

Toronto Ski Club – 100th Anniversary

1924 -
2024

October 20, 1924 –

October 20, 2024



Toronto Ski Club



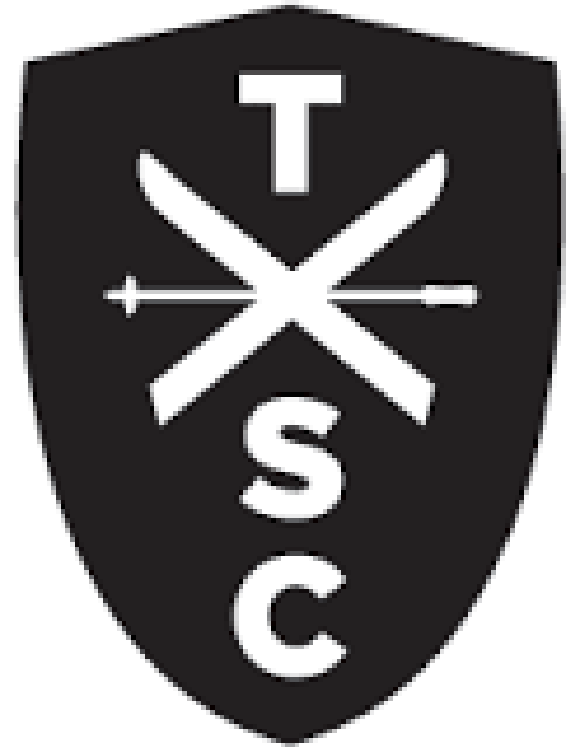
796456 GREY RD 19, Town of the Blue Mountains



Toronto Ski Club – Fun Fact

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- 1908 – The inaugural year of the Toronto Ski Club according to a 1912 Montreal publication “Ski Runner in Canada”





TORONTO
SKI CLUB

Toronto Ski Club - Historical Timeline

1924

- The Telemark Ski Club and The Toronto Ski Club are formed. The logo is a Black shield with diagonal TSC letters. There is a single pole and crossed skis on an orange background.
- High Park in Toronto becomes the original site for TSC. The Reedow Pavilion becomes both the clubhouse and the locker room for the ski club.
- The club adopts a ski uniform which consists of a navy-blue cap, navy blue shirt, and long pleated trousers.
- The club reaches 84 members.
- The Toronto Ski Club is incorporated on October 20, 1924.
- Toronto Ski Club is the third oldest ski club in all of Canada - (Revelstoke Ski Club and Montreal Ski Club)



The 1920's

A faded background image of three men standing on a snowy slope. They are dressed in early 20th-century winter clothing, including sweaters, jackets, and trousers. The man on the left is wearing a dark sweater and dark trousers. The man in the middle is wearing a light-colored jacket and light-colored trousers. The man on the right is wearing a dark sweater and dark trousers. They are all looking towards the camera.

1925 – A ski jump is created that has a landing spot which is Grenadier Pond in High Park

1926 – A handful of Toronto Ski Club members who have golf memberships at the Summit Golf Club discuss the potential of expanding and exploring new potential ski trails located in the Don Valley.

1927 – The club creates their own publication called “Ski Runner” with an office adjacent to High Park. The first issue is released in December of that year, and the publication would go on to become one of the top ski publications in all of Canada by the 1950's.

1927 – The club secures a lease for the wintertime use of Summit Golf Club. A bunk house for summer employees becomes the new TSC club house. The structure has a fireplace and a stove where members can cook wieners and prepare hot drinks. There is also a farmhouse next door that caters to the skiers but has a limited menu of only bacon and eggs.



1920's-1930's

- 1928 - 100 trail cutters are engaged to create ski trails off Bayview Avenue. The club adds a Halfway House Lodge which is the caretaker's residence, and then the club purchases 10 acres of property located on Gormley Road. A new lodge is erected on the newly acquired property called "Silverbirch Lodge."
- M.G. Putman of Toronto Ski Club represents Canada and competes in the 1928 Olympics in ski racing and jumping.
- 1928 – The club expands their ski interests into Caledon by leasing farmland from the Jepson family.
- 1931- The club reaches 2000 members
- 1933 - Floodlights for skiing late into the day/night are purchased and erected
- 1934 – The Toronto Ski Club becomes the largest ski club in Canada

1920's-1930's

- 1934 – The club builds a 150-foot ski jump and practice jump in the Don Valley and then hosts the Ontario Championships later that year.
- 1934 – The club acquires additional Caledon acreage via lease, and also purchases a small property where the club establishes a second main club house.
- 1934 – The club becomes the first club in Ontario to host ski competitions.



TSC expands into Collingwood

- 1934 – The club invests into the Collingwood area. Partnering with some local Collingwood residents, \$3,200 is used into purchasing the farm property which is now the most northern end of Blue Mountain.
- 1935 – The Toronto Ski Club uses a car engine from a member's totaled Buick, to create a 9 person, 2 sled system which travelled up the Schuss ski trail



1930's

- 1936 – The Toronto Ski Club establishes an office in downtown Toronto that which would serve as their office for decades.
 - 1936 – 20 TSC members who are based in Buffalo, start the Red Jacket Ski Club which establishes the ski area of Kissing Bridge and Ellicottville.
 - 1937 – The club leases a property in Uxbridge and creates the Dagmar Ski area and builds a ski tow to service the area.
 - 1938 – The club reaches 3000 members.
 - 1938 – The club invests further into Dagmar and leases a property with a farmhouse to serve as yet another new club house. The ski acreage reaches 2000 in total and local farmers provided full course meals to the skiers as well as hard cider served in honey pails.
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1940's

- 1940 – The club spends \$3,200 to purchase the farm property in Collingwood which includes the “O Hill.”
- 1940 – The Collingwood Ski Club and The Toronto Ski Club merge their properties and create “Blue Mountain 1940.”
- 1940 – Two more tows are added in Collingwood. One on the Granny (North End) and one on the “O Hill.”
- 1941 – Toronto Ski Club’s Dyson Slater wins the first Ontario Ladies Championship in North Bay.
- 1943 – The club divests their interests in Caledon as a result of not being able to secure a long-term lease agreement. Collingwood then became the focus for club resources.



1940's

- 1945 – The club loans Jozo Weider the funds to purchase and install the first real ski tow which is a poma lift that is located on the north end of Blue Mountain
- 1947 – The club agrees to lease their Blue Mountain real estate interests to Jozo Weider for a term of 999 years. The club agrees to cash, shares and special considerations in return for the lease.
- 1948 – The club loans Jozo Weider an additional \$3,000 to further develop Blue Mountain.
- 1949 – The club reaches 6,900 members.
- 1949 – The club lends money to Beaver Valley Ski club in return for stock.
- 1949 – A handful of Toronto Ski Club members start the Osler Bluff Ski Club.



The explosive growth of the 1960's

- Jozo Weider was very active during this time as he was now the custodian for the entire mountain, he would cook food in “The Barn”, serve his famous glühwine beverage and he would take his horse drawn wagon down Grey Road 19th to the Craigleith Depot where he would pick up skiers disembarking the train to take them to Blue Mountain for skiing.



Rounding out the first 50 years

- 1956 – The Toronto Ski Club erects a club house on their current location.
- 1958 - A handful of Toronto Ski Club members help form the Craigleith Ski Club.
- 1960 – A handful of Toronto Ski Club members help form Georgian Peaks Ski Club
- 1963 – The club divests of its interest in Dagmar.
- 1971 – The club purchases and then sells for profit, a 50% share in Hockley Valley near Orangeville.
- 1973 - The club decides to not renew its lease at the Summit Golf Club



Toronto Ski Club – Social Club

- It is also important to note that Toronto Ski Club was the only licensed establishment outside of Collingwood. Even Jozo Weider didn't have a licenced establishment on Blue Mountain. In fact, the Weider Family were all members of The Toronto Ski Club.
- The parties that were held at the Toronto Ski Club on Saturday nights were legendary. The social scene was something that the club really became known for and that still resonates to this day.



Culture of Volunteering

- The TSC has less financial resources than some of the clubs on the escarpment but that has led to a very engaged and active membership.
- Volunteering is a part of our culture whether it is for competitions, races, fundraisers or giving back to the community. Many members help at Special Olympics and feed the less able at Xmas.
- This is something that we still get complimented on today from members of visiting clubs. Often when a club member is not active or if the club hires a third party to run events and activities, part of the soul of the club is often lost.



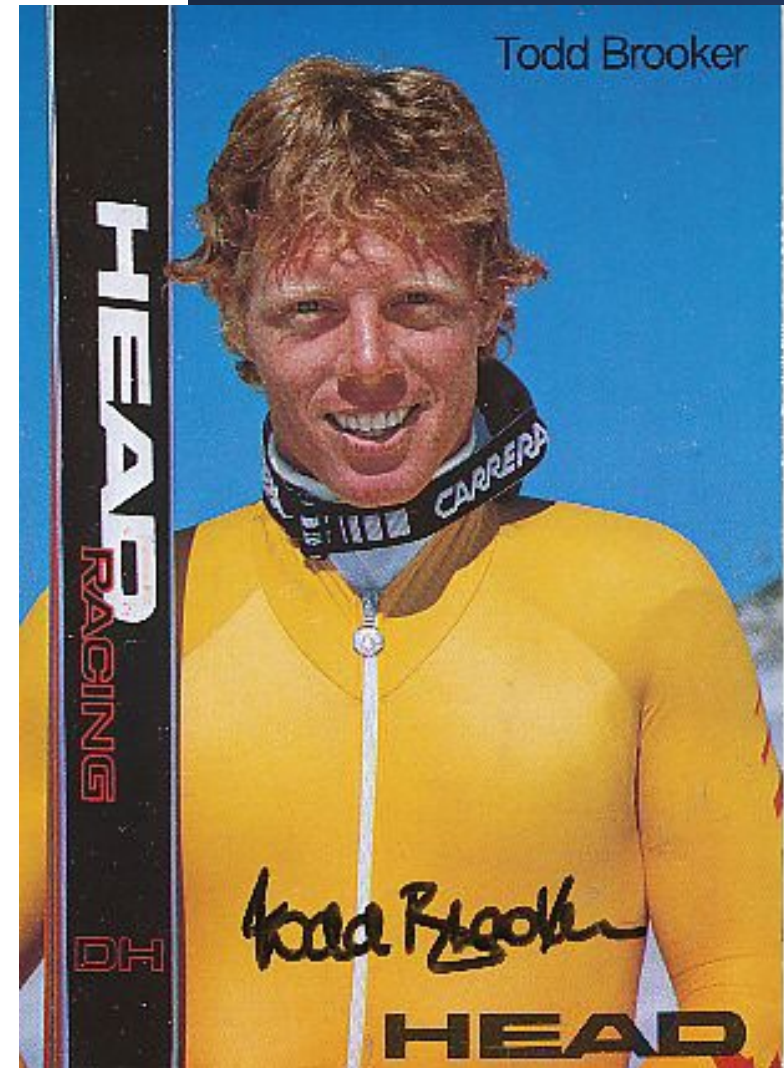


Toronto Ski Club - notable achievements

- Over the years, 12 of its past and present members have been inducted into the Canadian Ski Hall of Fame, including notable figures like Jozo Weider and the co-founders of the Canadian Ski Patrol System, Douglas Firth and Ross Larway, who both have ski runs named after them at Blue Mountain (Dr. Doug and Larway).

National Team Success

- The Toronto Ski Club has also produced some former Canadian National Alpine Ski Team athletes like Todd Brooker (one of the legendary Crazy Canucks) and Lisa Savijarvi.
- The Toronto Ski Club's coaching and race program is also run by a lifetime TSC member and former Canadian Olympian Rob Crossan.



Toronto Ski Club at its Core

- Since its inception, the TSC has represented a place for winter enthusiasts to thrive, develop and socialize with other like-minded individuals.
- The TSC's objective still is to provide a family-friendly environment where children can safely explore on and off the slopes while their parents spend quality time socializing with new and lifelong friends. This has never changed over the years. Even when the private resorts started to cater to the more fortunate, TSC was always about creating a playground for the passionate skiers and snowboarders – all winter enthusiasts.



100th Anniversary date – October 20, 2024

Join TSC on October 19, 2024 from 12 – 4 pm

- Jazz band
- Food trucks
- Heritage Journeys
- Ski Community Notables
- Cake Cutting
- More Free Fun for all



Loving Winter Since 1924.