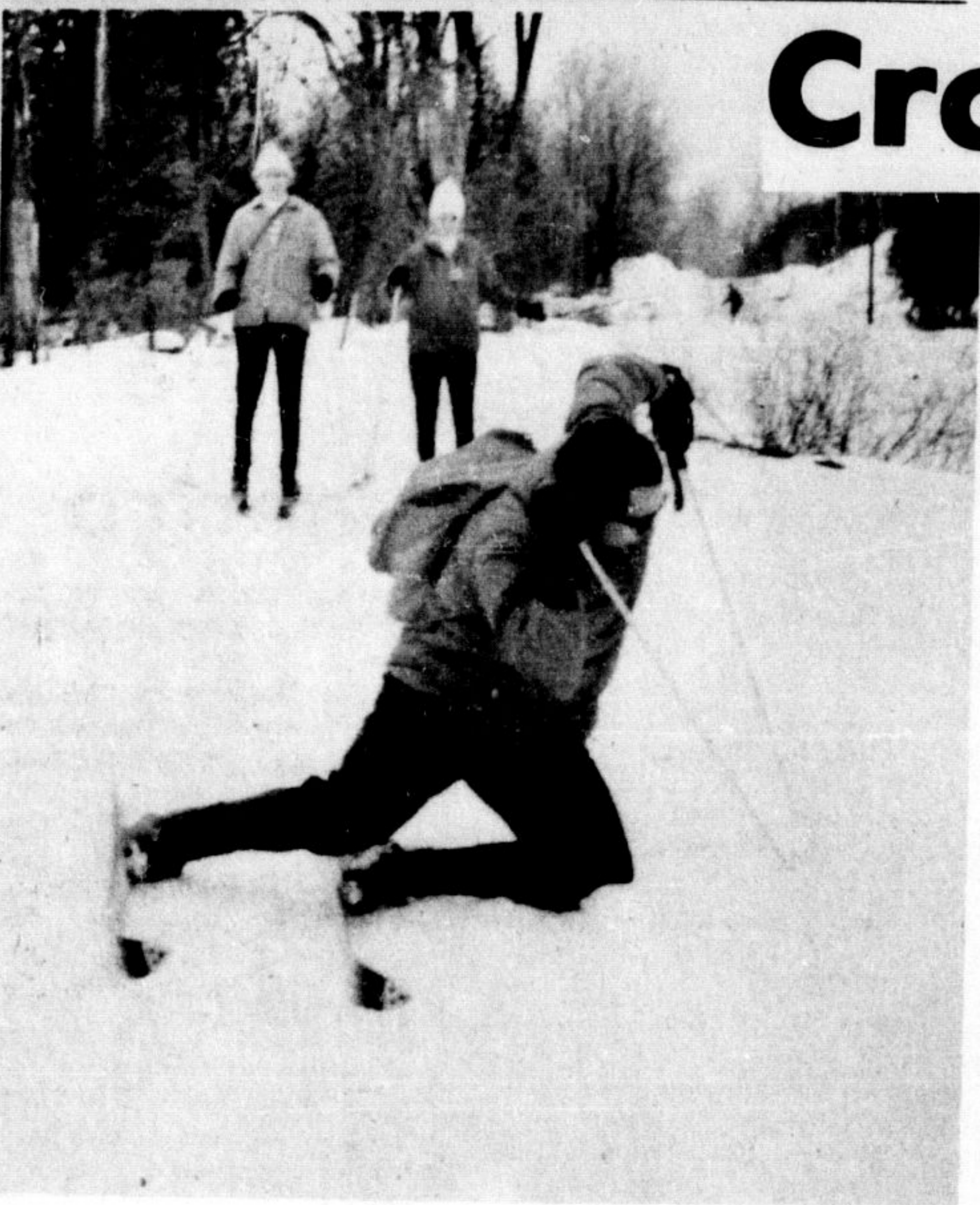


Cross country skiers tour Speyside trails



WHOOPS! IT WAS RATHER ICY

By Roy Downs

Although the snow wasn't the best for that type of sport, 11 stalwarts from the Bruce Trail Club enjoyed an all-day cross country ski hike in the Speyside area of Nassagaweya Township on a recent Sunday.

Mike Foley of the Toronto BTC organized the five mile hike that followed the Bruce Trail, township roads and Halton County forest areas. Foley said Halton has some of the best terrain for cross country skiing in Ontario.

Poor surface

The group met at the Fifth Line intersection on 15 Sideroad and walked nearly a mile south on the Fifth Line to a dead end, then donned their special skis and took off into the bush. Foley said the touchy weather conditions probably kept many skiing addicts at home that day. Most cross country skiers are out every weekend but Saturday's thaw and Sunday's cold left the snow hard and crusted. It was more like skating than skiing as the narrow skis went gliding over the hard surface.

The group skied down the Fifth Line road allowance to the Robertson forest tract, following a trail through the bush to the Sixth Line. Then they toured the Cox Tract and stopped for lunch at a new shelter the club has built near the Town Line. Some quit there but three of the men, Dave Bell, Adam Zakrzewski and Fred Turner continued on down the First Line Esqueing to 10 Sideroad, following the Bruce Trail to the Sixth Line and onto the side trail to Hilton Falls, before returning to their cars at the Fifth Line.

"It was a very invigorating, interesting, enjoyable and strenuous trip," said Mr. Turner.

Cross country skiing, the hikers explained, differs from downhill skiing in many ways. All the skiers on Sunday's jaunt were diehard cross country skiers, most of them former downhill skiers who have opted for the flat terrain. One man said he had been skiing for 20 years but wouldn't go back to downhill skiing again. "Downhill skiing has degenerated into waiting in a queue," he proclaimed. "You ski down for 10 seconds and then get in line to go back up the hill. Cross country skiing is more like hiking, you're busy all the time."

Great on trail

Several of the skiers out Sunday said they go skiing every weekend. They don't have far to drive because many areas in southern Ontario provide good cross country skiing — especially on or near the Bruce Trail.

Enthusiasts also point out cross country skiing is less expensive than downhill skiing. You don't need special clothes and the skis, boots, harness and poles don't have to be as fancy for cross country skiing as they are for downhill types.

And there are no membership fees, admission charges or tow fees when you're doing the cross country route, they add.



ALL SET ? LET'S TAKE OFF THROUGH THE BUSH

Move to co-ordinate education services

One person will be in charge of co-ordination of continuing education at the Halton County Board of Education. Superintendent of Instruction Orié Gilmore told the board recently there was a need for a person who could co-ordinate day school, night school and summer school programs.

The man will be responsible for developing the changing concept of summer school and providing liaison with other educational agencies in the community.

Summer school

The co-ordinator would develop and be responsible for distribution of registration forms and summer school brochures. He would be responsible for staffing the summer school or schools as well as being principal

of one school and co-ordinating others.

He would be expected to show leadership in the night school field, publicize courses and establish registration procedures. The board proposes to achieve this without hiring additional persons or bringing additional costs to the board but shifting manpower.



THEY'RE OFF THROUGH A WINTER WONDERLAND

(Staff Photos)

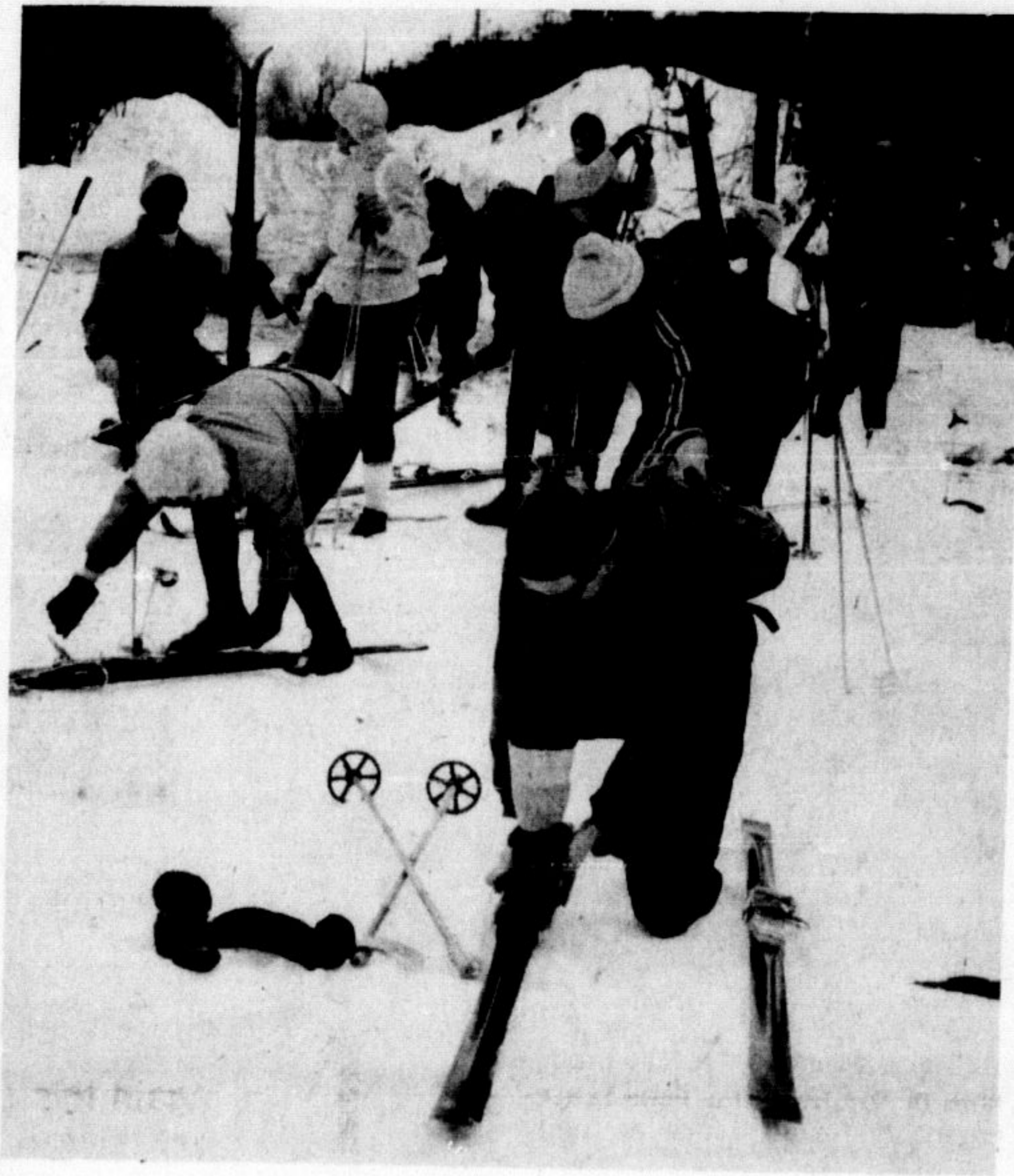
Plan trial story hours at library

Twenty-seven children have already registered for the story hours to be held at Milton Public Library beginning March 31. "We expect more children to register as soon as the program gets underway," said librarian Mrs. Jo Johnston.

The story hours will be held in two separate sessions, one commencing at 1.30 and the other at 2.30 p.m. Children under five years of age are welcome to attend.

Mrs. Anne Andersen, former head of the boys' and girls' department at Burlington Public Library, will conduct the one hour sessions, teaching the children to listen to each story as well as actively become involved in them.

Sessions are planned to run from March through June on a trial basis.



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