

Ideal Cross Country Skiing Terrain To Be Found on Georgetown's Outskirts

by Peter Aerts in the Toronto Bruce Trail Club's 'Footnotes'

Now that winter is approaching, I am looking forward to another season of cross-country skiing (X-C Sking for short). This is becoming more and more popular among Bruce Trailers and it is now one of the fastest growing winter sports, not only in Canada, but around the world.

X-C skiing is more or less the original way of skiing as invented thousands of years ago in Scandinavia, in contrast to Alpine or downhill skiing, which is a later development and has become a very expensive, rather dangerous, if thrilling sport, limited, however to specially prepared areas. Personally, I like both types of skiing, but I simply could not afford the time and money to do as much Alpine as I do X-C skiing. Ontario is ideally suited for X-C skiing (as any Scandinavian will assure you), but we just don't have anything like the Alps for Alpine skiing.

But where do you go for X-C skiing? Is the first thing people ask me. Well, anywhere there is snow unspoiled by salt, traffic, "no trespassing" signs, etc. That leaves much of Metro Toronto, with its parks, ravines, rivers and even hydro rights-of-way. Suddenly, when snow covers the land, it is possible to move cross-country and to reach previously inaccessible areas such as swamps and marshes, creeks and even islands and lakes.

The greater freedom is for me the greatest advantage of X-C skiing, but that is not all. You will soon realize that it is as thrilling as downhill skiing, as peaceful and invigorating as hiking or snowshoeing, and a lot more ecologically sound than any motorized "sport" such as snowmobiling. Also, it does not take much practice for a fit person to become a proficient X-C skier.

IDEALLY SUITED Our own Bruce Trail offers one of the greatest challenges to experienced (or new) X-C skiers, even though it was not made with skiers in mind. The Toronto Section of the Trail, just north of Highway 401, cuts right through one of my favourite winter playgrounds. As you can see on the map, this area covers over 30 square miles in Nassagaweya and Eglarose Townships in the northern half of Halton County. Easy accessibility makes this area ideally suited for X-C skiers if common sense is used. What makes this area so attractive as well, is the fact that only one concession road (the Sixth Line) runs straight through this large block of land.

Furthermore, a good portion is in Halton County Forest Tracts (and these are marked on the map) or Conservation Authority lands and X-C skiers can use these lands. X-C skiing is also possible along most of the Bruce Trail shown on the map. There is a trail through the Halton County Forest, which is also shown on the map, and this is marked with rectangular markers of brown with two vertical yellow stripes.

Unfortunately there are several quarries operating here and the threat of subdivision may soon start to play a role in reducing this area, but the Halton Region Conservation Authority has large holdings in this area over which the Bruce Trail passes and we now have our own shelter in this area (an land owned by Consolidated Sand & Gravel Co.) close to the Townline. Other attractions include Hilton Falls, the beaver pond, and the Halton Country Inn (for refreshments).

SKI HIKE The Trail through Halton County Forest and the Bruce Trail, are separated by several small branches of the Oakville Creek and it is possible to make a circular trip back to your car in winter. We particularly recommend the 5th Line Allowance over the beaver pond and north to the County Forest.

You don't have to be an athlete to enjoy X-C skiing here, because even a novice can safely join a ski party as long as he or she is prepared to take "the easy way out" when the going gets a bit rough. Sometimes this may mean sitting down before you fall down (I need a leather seat in my pants) or simply to take your skis off temporarily to get up or down a very steep slope. You should try one of the ski hikes in our present program of hikes.

Getting lost or getting out is not much of a problem either, because visibility through a hardwood forest is much better in winter, while snow makes even the roughest forest floor as smooth and soft as a carpet. And when the winter sun is shining at a low angle it is easy to ski reasonably straight in whatever direction you may desire in case you do lose the trail. Remember that around noon the sun is south (direction Hwy. 401) and by 6:00 p.m., in the west. Just looking at your shadow occasionally, will keep you going straight.

SENSIBLE ALERT Much as I enjoy the company of people there is nothing like being alone in a winter wonderland with all the senses alert to the sounds, sights and smells of nature. If it is company you seek it would be better to stick to downhill skiing. Nevertheless, you can feel more lonely on a busy ski-slope than on a quiet X-C trail, just as you can feel more lonely on Yonge Street than on the Bruce Trail. But to be alone on X-C skis in a relatively remote area like this gives me a sensation of freedom I have never experienced anywhere else, or at any other time of my life. Not even skating, when I was a boy, on the frozen lakes and canals of my native Holland, can compare with the glorious freedom of a Canadian winter. One becomes more aware of the wildlife which is abundant in this

area, if only by the numerous tracks in the snow. Certain landmarks will have more meaning now such as the Bell Telephone Trunk Line. This might become a "life saver" easily visible through the forest and leading you to the Halton Country Inn if you like.

OWN TRACKS It is difficult to get lost because you can always go back by following your own tracks. Of course, it is wise to have a compass with you, plus matches and some strong cord to repair a broken pole or bindings. If you are about to crash into a tree or a rock, just sit down. On your first attempts, test your strength and don't overdo it. Remember you have to get back to your starting point. No need to carry any liquids in winter and a little food is easily

carried. Moreover, nature provides its own refreshments at times, in the form of sweet apple juice from the many wild apple trees in the area. One thing to guard against is overheating, because X-C skiing stimulates exercise in such a subtle way, that you are not aware of your output of energy, until you feel perspiration trickling down your face. It takes some experience and restraint to be able to ski steadily without overexerting. So if you feel you need an antidote against our regimented and too-well-ordered life, I cannot give any better advice than to take up this ancient sport and you will feel again master of your own destiny, if only for a day or so. Only the birds and wild animals could experience a greater freedom and you will feel a kinship with them you have never felt before.

ALLEYWAYS by KAREN ARCHIBALD & RUTH FINLAY Town Trio Takes Tourney Trophy in Master - Bantam

PEE WEES Sheila Frouse has the high girls average with an 86. The high boy is Duane Hatcher with 94. Red Barons took five points from Pee Wee Penguins. Aristocrats totalled seven points from Lions.

FANTASTIC FOUR Girls—The high girl was Dana Layton with a 356 triple and a 131 single. Second was Colleen Davis with 300 triple and 102 single. Boys—Blair Scrivens had a 354 triple and a 143 single that was top. Diane Hatcher was next with 339 triple and 157 single.

BANTAM GIRLS Stephanie Cox leads the girls with a 185 average. Tigers crept up on Canonballs and beat 'em in all games. In a close draw between Slow Pokes and Panthers, Slow Pokes won the whole set. Bantam Bombers took two games and totals from Wild Cats. Super Seven collected seven points from Globe Trotters. After losing the first two games, Strikers came back and won the last game from Crashers. Pink Panthers snuck up on Pussycats and took seven points.

TOP SEVEN Beverly Sands had the high triple of 498 and a 181 single. High single of 204 was bowled by Lia Gourlie. Next were: Leona McAusland 486 (166); Linda Goss 485 (208); Lea Gourlie 471; Terrie Bratkin 464 (160); Brenda Hedley 459 (109) and Debbie Alton 456 (164).

BANTAMBOYS Colin Hicks is still high boy with a 177 average. Headpins won the first two games and totals from Golden Jets. Bobcats bobbed along to a four point win against Slow Pokes. Georgetown International were sharpshooters this week as they won the whole set from Crackshots.

Seniors were shy in the first game but came back and won the next two from Hydrofoils. Super Strikers nipped four points from Sharp Shooters.

FRISKY FOUR Colin Hicks was the top bowler for the boys with a 608 triple and 235 single. Second was Mark Goodett with a 525 and 198. Next were Richard Flindall with 511 and 205 and John Burke had 481 and 181.

FRIDAY JUNIORS Brenda Moore has the girls high average with 178. Still in first for the boys is Rick Gourlie with a 223 average. Pin Vultures swooped down on the King Pins and seized seven points. Odd Balls had a four point victory over the Crack Pots. Psychadelic Six outbowled Pin Busters in all three games.

SUPERSEVEN Girls—Debbie MacCormack threw the high triple of 600 and second high single of 241. Lynne Scarborough had a 551 triple and the high single of 244. Peggy Levers had a 226 single. Boys—Rick Gourlie was the top shooter with a 714 triple and 347 single. Darryl Diamond was second with 529 and 225. Close behind him was Doug Inman with 528 and 228. Stephen Archibald was next with 502 and 226.

SATURDAY JUNIORS Patricia Duncan has the high girls average of 185 and Chris Burke tops the boys with 212. Pocket Pickers won the first game off the Tail Enders. Pin Busters won all three games off Strikers Unlimited. Great Seven knocked off Pro's Incorporated for five points. Slippery Seven were trimmed in two games and totals against Fighting Snoopy's.

ENERGETIC EIGHT Girls—Yvonne Corbett threw the high triple of 720 and also the high single of 283. Sylvia Helsler was next with a 582 triple and 225 single. Third was Stephanie Gorin with 562 and 209. Boys—Gary Richardson had both



Colin Hicks, Marg Bratkin and Terrie Bratkin were Georgetown's "first-placers" at the Master-Bantam tourney in Hamilton.

Sports

Walter Heeney, Darryl Oudney and Donna Roesbuck of St. Catharines won the men's tournament division with a 3103. Robert Triline, his son Ryan and Laurie Chinick of Chatham had a 2906 total that placed first in the men's teaching division. Winning trophies for Georgetown in this division were bantam bowlers Stephanie Cox and Wayne Richardson who were bowling with George Archibald. Their total of 2844 was ninth.

The following are the results of last week's master bantam tournament held at Sherwood Lanes in Hamilton. There were 288 master bowlers and 596 bantam bowlers participating. In the ladies tournament division Marg Bratkin, Colin Hicks and Terrie Bratkin of Georgetown placed first with a 2201 total. In the ladies teaching division it was a Toronto team of Florence Blanchard, Richard Milson and Mary Lou McGregor who were the winners with 2909.

Old man winter is back again, some people like it and some don't. Those that don't after a short time get to like it, especially when they realize that our country with its changeable seasons is better than other spots on the earth where hurricanes, tidal waves, earthquakes etc. can cause havoc and human suffering.

Besides, winter is a season for various sports, such as skiing, skating, snowmobiling (there are a million machines now of about 50 different makes). Then again there is the winter fishing. That's where the snow machine really comes in for a good use. It really would have been a treat to me and my friends to have had one several years ago when we fished Lake Simcoe so much. But then again we had the adventure of fishing the rugged way.

HUNTING SUCCESS Ian Armstrong, Lyle Armstrong, Harold Bennett of Georgetown enjoyed a week's hunting in the Bancroft area. Also in the party was Ian and Lyle's father Harold Armstrong of Bancroft. The names of the other hunters in the party are not available. Five deer were accounted for including one buck of approximately 200 lbs. and a doe of about the same weight. Other deer were reported seen.

Lorne Gaudley of Georgetown accounted for a huge buck while hunting in Eastern Ontario also. A little northeast of Huntsville at Sprucevale, the Burns family and other members of the party accounted for eight nice white tailed most of them bucks including one big one.

Charlie Gibbs of Georgetown was hunting with a party in same area and they also accounted for several good ones. NATURE TRAILERS Clean equipment pays.—Some campers think that it's the mark of the real outdoorsman to have well

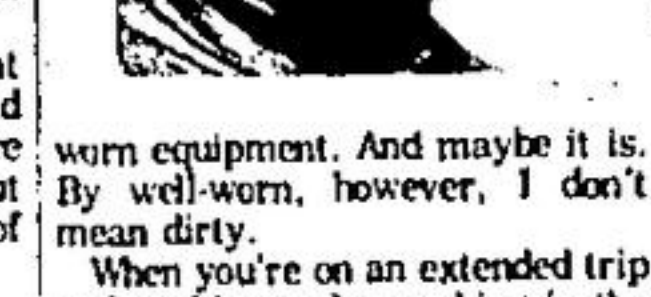
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Remaining Games in Tyke Hockey Schedule

DECEMBER 3rd 5:00 p.m. - Los Angeles vs St. Louis. 5:35 p.m. - Minnesota vs Pittsburgh. 6:10 p.m. - Detroit vs Boston. 6:45 p.m. - Chicago vs Montreal. 7:20 p.m. - Toronto vs New York. DECEMBER 10th 5:00 p.m. - Los Angeles vs Pittsburgh. 5:35 p.m. - Pittsburgh vs St. Louis. 6:10 p.m. - Toronto vs Montreal. 6:45 p.m. - Detroit vs New York. 7:20 p.m. - Chicago vs Boston. DECEMBER 17th 5:00 p.m. - Los Angeles vs Pittsburgh. 5:35 p.m. - St. Louis vs Pittsburgh. 6:10 p.m. - New York vs Montreal. 6:45 p.m. - Boston vs Toronto. 7:20 p.m. - Chicago vs Detroit. DECEMBER 24th 5:00 p.m. - Los Angeles vs Pittsburgh. 5:35 p.m. - Minnesota vs St. Louis. 6:10 p.m. - Detroit vs Chicago. 6:45 p.m. - Toronto vs Boston. 7:20 p.m. - Montreal vs New York. JANUARY 7th 5:00 p.m. - Pittsburgh vs Los Angeles. 5:35 p.m. - Minnesota vs St. Louis. 6:10 p.m. - New York vs Toronto. 6:45 p.m. - Montreal vs Chicago. 7:20 p.m. - Boston vs Detroit. JANUARY 14th 5:00 p.m. - Pittsburgh vs Minnesota. 5:35 p.m. - Los Angeles vs St. Louis. 6:10 p.m. - New York vs Boston. 6:45 p.m. - Toronto vs Chicago. 7:20 p.m. - Detroit vs Montreal. JANUARY 21st 5:00 p.m. - Pittsburgh vs St. Louis. 5:35 p.m. - Minnesota vs Los Angeles. 6:10 p.m. - New York vs Toronto. 6:45 p.m. - Montreal vs Chicago. 7:20 p.m. - Boston vs Detroit. JANUARY 28th 5:00 p.m. - Pittsburgh vs St. Louis. 5:35 p.m. - Minnesota vs Los Angeles. 6:10 p.m. - Montreal vs St. Louis. 6:45 p.m. - Chicago vs Toronto. 7:20 p.m. - Boston vs New York. FEBRUARY 11th 5:00 p.m. - Los Angeles vs Minnesota. 5:35 p.m. - St. Louis vs Pittsburgh. 6:10 p.m. - New York vs Montreal. 6:45 p.m. - Boston vs Toronto. 7:20 p.m. - Chicago vs Detroit. FEBRUARY 18th 5:00 p.m. - Los Angeles vs Pittsburgh. 5:35 p.m. - Minnesota vs St. Louis. 6:10 p.m. - Montreal vs St. Louis. 6:45 p.m. - Chicago vs Toronto. 7:20 p.m. - Boston vs New York. FEBRUARY 25th 5:00 p.m. - Pittsburgh vs Los Angeles. 5:35 p.m. - Minnesota vs St. Louis. 6:10 p.m. - Detroit vs Boston. 6:45 p.m. - Chicago vs Montreal. 7:20 p.m. - Toronto vs New York. MARCH 4th 5:00 p.m. - Los Angeles vs Minnesota. 5:35 p.m. - Pittsburgh vs St. Louis. 6:10 p.m. - Montreal vs St. Louis. 6:45 p.m. - Detroit vs New York. 7:20 p.m. - Boston vs Chicago. MARCH 11th 5:00 p.m. - Pittsburgh vs St. Louis. 5:35 p.m. - Minnesota vs St. Louis. 6:10 p.m. - Montreal vs St. Louis. 6:45 p.m. - Chicago vs Toronto. 7:20 p.m. - Boston vs New York.

Name Officers at 4-H Snowmobile Meeting

The first meeting of the Halton 4-H Snowmobile Club was held at County Mart, Acton on Wednesday, November 24th. Russell Murray of the John Deere Equipment welcomed the 20 members. Two films were shown—"John Deere Country" and one on testing John Deere machines to prove their strength and look for improvements where possible. CHECK Mr. Murray demonstrated track alignment and tension, pointing out the parts of the machine which should be checked often for wear. He cautioned to be sure of an adequate gas supply and to avoid burned belts by being certain the machine is not frozen to the ground. A check each time before using will keep the snowmobile in good running order for safety and pleasure. Paul Stewart on behalf of the club thanked the hosts Mr. and Mrs. Fred Newman and leaders Russell Murray, Bill Wilson and Keith Ella. OFFICERS The following are the officers for the club: President, Paul Stewart; Vice-President, John Nixon; Secretary, Valerie Ella; Treasurer, Jane Nixon; Press Reporter, Cecil Patterson. Mr. and Mrs. Newman treated the members to coffee and cookies. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 8th at Shell Service, Norval when the Ski-Doo Snowmobile will be demonstrated.



When you're on an extended trip and packing and unpacking in the dark or semi-darkness it is impossible to keep everything in tip-top shape, do have a clean-up session as soon as you return home. Camp stoves, lanterns, pots and pans, sleeping bags and in fact all the basic camping gear can become pretty dirty in a very short time. I have made the mistake of stowing some items away for the winter and then discovered in the following spring that the caked-on grease, dirt and mosquitoes are twice as hard to remove. Nobody really enjoys K.P. chores but you're just adding to the job if you wait.

AFLY TO TIE The green despair fly is a good one to tie this winter. The dressing is as follows: hook sizes, 10 - 8 and 6 short shank limerick. Tail, wooden duck or mandarin, body green seals fur (spun). Fine gold ribbing, wing, special partridge feathers laid flat over back, legs made of segments from long tail feathers of ring-neck pheasants, hackle Plymouth Rock hen, neck feather to suit hook size.

This is all for this week, So - tight lines, enjoy the outdoors and safe journey.

5:35 p.m. - Minnesota vs Los Angeles. 6:10 p.m. - Toronto vs Detroit. 6:45 p.m. - Montreal vs Boston. 7:20 p.m. - New York vs Chicago. MARCH 18th 5:00 p.m. - Minnesota vs St. Louis. 5:35 p.m. - Los Angeles vs Pittsburgh. 6:10 p.m. - Detroit vs Chicago. 6:45 p.m. - Toronto vs Boston. 7:20 p.m. - Montreal vs New York. On the dates of January 28th, 1972 and March 18th 1972, part or all of the schedule may be changed or cancelled.



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