

Campground under construction

by CAROL DIMOCK
Construction of a
campground and
recreation complex in

Lafontaine is well under
way, with the help of
government funds
totalling \$228,000

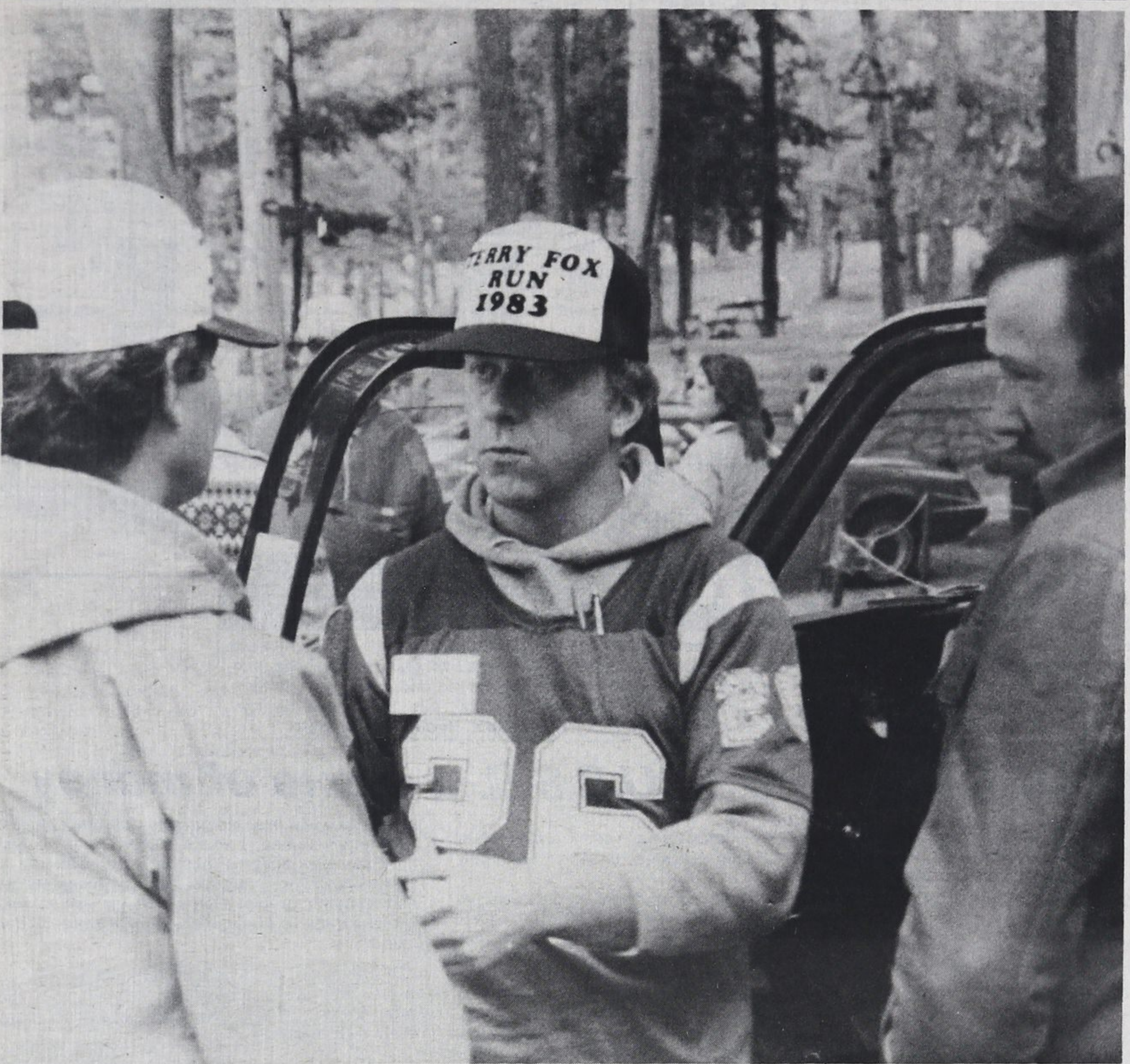
granted to Lafontaine
en Action.
Lafontaine en Action,
a non-profit

organization formed
five years ago to
provide recreation
facilities for Lafontaine

and district, had from
the start a long-range
plan to develop cam-
pgrounds, playing fields

and other facilities in
addition to operating
cross-country ski trails.

where they are, perhaps
altered slightly to ac-
commodate construction,



A man of many hats

Const. Bob Skeaff of Penetanguishene police force is a fellow who literally wears many hats. Sunday afternoon he wore his official Terry Fox Run 1983 cap as

organizer of this year's run here in North Simcoe. The event started and ended at Little Lake Park in Midland. The 10 km run attracted a total of 48 runners. Hats off

to Bob for spear-heading this local Marathon of Hope Run.

—Special photo

In the news

The Simcoe County Federation is making plans to celebrate Agri-Food Week, Oct. 3 to Oct. 10.

The Warden of Simcoe County and the Mayors of Barrie and Orillia have been asked to proclaim Agri Food Week in their respective municipalities.

In preparation of Agri-Food Week, The Federation is sponsoring three Farm Tours for the News Media on Wednesday, Sept. 28 in the following areas: Midland, Coldwater, Orillia, Barrie and Bradford.



Emergency planning

Art Stewart, Simcoe County's warden, and John Moreau, Port McNicoll's reeve, were among elected officials from across Canada who on Sept. 19 attended in Arnprior a conference conducted by

Emergency Planning Canada. From left are Reeve Moreau, W.B. Robinson of Cameron, Ont., Warden Stewart, and W.G. Radlein, an instructor.

Federal and Ontario governments will each contribute \$114,000 to help Lafontaine en Action realize its goal, under the Canada Ontario Employment Development, or CO-ED Program. Lafontaine en Action Piste de Ski will contribute an estimated \$50,000 of its own funds toward the project. Funds raised by the facilities will be reinvested in the project, with any surplus used to support other recreation facilities in the village and district.

A tent and trailer campground, with 125 campsites and 25 full served RV or trailer sites, will be built at the ski trails property, on County Road 26 north-east of Lafontaine. The \$224,000 grant covers the cost of planning, engineering and surveying the site, clearing and landscaping, construction of roads, buildings for comfort stations, showers and washrooms, picnic tables and signs; construction of a soccer field, a baseball diamond, and a volleyball court, a swimming pool, the attendant's cabin and administration building, and the installation of water, electricity and sewers in the RC sites.

The project employs four full-time year-round staff members, including a manager, a secretary, and two project foremen, who were hired on August 15. In addition, 10 labourers were hired, one week later to clear brush and do general clean-up work at the campground site, to make logs for construction, as well as do general repairs and painting at the Ski Chalet.

The 10 workmen will be laid off during the winter months, to be recalled to work, if they are still available, when the snow melts—probably in March.

When the project is completed and operating, the campground should provide full-time jobs for four people in summer and at least three in winter, as well as approximately four part-time local employees during the camping season.

For those familiar with the ski trails, the campground will be located on approximately 30 acres, in the area of the Racing and Amateur trails. Those trails will remain

where they are, perhaps altered slightly to accommodate construction, say Lafontaine En Action officials. The present entrance to the ski trails will serve the campground as well, with an emergency exit planned at another location.

A wooded buffer zone will separate the campground from the road, extending up to 300 feet in width at some points.

Tiny Township Council has endorsed Lafontaine en Action's application for an amendment to the official plan and zoning by-law. Final approval is subject to the outcome of a public meeting, for which notice will be given, as provided in the Planning Act.

While all this activity in planning and preparing for the campground goes on, fall preparations for the fast-approaching cross-country ski season continues. Five Katimavik workers are busy doing general trail clean-up and preparation.

Trails are being levelled with a tractor, filling in the low spots which present problems for skiers in winter with little snow, like last year. A new bridge is being constructed across the beaver dam, and other improvements are being carried out which should please the hundreds of skiers who visit the trails each year.

On a good weekend, up to 750 skiers come to Lafontaine en Action, with about 200 a day during the week, including busloads of schoolchildren. Children from schools as far away as Elmvalle can ski free of charge, with ski equipment provided; the only expense to the school is the cost of the bus trip. This free service is provided to schools for the past two winters as part of Lafontaine en Action's commitment to provide recreational facilities to the area, says Victor Moreau, past president of Lafontaine en Action.

"We've been working on this project, both the ski trails and the campground, with the intent of providing employment for local people as well as recreation facilities.

"The Board of Directors was overjoyed on hearing of the grant, knowing it would help us fulfill a good part of our plans," Moreau said.

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