

## Ski Slopes Dot Map Of Winter Recreation Area

More than 20 years of local skiing history lie behind efforts of the Sault Winter Sports Council to create a widely-known international Great Lakes winter sports center here.

Among the earliest enthusiasts to recognize the skiing potential of the Sault area was Reginald Maki, who started skiing with elementary equipment on natural slopes in this area before World War II.

At the end of the war Maki found himself stationed with U.S. Army troops in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, the famous German ski resort, and while there took an intensive two-weeks skiing course from a famous German instructor.

**RETURNING HOME.** Maki was one of the 17 charter members of the Lake Shore Ski Club, which was organized here in 1946 and included Edward (Chub) Godin as first president and Otto McCaughan as first secretary.

The group's center of activity was a clubhouse at Monacle Lake, west of Brimley, and their first ski slope was on the same sand ridge that now provides the 400-foot vertical rise of Iroquois Mountain Lodge.

This first slope was partly on Federal property and partly on property owned by Harry Walker. Permission to clear brush for a ski run was obtained from both owners, and the club's first slope was about 100 feet long with a 200-foot vertical rise and a portable rope tow.

The club remained in operation at Monacle Lake for two years and then moved the rope tow to a hill nearer town, in the area of the old Cadillac-Seo lumber mill in the western outskirts of the city.

Maki and his group then helped the Sault Lions Club build the Minneapolis Woods ski hill in the city in 1952, which has been operated as a community facility by the city for the past three years.

Maki introduced Dr. H. R. Allett to the tremendous potential of the Iroquois Mountain slopes back in 1953, and not long thereafter, in January of 1959, Iroquois Mountain Lodge opened on the highest part of the ridge.

Maki and Ray Knaus, president of the Lake Shore Ski Club at the time, organized the first Lake Shore Ski Patrol in 1959 and patrolled the Iroquois slopes on a voluntary basis for the new ski resort there.

Simultaneously with these developments on the Michigan side, skiing also was following almost the same pattern of growth on the Canadian side of the river.

**THE FIRST** ski hill built in the Ontario Sault area was Landslide Hill, seven miles north of the Sault in Hiawatha Park on the Garden River Road. Landslide now has grown to a 2,000-foot slope with a vertical rise of 300 feet serviced by a T-bar lift.

Since then other hills have been built in the Ontario Sault area, including the big Searchmont Valley Ski Hill, 30 miles north of the Sault, opened in 1960, and Buttermilk Hill, 12 miles north, opened in 1961-62.

With these rapid developments representing close to \$1,000,000 in skiing facilities, a group of U.S. and Canadian businessmen decided last year that there was a valuable winter asset for the two communities that needed some development.



Guide To Area Ski Slopes

With these facilities already available, the next step needed to help make the two Saults known as a hub of international Great Lakes winter sports, they decided, was a central organization which could coordinate winter sports programs, promotion and advertising for the entire area.

It was from this history and with this concept of an area coordinating organization that the Sault Winter Sports Council was brought into being last fall under the auspices of the Sault Chamber of Commerce.

As formally organized, the council now consists of Dr. H. R. Allett and Lee Stevens as co-chairmen; Roy Warren, treasurer; Donald Wienecke, Stewart T. Moran, Robert Champion, Mrs. Stanley Pratt, Cecil McNamara, Perry Pingatore, and Richard Taracks as Sault members; Lt. Col. Donald Krasie, of Kincheloe Air Force Base, Mrs. Barbara Treffy of Cedarville, Ira Carpenter of Iroquois Mountain Lodge, and Woodie Jarvis of DeTour, secretary, as area members; and Dr. George Green of Sault, Ontario, as the Canadian coordinator.

In a statement of policy issued shortly after organization, the council pointed out the assets of the two Saults area as a winter sports center and laid down a four-point program of aims.

As assets, the council listed an average annual snowfall in the area in excess of ten feet; development of at least eight ski areas within a 30-mile radius of the Saults as well as other winter sports such as ice skating, hockey, curling, snowmobile touring, coyote hunting and ice fishing; extensive lodging and dining facilities; a wide variety of after-ski entertainment to be found in the two Saults, which have a combined population of 50,000 persons; and the unique position of the two Saults as the only international ski area to be found in the northern Great Lakes country.

The four-point program listed these objectives: To advertise the winter sports assets of the two Saults; to create attractive ski packages for midwestern skiers; to seek support of the business and professional community of the two Saults in the winter sports program; and to create a winter sports consciousness among the two business communities.

**DEVELOPMENT** and promotion of these eight ski hills in the Sault area forms the broad platform upon which future activities of the Sault Winter Sports Council will be based.

**U. S. Hills**  
**IROQUOIS MOUNTAIN LODGE**, 26 miles west of the Sault, which has a 400-foot vertical drop divided into eight runs extending to 2,000 feet, with an 1,800-foot double chair lift and two rope tows.

**MINNEAPOLIS WOODS** in the Sault, which has recreational skiing for beginners and children on a 300-foot slope with a junior jump area 65 feet in height, and a skating rink. The ski area is lighted for night skiing four nights a week.

**MITU-SAULT BRANCH HILL**, a newly developed recreational and scholastic training ski area with a 300-foot rope tow on the campus overlooking the International Bridge approach.

**LES CHENEUX SKI HILL** in the Cedarville area with an

45-foot rise and a 350-foot slope serviced by a rope tow for beginners and youngsters, originally built in 1963 by the Les Cheneux Lions Club and now operated by the non-profit Les Cheneux Ski Club.

**DUMES LAKE HILL**, at Kincheloe Air Force Base.

**SEARCHMONT VALLEY SKI HILL**, 30 miles north of the Ontario Sault, with 600 feet of vertical rise and eight runs and slopes ranging to 6,000 feet, with a 2,400-foot pom-a-lift for the main slopes and an 800-foot J-bar for the beginner's slope.

**LANDSLIDE SKI HILL**, seven miles north of the Sault in Hiawatha Park of the Garden River Road with a 300-foot vertical rise

and 2,000-foot slope with T-bar lift.  
**BUTTERMILK SKI HILL**, 18 miles north of the Sault with a 1,200-foot lift and 800-foot slope for family type recreational skiing.

**SKI-DO**  
Observe right-of-way rules. When starting down, be sure to look back up the slope to avoid moving out in front of the skiers above you. The lower skier has the right of way after both are moving, but should be careful not to cut across the path of those behind him. An uphill skier who is going to pass should call out, "on your left" or "on your right!"

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