



Alpine skiing

Glen Eden regroupes after mild beginning

By DAN RALPH
Herald Sports Editor

While many were cursing the return of winter to Halton Hills, people at the Glen Eden Ski Resort couldn't have been any happier.

Unusually warm weather conditions limited the amount of time the resort could be open, and having the warm spell around the Christmas holiday dampened what is normally a busy period. But now that the temperatures have returned to the seasonal norm, resort officials are confident they can get back all of the financial losses they incurred due to the warm weather.

"It's a bonus if we get snow," she said. "We can do much of it with man-made snow, but we can't start until the temperature is down to 4 degrees Celsius at least."

"I would expect everything to be open within a week, providing it stays cold," she said.

Traditionally the ski resort does not open for business until the middle of December, but this year Glen Eden opened the second weekend in December, but did close down until just three days leading up to Christmas. The facility did not open again until Jan. 3.

However, a saving grace for Glen Eden is that many schools will not open for class until this week, so the extended holiday allowed many more patrons to ski, and thus gave Glen Eden a chance at recouping their Christmas loss.

Currently Glen Eden is offering reduced ski rates until six of their hills will be operational. Upon that time the full rates will come in affect.

Normal weekday rates for skiing are adults \$12.50 a day and juniors \$9.50 per day. Evening skiing for adults is

\$12.50 and \$8.50 for juniors.

Weekend rates for adults is \$15.50 per day while being \$11 for juniors.

Regular hours are 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. during the week while on weekends the resort opens at 9:30 a.m. and goes to 4:40 p.m. Night skiing is held six days a week, with Sunday being the only time when it is not offered. The evening skiing begins at 6:30 p.m. and runs to 10 p.m.

Ski rentals are also offered for those without their own equipment.

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Continued from page B1

"I'm from Toronto, and the difference between Milton, Georgetown and Toronto is astounding...like the lady next door brought us cookies, and people are really trying to help us out," he said.

Director of residential services for the homes, Jaki Martin said it's been the trend historically to have homes for the mentally retarded out in the country. That has changed so that the mentally retarded are being integrated more and more in the community, she said.

"We're not that new to the Georgetown area. Most people have seen us out and about before," she said.

The sale of Countryside Residence brought the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded \$229,000.

That money, plus capital funds the Association has been building up slowly through contributions, paid for the two new homes.

It also paid for the renovations required by the 1905 home on Mill Street and the 1890 home on Market Street.

Mr. Williams said wiring and plumbing in the homes had to be improved and painting and cleaning undertaken.

"It significantly depletes our capital funds," he said, expressing hope nothing goes wrong for a long while.

The snowfall Monday is helping the cross country trails and alpine ski hills get back into shape. However, Glen Eden ski resort in Milton had a large crowd of skiers over the weekend, despite the limited snow conditions.

Cross country

Ski trails need a snowy blanket

If you are a cross-country skier, the present outlook is not a good one.

Icy conditions and a lack of snow have resulted in very poor cross-country trails. In fact a couple of ski locations have not yet opened for business because of the subpar trail conditions.

Terra Cotta Conservation Area and Rattle Snake Point have yet to open their trails to skiing enthusiasts, and for Al Leach, the superintendent of field operations for Terra Cotta skiing won't start until new snow arrives.

"We haven't had a day of skiing yet," he said. "There just isn't any snow, and the situation is too icy."

"If we don't have any snow by Feb. 1, there is a good chance of substantial portion of our programs will be lost. Right now there is no skiing allowed due to the insufficient snow base," he said.

Leach said it is too early to draw up estimates of lost revenue.

"We haven't spent any money for staff time, but we haven't made any money either."

Rattle Snake Point manager Ron Kindt also said ski conditions are less than ideal at his facility.

"The trails are marked, and we have a base, but if we got three or four inches of snow we wouldn't groom the trails, rather we would just pack it down."

Kindt said there is no skiing going on now, but added some people are still biking out at Rattle Snake Point. He could not determine if any money has been lost.

"We never make what we spend," he said, "but we do try to recover 50 per cent of what we spend. If we can't then we begin to look at places to cut."

Kindt is also the superintendent for Hilton Falls, and said most of the people coming there are taking part in hiking activities. He said half of the Hilton revenue comes from cross country skiing.

"If we get some snow and have reasonable weekends where the people come out, I think we can make it up. But we need the snow and must have the people coming out," he said.

Kindt said Hilton Falls was going to offer lessons to school groups in conjunction with Glen Eden. He said when the season ends, and examination of the lessons shows it did not work, officials will try it again next year, and blame this year's weather conditions for the failure.

Mountsberg Wildlife Centre planned to open this weekend, and staff member Heidi Kuschnik told The Herald another snow fall would remedy what is a very slippery problem.

"We're waiting on Mother Nature right now," she said.

"But even if skiing is not offered, there are still other activities going on at the Centre. Kuschnik said patrons can ride a horse-drawn sleigh, skate on skating ponds, hike and snowshoe. She did say though snowshoeing will be curtailed until snow arrives.

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By KAY WILSON
Herald Correspondent
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Lunch committee members were Lilliane Sharpley, Elizabeth McMenemy and Florie Alcott.

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