

The second Canada Winter Games were held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, in February from the 11th to 22nd in 1971. The format of the Winter Games was to hold them every four years and since the Games had started in 1967, these were only the second Winter Games. The every-four-year format is the same type used for the large international competition, the Olympics. So in a sense, these were Canadian Olympics for Canadian athletes only (McDonald and McLaughlin, 1979, p. 8). An idea that also came out of the Canada Winter Games was to try to give the competitions to smaller areas of the country. This would help the small cities or communities acquire better facilities and help them grow, instead of giving the Games to larger cities like Toronto.

The second Canada Winter Games saw Nova Scotia come well prepared to ski. The alpine and cross country teams were again combined under one team, the Nova Scotia Ski Team, and from that they would ski their separate disciplines. The team this time was coached by Carl Purcell of Dartmouth. Coach Purcell had good ski experience and it showed up in the skier's performances. The team this time was made up of Bryan Scallion from St. Margaret's Bay, Richard Munro of Bridgewater, Darryle Peck of Dartmouth and Dave Player also of Dartmouth. The women's team was made up of girls all from Dartmouth: Linda Rodar, Camille Cameron, Paula Wheadon and Mary Beth Todd. The manager for the entire team was Freda Wales of Halifax (Nordic Ski Nova Scotia).

The cross country team was very lucky to have good skiing in the fall and winter months prior to the Canada Winter Games. Beginning on the first weekend of December the team trained on snow every weekend up until the Games in February.

This proved to help the team get stronger and they were ready for the Canada Winter Games of 1971 (Sport Nova Scotia report, 1971, p. 31). As with the 1967 Games, individual results are not



available. The men's teams finished sixth overall, as did the females. The women also finished sixth in the 3X5 kilometer relay race held on February 21, 1971 (Chronicle Herald, February 22, 1971). The combined team finish for these Games was also a very good sixth position. Coach Purcell said of the results, "I was very pleased with the showing of both the men's and ladies' teams (Sport Nova Scotia report, 1971, p. 31)." He also mentioned, "both relay teams did an outstanding job (Sport Nova Scotia report, 1971, p. 31)." The 1971 Canada Winter Games were successful for the cross country skiers because they had a good team and did well. This was to set the stage for the next Games in Lethbridge, where Nova Scotia had one of the best results ever.



# History of Canada Winter Games Cross Country Ski Team for Nova Scotia



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