



Cross-country skiing has become part of physical education courses. This group of students were at Mountsberg last week for some outdoor exercise. (Staff photo by Jon Borgstrom)

Milton is a cross-country haven

A few years ago, cross-country skiers were a rare breed. But today their ranks have grown to proportions sure to secure the continuation of the species.

Accompanying the surge toward this brand of skiing is increased utilization of lands designated by the Ministry of Natural Resources as Agreement Forests. In Milton alone there are nine such government-owned tracts ideal for the cross-country skier.

Halton Region Conservation Authority has done its part in this area as well, providing several alternatives for cross-country enthusiasts. Although local trails present little challenge for seasoned skiers, they offer the tranquility and beauty of nature in its winter state.

Many rural residents have the distinct advantage of a cross-country paradise right outside their doors. This type of convenience is one of the reasons cross-country skiing has caught on and won't let go.

A great view of the area with the Niagara Escarpment as the vantage point is available at Rattlesnake Point. A one km "Vista Adventure" trail and a three km "Rabbit's Run" trail provide a scenic route through the HRCA property.

Hilton Falls conservation area offers three trails the longest of which is 9.5 km. The groomed trails take skiers through 1,270 acres of wooded area.

Weekend rates are \$3 per car and \$2.50 weekdays. A warming station, which provides washroom facilities and hot drinks, is open daily from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Two main trails at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre are ideal for beginners. Ski rentals make it possible to experiment with the sport.

Although the HRCA charges for its facilities, trails are groomed and are restricted to skiers. Agreement Forests don't offer such control and no admission fees are charged.

A network of paths wind through almost an entire concession taking in the Currie, Robertson, Britton, Turner and Mahon tracks. These areas are bounded by No. 5 Sideroad, No. 10 Sideroad, Guelph Line and Sixth Line.

The best point of entry is at the Currie track. Located across from Mohawk Raceway Gate 4, plenty of parking is made available free of charge by the track. A lack of parking facilities can be a problem at other Agreement Forests in the area, although road shoulders can be used.

Just west of Campbellville is the Snyder track situated on the south side of Campbellville Sideroad past the first set of railway tracks.

The Cox track is another alternative located north of town on Sixth Line across from Sheridan Heavy Equipment School. The Finney track is farther north on the same road.

Another option is the Elliott track which can be found west of Haltonville on No. 15 Sideroad.

At many of these ungroomed trails, skiers have broken their own paths through the woods.

For current information concerning snow conditions call Halton Region Conservation Authority at 878-4131.

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