

## Hut-to-hut popular

# Algonquin catches skiers' eyes

by Tony Sloan

Ontario's huge Algonquin Park, already internationally famous among hikers, canoeists, nature photographers and campers in summer, has now captured the appreciative eye of cross-country skiers in wintertime.

The recent introduction of hut-to-hut skiing in the park has aroused keen interest among nordic skiers seeking a new experience in Canada. The heated huts allow the full enjoyment of a winter wilderness at an easy pace with food, comfort and a deep woods scene at day's end.

The three principals who conceived the program are Robin Hughes, a nearby Haliburton native who is a geotechnical expert with Ontario Hydro; Bill Moore, who has done geological exploration in northern British Columbia and Saskatchewan and is currently associated with an environmental engineering firm; and Neil Downer, a geologist who, like his two conferees, has years of experience in year-round travel and association with Canada's wilderness country.

Together, they are the mentors and motivators of Algonquin Nordic Ski Touring.

In addition to providing professional instruction and guide services, Algonquin Nordic maintains 85 km of groomed trails in the southerly end of the park. Five camps are located a leisurely day's skiing apart of ap-



proximately 15 km (10 miles).

Groups are limited to from six to eight skiers per guide and have a choice of from two- to seven-day cross-country tours with three hot meal intervals per day.

Fresh food cooked on the trail or on the camp stoves constitutes the daily fare for the winter ravenous skiers. Food and supplies are transported to the hut tents ahead of time so

skiers carry their personal gear only, allowing light and easy travel.

Tours to choose from start with the introductory "Weekender" which includes two days skiing with guiding and instruction, two nights accommodation and six meals at \$96 per skier.

The "Weekend at Camp Base" is ideal for families with small children. Starting at

Saturday noon, it consists of overnight accommodation, five meals and unguided use of the adjacent trails.

A typical five-to seven-day tour starts with the first and ends with the last night spent in the Algonquin Nordic Ski Lodge located in the extreme southeast corner of the park. Skiing from hut to hut occupies the mid-week interval.

The hut camps consist

of one insulated wall tent equipped with stove, wood floor, and cots with foam pads for sleeping. A separate tent houses the cooking and dining facilities.

A variety of instructional courses are also available for those wishing to obtain professional level skills in cross-country skiing and tour leader techniques.

Detailed information and booking can be

obtained by contacting Algonquin Nordic Ski Touring, 40 Dixington Crescent, Suite 404, Weston, Ontario M9P 2K8 or telephone (416) 248-6325.

Lodge-to-lodge skiing is traditional in Norway and was successfully introduced in Vermont, U.S.A., several years ago.

The Temagami area resorts—White Gables Lodge, Ravenscroft Lodge and O-Pee-Chee

Lake Lodge are the day-to-day ski destinations here.

Luggage is transported between the lodges by van, allowing the skiers a complete change of scene, not to mention clothing, while carrying a minimal trail pack during the day.

Details may be obtained by contacting Lodge-to-Lodge Skiing, Box 21, Temagami, Ontario P0H 2H0 or by calling (705) 559-3755.



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