



Looking after people's pets is the easy part of Art Moorecroft's job — it's the owners he finds it difficult to understand. Mr. Moorecroft is People tough, though

**Travel**

**Updating downhill skiing**

By KATHRYN HORLER  
For the upcoming season there is good news and bad news for the downhill skier.

The good news is that up in Barrie they're making a mountain out of a ski hill. The bad news is that rates are expected to increase by a dollar per day.

In the Barrie area 7 resorts are open to the public daily. Snow Valley Resort, 8 km north west on Snow Valley Road off Highway 27, is open Wednesday and Friday nights for flood-lit downhill skiing. Phone (705) 728-9541.

The others are Horseshoe Valley (416) 364-9509, Medonte Mountain (705) 835-2001, Moonstone Ski Resort (416) 368-6900, Pine Ridge Ski Club (705) 835-2014, Molsons (705) 726-6272, and Mount St. Louis (416) 368-6578. All are accessible from Highway 400.

Mount St. Louis is in the process of constructing a mountain that will go 150 metres (500 feet) straight up. This man-made mammoth mound can be seen already against the horizon from Highway 400. It will be ready for the downhill skiers when winter comes.

In the Collingwood area, Georgian Peaks resort is reached by turning west on Highway 26 from Highway 400. Phone (519) 599-2620. Blue Mountain Resort, 10 km west on Blue Mountain Road off Highway 26, will light up the skies this winter with its new \$125,000 lighting system. Literally turning night into day, it is the first major resort in the province to install such a sophisticated system.

Plans are to have night skiing Wednesday through Saturday. High school groups can now use the hills without interfering with their daytime class work. Phone (705) 445-0231.

For more information on local ski resorts there's a new booklet just off the press, Ontario-Canada Winter 1979, that can be obtained by calling 965-4008 or writing Ontario Travel, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2E5.

In it ski areas are listed alphabetically and provide such information as directions, phone number, vertical drop, maximum lengths, lifts and the times the resort is open.

Where to get information on snow conditions is also included and internationally accepted terminology is stressed.

**Good:** Packed natural, man-made or machine-groomed snow on packed base, with no bare spots

on normal runs and less than 10 per cent icy spots on runs.

**Fair:** Machine-groomed, packed base with more than 10 per cent icy spots and less than 10 per cent bare spots or other conditions such as hard packed or wet snow.

**Spring Skiing:** Mild temperatures, corn snow changing conditions from firm to loose, granular snow.

**Limited Skiing:** In conjunction with Good, Fair, Poor this refers to spring skiing where only a limited number of slopes are in use.

**Excellent:** The term excellent has been dropped from reports in deference to simplicity.

Besides the section on downhill skiing the booklet contains a chapter on winter events and attractions in Ontario, a section on cross-country skiing (listed alphabetically by town) and "where to" sections on snowmobiling and ice fishing.

**Naran home recipe plan takes off ugly fat.**

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**Controlling animals easy, manager says**

The Manager for the animal control service soon to be responsible for Richmond Hill, Art Moorecroft, said Kennel Inn "can handle the dogs, but we can't handle the public".

He was referring to the flagrant way people refuse to keep dogs under control, as specified by the bylaw of the town.

Mr. Moorecroft said people don't seem to understand, if even the best trained dog in the world causes an automobile accident, the owner of the animal is responsible for damages.

"People take it personally," he said, when one of the trucks apprehend a dog.

"They'd we're picking on them, but we're just trying to help." Kennel Inn, on Yonge Street in Aurora, was recently awarded the contract to patrol the streets in the towns of Vaughan and Richmond Hill, looking for dogs running loose.

Dogs picked up by Kennel Inn are taken to the shelter where they are held for up to five working days before being put up for "adoption".

Mr. Moorecroft said in the summer months they could accommodate up to 100 dogs and cats in indoor and outdoor runs on the premises, but during the winter the number drops to about 40 animals which can be housed. Monday mornings are

the busiest at Kennel Inn, caused by telephone calls and new residents.

Mr. Moorecroft suspects people come from the city to drop unwanted dogs in the "country" where they feel they will be looked after.

This makes the most common call to Kennel Inn, one for picking up abandoned dogs or at least strays running loose.

Sixty per cent of the animals brought in are without tags.

Owners of dogs with tags can be easily located by calling the municipal office, said Mr. Moorecroft, adding that these embarrassed owners "come up with all the lame excuses in the world" of why their dog was running at large.

About 95 per cent of the dogs with tags are picked up, but only about 60 per cent of dogs without tags are claimed.

Kennel Inn will also supply an emergency service to the two towns as part of the contract.

Usually emergency calls are for dogs hit by cars at night, said the kennel manager, but during the five years of operation they have answered calls to retrieve everything from baby birds without feathers to a bear and a deer.

Most calls about wildlife are for raccoons in the attic or skunks in the garbage.

Right now Kennel Inn serves the municipalities of Aurora, King, Bradford and Whitchurch-Stouffville with experienced drivers in three radio controlled trucks and a staff of three to answer calls, feed, care for and clean the animals as well as do maintenance chores on the buildings and property.

Mr. Moorecroft said with the addition of the two towns he expects to add three more drivers and trucks, and one more kennel person.

He is also hoping to find a veterinary surgeon in Richmond Hill who would be willing to work with animals injured in the area, otherwise hurt animals would have to be transported all the way to Nobleton, the office of the present vet.

Drivers for Kennel Inn take training courses from a vet, the police and representatives from the Department of Veterinary Services in such things as what to do in case of injuries, new diseases, what to watch out for and how they stand with the law which effects animal control.

One of the greatest rewards of the animal control business, said Mr. Moorecroft, is to see an animal and its owner reunited, but he still maintained it would be easier all around if pet owners would learn to keep their pets under control.

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