

Chalet Built of Native Material Logs Once Covered the Ski Runs

By GRANT HILL
Sault Star Bureau Writer
WAWA — Mount Wawa Ski Resort, the newest tourist attraction in this area is situated about two miles south of Wawa along Highway 17. The Chalet and a portion of the runs can be viewed from the Highway.

The originator for the resort, Norman Cornell, came to this area during 1963. He built a motel with the plans for the ski resort in mind to supplement the winter trade for the town in general. At the time, Mr. Cornell wanted a community effort to build the ski resort but didn't receive too much support until the actual building started.

The first thing accomplished, was the brushing and then the erecting of the new double chair lift during last summer. After the completion of the lift, it was used to take tourists up the largest of the hills where they could see the panoramic view of Lake Superior during the summer months. This proved to be a large tourist attraction and if worked on would fit in well with the Algoma Ore Properties tours.

The local people started to show an interest realizing it could be a boon to the economy of this area. Things were on the move. The ski trails were being cut after being laid out by Jozo Weider of the Blue Mountain Ski Resort near Collingwood. Architect from Toronto drew up the plans for the Chalet and the footings were poured immediately.

Clifford (Mickey) Clement of Wawa then moved in with his men. The trees taken off the ski runs were brought to the site of the Chalet where a chain saw, draw knife and axes were used to build the log structure that only can be described as beautiful.

It is amazing that none of the timber had to be taken to

a sawmill to be prepared for the Chalet. One has to see the finished product, to appreciate just what can be done with the simple tools used by a man who seems to put part of himself into the building.

The inside walls of the Chalet are peeled logs, varnished and chinked with plaster. There is a modern lunch counter. The tables in the lounging section are built from logs and varnished and in the centre of the lounging area is an open fireplace. It all serves to give a quite restful atmosphere. The large open stairway leading from the main floor to the lower floor is also made of logs with the top sides flattened for walking.

The lower portion of the building houses the ski rental shop. Next to it is a repair shop where manager Ian MacDonald makes repairs to damaged equipment.

The resort boasts a beginners hill with a rope tow, two intermediate and one senior run that are served by the double chair lift.

The Mount Wawa Ski Association was formed and began promotion in an endeavor to have skiers from other centres come and try it. The feeling being, once viewed and tried, the place will sell itself.

The official opening of the resort was planned for Dec. 23 and all that was needed, was snow. The area had an unusually small amount of snow before Christmas. Attorney General Arthur A. Wishart was invited to officiate at the official opening and journeyed here for the afternoon ceremonies.

The snow didn't come in time but this didn't dampen the spirits of those involved.

In his opening speech, Mr. Wishart said, "I'm happy to have been invited, it was too bad more snow hadn't fallen as I would like to have joined

in with the other skiers in enjoying the magnificent runs". He promised he would work with the Federal member of parliament, George E. Nixon of Sault Ste. Marie, in an endeavour to have an adequate airport built in Wawa. Skiers from greater distances could come to this area to use the facilities.

In a lighter part of the ceremonies, Mr. Wishart said he had consulted local businessman Aime Breton who said he had checked his beads and was assured there would be a snow fall on the evening of the opening.

Mr. Wishart also said he had some influence with the weatherman and that he had called for snow and was assured it would come. At seven o'clock that night, it did in fact snow. When asked who had brought the snow, himself or Mr. Breton, the Attorney General related that he had Mr. Breton's permission to say it was a joint effort.

Although the weather for the opening was extremely cold, the large crowd standing outside for the ceremonies burst forth with, Oh Canada, when the Canadian flag was raised. Mr. Wishart then went to the foot of one of the intermediate runs to officially greet the first skier down the hill. Paulette Breton of Wawa was given the honor of being the first skier down the hill and breaking the ribbon at the bottom. Following this the crowd went into the Chalet where the Ski Association provided free coffee and donuts.

Other visitors from Sault Ste. Marie for the opening were Lee Fletcher, Bruce Ness, Irwin Hartmann, Andy Rowe and Jim Kohut all of the Sault Club Safety Patrol.

For anyone interested in trying this resort, free class lessons are provided when the membership is purchased. Private lessons can be obtained

from the ski instructor in attendance.

This is a new, picturesque resort, the whole family can enjoy themselves for a day, weekend or a entire holiday.

Crashes In Sault 3 Hurt

Three persons were injured in traffic accidents during the past 24 hours.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bailey of 331 Eastern Avenue were taken to Plummer Memorial Hospital following a right-angle collision at the intersection of the Black Road and the Second Line at 10 p.m. Monday. Mr. Bailey, 22, was treated for injuries to his right knee and released. Mrs. Brenda Bailey was admitted to hospital for observation and treatment of a laceration to her chin.

The Bailey vehicle was involved in a collision with a light truck driven by Leonard Mervin Poliquin, 18, of 44 Rivier Road. Total damage in the accident was \$500.

Jean Lola Desormeaux of 432 Queen Street West received cuts to her left knee and mouth when her late model car went into the ditch along Highway 17 East near the Commodore Motel. She was taken to the General Hospital following the accident at 11 a.m. Monday. Total damage to her vehicle was \$135.

The Ontario Provincial Police reported one major accident Monday. A car driven by John Drysdale of Scarborough, Ont., struck a guard post just west of the Echo Bay Bridge at 3 p.m. Mr. Drysdale was not injured although the property damage amounted to \$600.

Investigating officer, Constable Walter Smith said bad driving conditions were the cause of the incident.

Say Turmoil Will Affect China Status

OTTAWA (CP) — External Affairs Minister Martin said Monday the current turmoil in China will be a factor in the government's decision on whether or not to recognize the Communist regime.

Replying to Opposition Leader Diefenbaker in the Commons, he also said there have been no indications to support Mr. Diefenbaker's suggestion that Canadian wheat sales are endangered.

The Conservative leader asked whether the "increasing ferment approaching civil war" in China will affect Canada's intention of recognizing the regime of Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

Mr. Martin said Canada is only considering recognition of Communist China and the events there are "not finally assessed" yet.

SEARCHMONT

Pam Schell was guest of honor at a birthday party Saturday evening given her by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Les Schell. The affair was held at the Community Hall. Games and dancing provided entertainment for the young guests.

Mrs. Bill LaForge is visiting friends and relatives in Woodstock.



OFFICIAL OPENING — Paulette Breton, on skis, broke the ribbon at the bottom of the Intermediate hill. Robin Cornell, left and Attorney Gen-

eral A. A. Wishart, right, greeted the young skier at the bottom of the hill at the official opening of Mount Wawa Ski Resort.

Star Photo by Hill