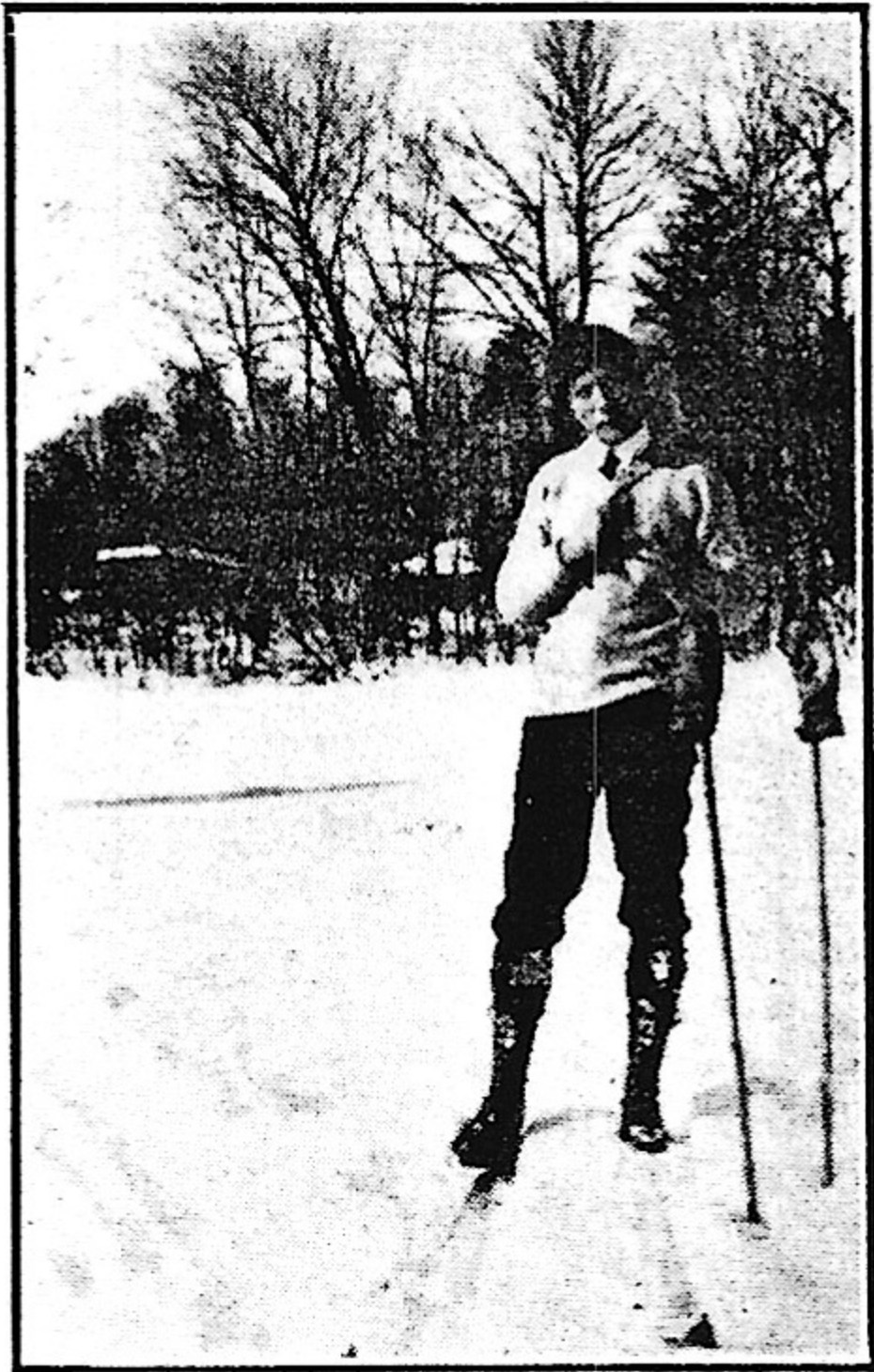


THE OTTAWA SKI CLUB

SEASON 1924-1925

By C. E. MORTUREUX, President

*Background
on skiers*



THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SLOWLY and hesitatingly, the first flurries of snow of 1924 descended upon the pavements of the Capital early in December. Patches of white soon appeared on the Gatineau hills, gradually extending until they were visible to the naked eye from Saper's Bridge. On the fourteenth, two adventurous souls, Kenneth West and Louis Grimes, made Camp Fortune on ski, to the consternation of a party of trench diggers who were endeavouring to complete the water works before the opening of the season, and who thought the two were the van of the usual army of ski-ers. No one followed them for some time, however, as they broadcasted the report that the snow had no bottom and was rather unevenly distributed, necessitating expert knowledge in jumping.

On December 30, the editor of the Ottawa Ski Club circular called upon the ski-ers to "come out and search for a treasure in the Gatineau hills, a treasure more valuable by far than all the gold in the world, a treasure of health, strength, and happiness," adding however, "to beware the treacherous stones and take no chances." Then the great Trek northward was on, and from that day until March 18, when the winter ended in a glorious apotheosis, fully one-tenth of the population of Ottawa roamed endlessly through the boundless stretch of rolling country that extends north of the Capital, stopping for rest at one or the other of the five lodges of the Ottawa Ski Club.

The snow never had much bottom, however, and this was one of the main grievances against the winter of 1924-25; it never packed on account of the dry weather; it was, for a long time, loose, fluffy throughout, and a tumble always brought the unlucky ski-er in intimate contact with the Laurentian formation, which, as every one knows, is the oldest and hardest of all the geological formations that have stood the test of time. Parts exposed to the wind, generally at the foot of steep slopes, were swept bare, with the result that there were more injuries than usual, and the farmers at the foot of the mountains reaped a harvest by taking home ski-ers who had had the worst of an argument with Mother Earth. This stopped no one from going out, however, and even the injured ones were out again as soon as repairs were made.

Another unfortunate characteristic of the winter was the great thaw that set in on February 15, and that continued relentlessly until the mantle of snow was reduced almost to the vanishing point. As an evidence of the havoc caused by this deterioration of the weather to the greatest of Ottawa winter industries, it may be stated here that, while the influx of new members in the Ottawa Ski Club kept up at the rate of 150 a week from December 31 to February 15, only six new members applied for admission after this date. However, the total membership stood at 1,760, an increase of 754 over the previous year, and with the exception of one bad Sunday, when Camp Fortune, the farthest point north in the territory covered by the Ottawa Ski Club, received only one hundred visitors instead of the usual six hundred, all the lodges of the Club were filled to overflowing, week in and week out.

It was also the privilege of the Club to help skiing in other ways. In January it was reported that the Experimental Farm hills had been closed to the public and that hundreds of people living in the vicinity were deprived thereby of the means of taking healthful exercise. The Club at once took action in the matter; a delegation called upon the Director of the Farm, Mr. Archibald, who very kindly consented to lift the ban under certain conditions, which were duly observed.

But the most outstanding development of the year perhaps was the re-opening of the ski jumping-hill at Rockcliffe, which had been closed for two years. This achievement was due to the unremitting efforts of the Ski Jumping Committee of the Ottawa Ski Club, and particularly to Captain J. T. Morin and Vice-President Allen Snowdon, who succeeded in enlisting the energetic and active co-operation of Mayor Balharrie. Plans have been prepared for a gigantic tower, giving a height of some 200 feet, with the natural hill, over the landing place, and it is hoped that work will soon be started.

The first preliminary race of the season was held on January 9. It was won by Ted Reid for the Seniors, and Ken West for the Juniors. The second



HAZEL REID, LADY CHAMPION OF OTTAWA SKI CLUB, 1924-1925



JACK BOURGAULT, CHAMPION, OTTAWA SKI CLUB, 1924-1925

preliminary, on January 17, was won by Louis Grimes, Senior and Walley Reid, Junior. Louis Grimes again came first in the race for the Lisgar Collegiate Club on January 24, closely followed by K. West and G. Jost. At a Club Race, held on January 31, Ken Fosberry came first in the Senior Class and G. Jost first in the Junior. The Race for the Championship of the Club, staged on February 8, was won by J. Bourgault, with Ken West, Junior Champion, only 7 seconds behind and Ted Reid a good third, while J. McKay, A. Bambrick and J. Neville won the jumping competition at Rockcliffe. In the Glebe Collegiate Race, run over sticky snows on February 14, Fred Ellis came first, K. Campbell second and S. Stayner third, while M. MacDonald, H. Lambert and H. Linegar came respectively, first, second and third in the Girls' Race, for both Lisgar and Glebe Collegiates. The first of the Dominion five of the boys in elapsed time. Fred Taylor came fourth in the Dominion Championship Race at Shawbridge on February 22, over an icy and perilous course, while Ted Reid was sixth and Ken West ninth. Cecil Clark came

fifth in the Ontario Championship, held by the Cliffside at Fairy Lake on February 28, while A. Pinault came seventh of the Jumpers in the Senior Class and L. Lafleur first of the Juniors. The Inter-Collegiate Race for the Southam Trophy, on March 7, was won by the Lisgar Collegiate team, including Ken. West, Fred Taylor, Louis Grimes and G. B. Jost. The Ladies' Club Race, on March 8, was again won by Hazel Reid, followed by Madelaine Bourgault and Muriel Rainboth. The race for the City Championship was held under ideal weather conditions on March 15, on the heights of Camp Fortune, and won by: 1st, Louis Grimes; 2nd, Jack Bourgault, and 3rd, Orville Moore, Cliffside. This was the last athletic event of the season. The last social events were the Annual Dance, at the Chateau Laurier, on March 27, attended by over 400 members, and watched by some 300 who could not get in, and the banquet on April 23, which was, as usual, a highly successful affair.

Two of the most pleasing events of the year were the visit to the Montreal Ski Club, on the occasion of the Dominion Championship on February 23, when over 100 of our members went to the Metropolis, and to Shawbridge the following day. The reception by the Montreal Ski Club was, as usual, extremely cordial. The next happy event was the return visit of the Montreal Ski Club on February 28 for the occasion of the Ontario Championship, when the delegation was received by our Club at the Chaudière Club House.

Altogether, it was a year of great progress for the Ottawa Ski Club and for ski-ing. A new lodge of imposing dimensions was built at Pink Lake. Additions were made at Ironside and Camp Fortune and the Chaudière's Golf Club was available for the night hikes, but in spite of these new facilities, the lack of accommodation was felt more severely perhaps than it had ever been in the past. New buildings are being put up for the coming winter. The territory east of the Gatineau, untouched as yet, except by individual ski-ers, will be opened up, and a stopping station will also be provided at the extreme end of the ridge, towards Breckenridge, on the heights dominating Meache's Lake. Camp Fortune will again be enlarged for the third time in as many years. The Club is looking forward to a membership of 2,500 in 1925-26.

THE CLIFFSIDE SKI CLUB OF OTTAWA

SEASON 1924-1925

THE Cliffside Club enjoyed its most successful season since its formation in 1919. The big new club house at Fairy Lake was successfully operated and proved of great advantage to members, both for the evening runs and over Saturdays and Sundays. The cafeteria was well patronized, and no doubt this nearby headquarters will be used to capacity the coming winter. The Cliffside ski tower at Fairy Lake, in close proximity to the club house, was the scene of much activity and several successful ski jumping tournaments during the season. Keogan's Lodge, near Fortune Lake, was the big Sunday attraction for Cliffside ski-ers and friends, and was equipped during the season with new furniture and also bunks for those coming up for the week-end.

The new Cliffside lodge at Birch Valley (south of Pink's Lake) may, however, prove to be the most popular, from point of numbers, of the entire chain of club buildings. It is so situated as to provide a resting-place on the way down from Keogan's Lodge, and will also be ideal as a half-way or lunching place for shorter trips from Chelsea, Kingsmere, or from Fairy Lake and back. The lodge is beautifully situated in a valley filled with birch, cedar and fir trees, nestled close up to high hills to the north and west and looks across a beautiful valley to rugged cliffs of granite immediately opposite. The effect of an afternoon sun on these cliffs is truly remarkable and may be enjoyed by those resting in the lodge building, through a fine series of long windows.