

Nosedive is latest challenge at Hockley

By STEFFANI LOVIE
Banner Staff Writer

Skiing in Orangeville is taking a nosedive.

At least, that's what co-ordinators at the Hockley Valley Resort are hoping for.

Ski Manager Brian Donato said Nosedive is the name of the resort's newest ski-run.

"It's a double-diamond run - so it's just a bit more difficult than a diamond run," Mr. Donato said. "It's so steep we can't even groom it - we just blow snow across it."

The Nosedive is geared to the expert's abilities, but the resort also offers challenges for the less-advanced skier.

"We have 12 runs, that should satisfy everyone from beginners right up to experts," he said. "We also have five racing teams for kids as young as six."

Mr. Donato said the resort has added a category for an adult race team this year.

Ski season kicks off mid-December and goes until the third week in March — weather

permitting.

The resort's pro-shop also provides rental equipment for the first-time or less-dedicated skier.

"We have all the hardware," Mr. Donato said. "We can outfit as many as 400 people with skis, poles and boots — the only thing we don't have is clothes."

An adult can enjoy a day on the slopes for \$25 — budget for and extra \$15 if you're renting a complete outfit.

"It's really not an expensive way to spend a day," Mr. Donato said.

The economics of whizzing down the slopes for a day may partially account for the sport's popularity, he said.

"Once ski season gets going, we usually have about 400 kids on the weekend, and about 150 school kids during the week," he said.

The resort's lounge and live entertainment is just the thing for tuckered-out ski-bunnies.

"We have a dining room, lounge, licenced cafeteria and by Christmas, we'll have a bistro," he said. "With the completion of the expansion that's going on right now, we'll have 104 rooms for weekend guests."

Museum holds heritage

Dufferin County's history is preserved at the county museum.

Located in temporary quarters on Zina Street in Orangeville, next to the county court house, the museum is in the midst of a gathering artifacts for a new, much larger building.

Despite its small space, the museum tries to accommodate researchers with an archive room and research space near the front entrance.

Researchers can draw on a variety of information from family histories, unpublished and published histories, photographs and other archive material, and artifacts.

The museum is also trying to store artifacts properly, despite a lack of modern museum technology at its

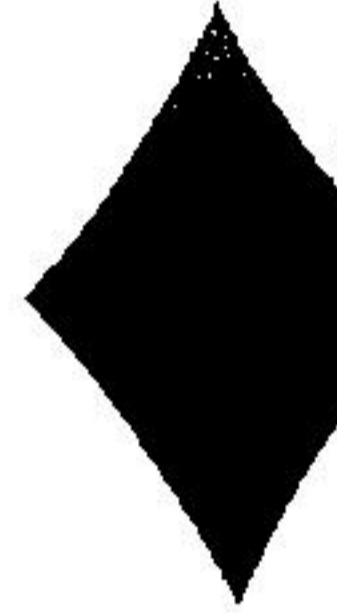
present location. The new museum will have climate-controlled storage areas to ensure that documents, photos and artifacts are preserved.

The new museum is going to feature three old buildings, completely enclosed, as well as a variety of permanent and rotating exhibits.

Always looking for artifacts, the museum will accept anything with historical significance — the piece, document or photograph has to be part of the history of Dufferin County, not just a family treasure or something old.

Donations are credited to the donor, and artifacts are cleaned and treated to stop decay, but not necessarily restored to an as-new condition.

NOSEDIVE



Going downhill this winter

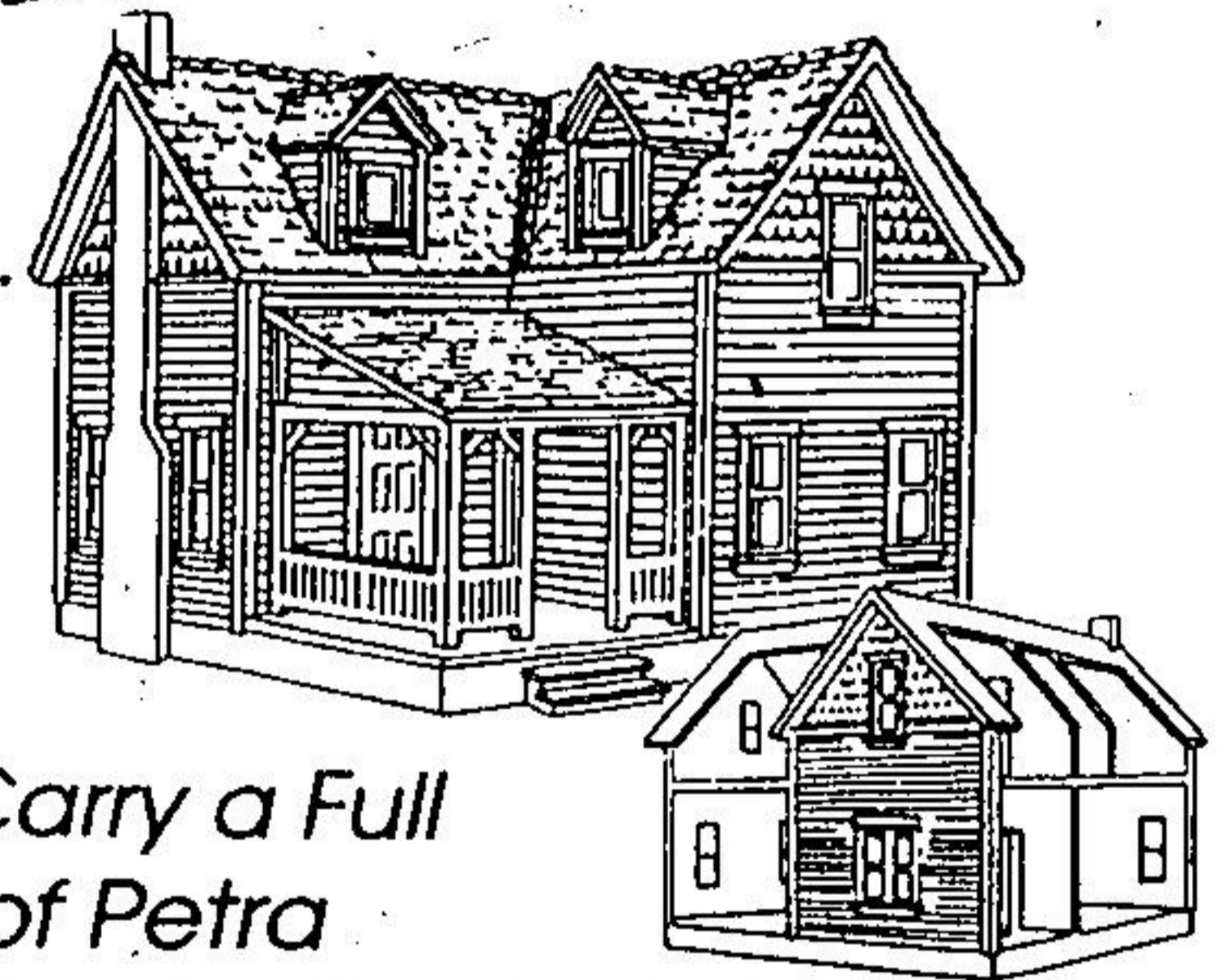
Brian Donato, ski manager at the Hockley Valley Resort, gets psyched for a run down the Nosedive. The double diamond slope is the resort's newest run and will challenge even the most experienced skier. The run is so steep it can't be groomed, but only layered with snow. But you don't have to be an expert to ski at the resort, as a variety of runs cater to every level of expertise.

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Published by the Orangeville Banner
37 Mill St. Orangeville L9W 2M4
Phone 1-519-941-1350 Fax 941-9600

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