

# Bradley young at heart

79-year-old skier shows 'em how it's done

By Paul Svoboda

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Don't tell Brad Bradley to slow down.

In fact, if you're a skier, he may already have whizzed past you once or twice.

Orville "Brad" Bradley, 79, is one of the oldest competitors in a North American over-70 downhill skiing circuit that holds several races each year, primarily in the United States.

At a recent competition at Killington, Vermont, Bradley won two gold medals, a silver and a bronze.

"Not bad for an old guy," he quips. "Mind you, I'm only skiing with old guys."

Bradley is typically modest about some impressive achievements in the senior circuit. Last weekend at the BMW Masters competition at Mt. Orford, Quebec, Bradley won his division in giant slalom.

And, giving new meaning to the term tough old geezer, Bradley joked about a wipeout later in the day that resulted in a separated shoulder.

"It'll take me a couple of weeks before I get proper use of it," he says. "These things aren't painful. Once they get back in place they're just an inconvenience. It's hard to take a shower or tie your shoes."

Bradley says he's been skiing for 65 years but he didn't start racing until the age of 64 when he won a Masters event in Quebec.

"I was taking instruction for a week every year," he says. "It's a



Brad Bradley's love of skiing is apparent to fellow motorists.

Intelligencer photo by Paul Svoboda

fun thing and I've become competitive. I feel I should be able to cope with anybody over 60, though that hasn't always been the case."

Bradley says the key to his success is practice and homework. And he sees no reason to slow down.

"I'm skiing better now than I did 10 years ago," he says. "I'm faster and my technique is better.

It's positive attitude and keeping active. I read books on skiing and try to improve my technique. I learned by reading and watching."

In the off-season, Bradley trades his skis and poles for a mountain bike and golf clubs. He frequently pedals around the bay, stopping for breakfast with friends in Carrying Place.

The road and link work pre-

pares him for the over-70 downhill series and his regular outings with the Fit Old Fools, a collection of local skiers who make frequent recreational treks to various hills and resorts for a bit of skiing and a lot of fun.

"I've sort of been the prime mover," says Bradley of the loosely-organized club. "We've gained a few and lost a few."

Most of the skiers are in their 60s and Bradley is the oldest. He says the name, Fit Old Fools, came about during an apres ski session with fellow club members.

"After a few libations we thought the name would be a good one," he says. "We had no idea at the time we'd be continuing this long."

Bradley Orville (Brad)  
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