

THE WINNIPEG SUN Friday, November 24, 1989 29

Surf the Slopes



t-bars, a rope tow and a lift. Accommodations can be found in Minnedosa eight km north of the hills.

The Big Friendly Ski Club in Virden will make beginners and pros feel at home. It's located in the Assiniboine Valley of the Trans-Canada, about six kms north of Virden. The ski area is open weekends only and the longest run is 700 feet and the vertical height is 230 feet.

Probably the most optimistic among Manitoba's ski-hill owners are Bob and

Peter Sudermann. The two brothers purchased Springhill park in September from the provincial government.

Although the ski resort had losses of up to \$50,000 in past years, the Sudermanns believe the money they are investing to improve the facilities will pay off.

"We've been making a lot of snow, so we open this Saturday at 9 a.m.," said Bob Sudermann. "That's the earliest Springhill has ever opened, and we are really working to attract schools and families."

La Riveiere Holiday Mountain Ski Resort can accommodate any level of skier with 10 slopes. With snowmaking machines on hand, they are open from December until March. The slopes have a 300-foot vertical and a 2,500-foot run.

Also within driving distance from the city is the Falcon Lake Ski Resort or Mystery Mountain located outside of Thompson.



Although they aren't the biggest hills in the country, they certainly are adequate to prepare you for the upcoming ski season and provide a weekend away from the city.

Now is the time to get out your skis and start planning to ski Manitoba, and don't forget to tell your friends.

By DAWNA DINGWALL
Sun Staff Writer

"Where's a good place to ski around here?" You've probably had visitors come to Winnipeg and ask you just that question.

Most often the question is avoided or an inaudible answer is mumbled out of embarrassment. It only seems logical in the city dubbed "Winterpeg" there should be more than a few ski hills close by.

And despite the feeling among Winnipeggers that you have to travel to another province or country to race down snowy slopes, Manitoba has a large number of resorts ski fanatics can take a run at.

Admittedly, the rolling plains don't compare to Big Sky or Banff, but a visit to any of Manitoba's resorts is more than worth the trip for any skier.

Riding Mountain National Park is a favorite in summer, but it is a treasure in the winter months as well.

Skiers can take advantage of the seven runs at beautiful Mount Agassiz which is located near the popular Clear Lake resort area. The resort, located near Elkhorn, features comfortable two and three bedroom chalets with fully equipped kitchens.

Other areas in the eastern part of the province provide opportunities for skiers to take to the slopes.

Ski sites include Swan River, Roblin, the Mark Valley Ski Resort and the Thunder Hill Ski Area.

Stony Mountain Provincial park has four downhill runs and two challenging ski jumps. The slopes have a vertical of 100 feet and the longest run is 600 feet.

Ski buffs in the western part of the province can start waxing their skis, too. At Minnedosa's Ski Valley the vertical height for the slopes is 248 feet and the longest run is 600 feet. Ski Valley has two

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