

There Are Many Slopes At Your Doorstep

Minneapolis Woods Recreation Area, owned by the city of Sault Ste. Marie and operated by the recreation department, is a winter sports area located within the city limits which provides both day and night skiing and skating.

A chalet with picture windows overlooks the two ski slopes which are serviced by a 400-foot rope tow. The area includes a junior jumping slope permitting jumps up to 65 feet. The vertical drop of the ski slopes is 26 feet.

The area is open Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1 to 5 o'clock, and each evening from 7 to 10 o'clock excepting Sundays and Mondays.

Reg Maki, a veteran skier of the Sault and surrounding area and a senior patrolman with the National Ski Patrol, is supervisor of the area this year.

SKIING IN SAULT STE. MARIE dates back to around 1907 with Parker Johnson, an engineer on the Locks, playing a leading role in early ski activity. A few years later, Frank Altonen, a native of Finland, came from the Copper Country, bringing to the Sault some of his fellow countrymen who were all skilled skiers.

Around 1929, Capt. S. R. Tupper, then stationed at Fort Brady, had his troops help Altonen build a ski slide at Brown Hill, now Minneapolis Woods, where a ski jump, double toboggan slide and club house were also built.

Cross country and ski jumping contests were held, as well as toboggan races. Interest in the sports gradually diminished, and the area was closed following theft of the clubhouse. Interest in winter sports shifted to ice skating with the construction of Palmar Stadium.

The Lake Shore Ski Club was organized in 1935, after the original LeSaut Ski Club was disbanded. In 1942 the Lake Shore Club began operating a hill in the Mission Hill area, a short distance from the present Iroquois Mountain near Brimley.

In 1952 the Lake Shore Club requested permission to construct a ski area at Minneapolis Woods. The project of working on a recreation area there was taken over by the Lions Club in 1957.

THE LAKE SHORE Ski Club and personnel from Camp Lucas, Coast Guard, Kincheloe AFB and the 73rd Radar Squadron all offered assistance to the Lions Club, and a chalet, ski tow and ice rink were constructed at the site. The Lions Club later sold its interest to the city, which has continued to operate Minneapolis Woods under its recreation program.

SKI-DO

Follow posted instructions at lifts. Do not "crash" or cut the line. If the line gets so long that it extends across the end of the trail, step to the side and keep out of the way of skiers finishing their runs.

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