock (519) 862-1261