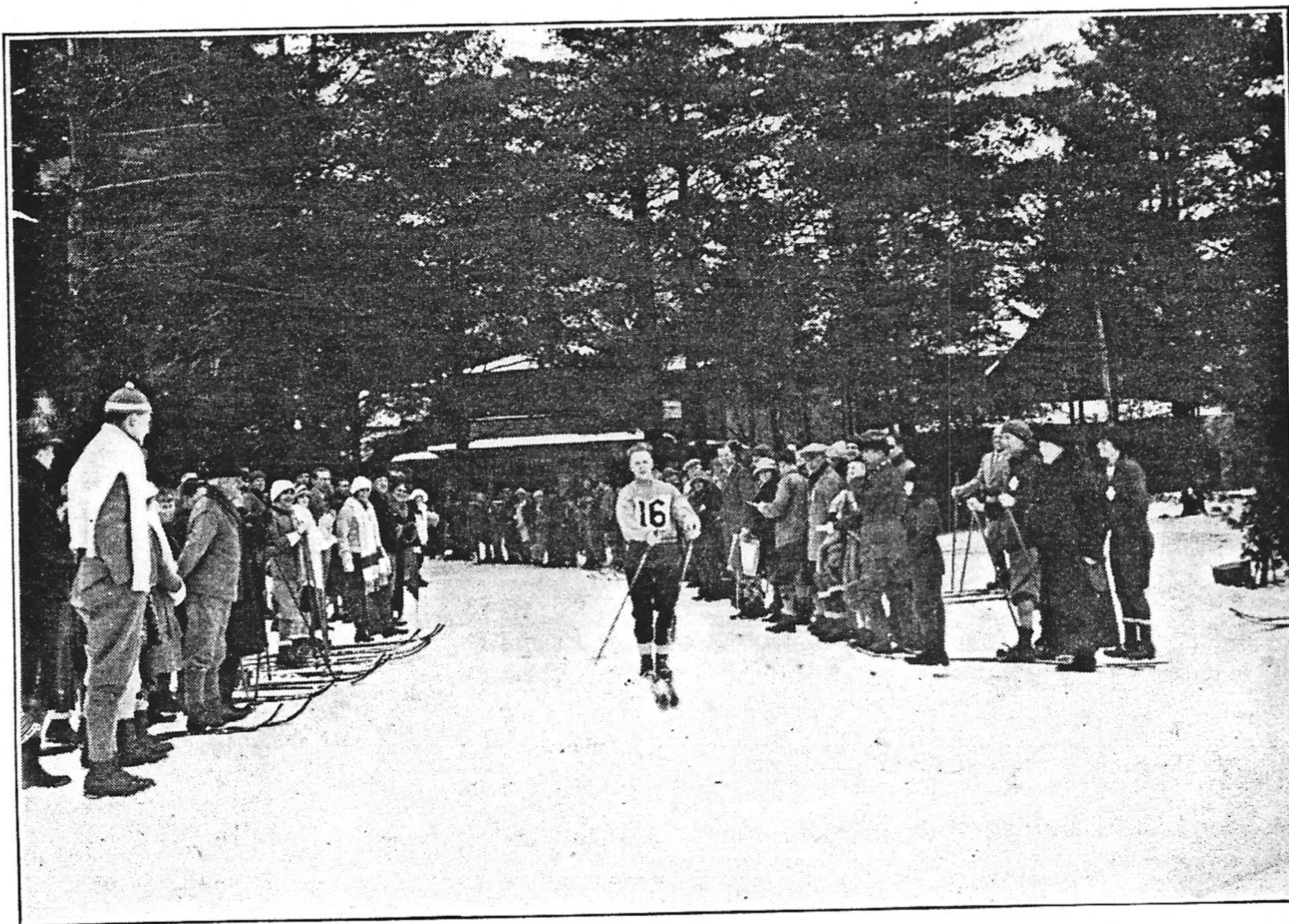


THE DOINGS OF THE OTTAWA SKI CLUB 1923-1924

SNOW was very late in coming in 1923; golfers were still busy at their little game on Christmas Eve, and that dreadful calamity—a green Christmas—was almost in sight, when suddenly, in the late hours of that day, a strong “nor’wester,” sweeping down the Ottawa valley, ushered in an old-fashioned snow-storm. In a few hours the ravines of the mountains were filled and all at once the whole country was alive with ski-ers. The snow remained well into April and every day of the season was good.



E. CONDON, WINNER DOMINION CHAMPIONSHIP RACE, FEBRUARY 23, 1924; ALSO FIRST INTERNATIONAL INTER-COLLEGIATE, LAKE PLACID, DECEMBER 31, 1923

Night mid-week hikes and week-end excursions were run throughout the season without a stop. Visitors at the Dome Hill Camp (Ironside) numbered over six hundred at various times. Camp Fortune received as many as five hundred visitors on a single day and the Pink Lake Camp was hopelessly crowded out.

With the exception of the “Black Saturday” of January 26, when a temperature of 32 below zero, accompanied by a strong wind from the north, froze the racers fast in their tracks, there were competitions every week-end. The first race, for a prize donated by Eric Roy, was run on January 20, over the Ironsides course and won by E. Condon, in 21 min. 15 sec.—a record time. Ken West was first of the juniors. The second race, on January 26, over the

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Sugar Loaf hill course, for a prize donated by George Audette, was won by Kenneth Fosbery in 41 min. 30 sec. Louis Grimes came first of the juniors. On February 2, Ken West came first in the race for the Grey Trophy and the Devlin Cup (Cliffside Ski Club). On February 8, Ken Fosbery won the Club Championship over the heights of Camp Fortune, Jos. McCloskey and E. Condon being second and third, respectively.

On February 16, George MacCormac, of the Lisgar Collegiate, won the Inter-Collegiate Ski Race for the Southam Trophy, over a seven-mile course, in 58 min. 21 sec. (43 entries). D. Ellis was second and B. Grayson Bell third. The following day, Hazel Reid won the Ladies' Race at Camp Fortune, covering five miles in 48 min. 12 sec.; Kathleen West was second and Edith O'Connor third. On the same day, at the Quebec Jumping Championships, in Montreal, Wilfrid Poitras came first of the Ottawa contingent, and tenth among 43 competitors. Jos. McCloskey came first of the Ottawa men in the running at Shawbridge the following day.

On Saturday, February 23, E. Condon won the Dominion Championship over a twelve-mile course, in 1 hr. 24 min. 56 2-5 sec.; C. Clark and D. Powers were second and third in the jumping for the City Championship. On March 2, K. Fosbery won the City Championship at Camp Fortune in 1 hr. 20 min. 55 3-5 sec.; E. Condon was second and J. Bourgault third; K. West fourth and T. Reid fifth; all Ottawa Ski Club men. The Glebe Collegiate Race, held on March 8, was won by J. C. Ellis in 1 hr. 52 sec; D. Francis was second and G. Haskett third. The Consolation Race, held the same day, was won by T. Peat in 59 min. 33 sec.

On February 24, the Ottawa Ski Club had the honor of entertaining President Douglas, of the Canadian Ski Association, and President Harlow, of the Montreal Ski Club, at Camp Fortune.

Hikes were kept up all through March, but the number of participants gradually dwindled until Jack Snowdon found himself all alone on the Kirk's Ferry-Ottawa trail on April 7; he was the last ski-er out. President Mortureux and Vice-President Allen Snowdon claim they might have ski-ed from Camp Fortune to Kingsmere on April 13, but as they did not do it, and as they had no photos to show, their story was generally disbelieved.

Then there was a big dance, attended by some three hundred and fifty members, and there was a banquet for the presentation of prizes, at which ski-ers and would-be ski-ers discoursed learnedly and fluently about the big thing that ski-ing is, and made as merry as they could with chlorinated water and near-beer, and the curtain was drawn upon the season of 1923-24, and the snows of 1924 joined the snows of yesterday.