

Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Our file number

Your file number

P.O. Box 220
Pembroke, Ontario
K8A 6X4

May 26, 1978

Mr. B. Winterbon
c/o Deep River XC-Ski Club
Box 999
Deep River, Ontario
K0J 1P0

Dear Sir:

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to your letter on the matter of constructing a wayside shelter for XC-skiers.

Your request however was one of a number of requests received this past winter for utilization of Crown land primarily because of projects funded by Canada Works and the Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

In view of the increasing number and variety of these project proposals on Crown land and the concerns of this Ministry whose responsibility is to manage the Crown land base, an answer to your request was delayed until we had time to consider and propose certain management guidelines in this respect.

The Ministry is prepared to consider an application from the Deep River XC-Ski Club for a wayside shelter along their XC-ski route on the following basis:

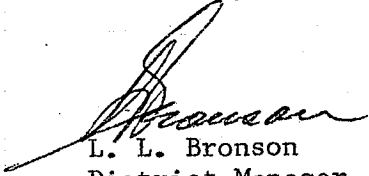
1. Permission will be given for construction of a wayside shelter for mid-day stops or for warm-up purposes. The location of the shelter should be situated at the approximate half-way mark along the trail.
2. The shelter should be built in the "Adirondack Style" containing no more than three walls. As is the case with snowmobile clubhouses or shelters, sleeping accommodations are not permitted.

Page 2
May 26, 1978
Mr. B. Winterbon
Deep River XC-Ski Club

3. Site approval will be required by this office, also the local municipality and the Renfrew County Health Unit. In the event earth pit toilet sites are required, Health Unit approval will also be required on these.
4. Authority to occupy will be by Land Use Permit at an annual rental of \$25.00. The permit will include a condition saying that the structures will be maintained by the permittee and upon termination of the permit the permittee will remove all structures and leave the site in a clean and tidy condition.
5. The parcel size will not exceed 1 acre.

Upon receipt of your reply we can arrange for an on-ground inspection of the site with you.

Yours very truly,



L. L. Bronson
District Manager
Pembroke
Telephone (613) 732-3661

E.N. McKenzie/nm

December 7/78

Mr. D. B. Durant
R.R.#3, Chesterville
Ontario KOC 1H0

Dear Mr. Durant:

Our Club would like to build a cabin near Chalk River canyon to permit local cross-country skiers to ski to the canyon along our existing trail, sleep in the cabin that night, and then return the next day. Strong skiers can do the trip in one day, but for many it is too long, and it is for such people that we would like the cabin.

We have discussed this proposal with the Ministry of Natural Resources but they are reluctant to grant permission to build a cabin with bunks. They suggested the possibility of buying a nearby hunt camp license and that is why I am writing you.

According to their records, you have the license to a camp on lot 26, concession V in the township of Rolph. I do not know if you have a cabin there or not - it doesn't matter to us - our interest is in acquiring a license. Are you interested in selling yours, and if so, at what price?

I would appreciate an answer, even if you are not interested in selling, so that we can continue our negotiations with the Ministry, saying we have exhausted the possibility.

Yours sincerely,

John H. Ormrod, President.

/mk

In December 1977 we discussed with you the possibility of our building a ski hut on Crown land near Deep River. Since that time our club executive has met, and decided that we would like to pursue the matter further.

We wish permission to build a small hut, with no road access, to be used by skiers, primarily for overnight shelter, but also for midday stops. This would allow us to make more extended, yet safer, trips into an area which some of us have been visiting for years because of its beauty.

The details are not firm, but are included to give you a better idea of what we have in mind. We know the site has to be at least one mile from the Algonquin Park boundary: the area we find so attractive is what we call the Chalk River Canyon, the valley of the Chalk between about $3/4$ and $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles from the Park line. The proposed hut site is on or near the hill on the north side of the Chalk, as indicated on the enclosed map. We have not yet surveyed the area on the ground, but from aerial photos the level area about 100-200 yards SE of the top of the hill seems a likely spot. There is no water immediately at hand, but that is irrelevant in the ski season and would discourage unauthorized use of the building at other times. The hut would be a log building, say 12' x 16', with a stove, table and benches, and bunks (without mattresses), ~~but not a privy~~ and there would be a privy and perhaps a woodshed. The hut should probably contain also an axe, a saw, and a few cooking utensils. We have not decided whether the door should be kept locked at all times, or if ~~not~~ during the winter it should ~~be~~ merely be chained shut so it would be available in an emergency. The hut would be strictly for ski-related use: however this would include a period, generally in the fall, in which it would serve as a base for trail clearing, cutting firewood, and generally getting ready for another

season. We would expect to limit its use during the ski season to our club members. ~~The capital cost is expected to come out of club revenues,~~ and ~~yet~~ the membership fee (##### \$3 for an individual, \$5 for a family at present) is sufficiently small ^{it should not} ~~not~~ to deter anyone. We would probably charge a small fee, say \$1 per person per night, to pay against the annual rental and any maintenance, and perhaps repay some of the capital cost of the building.##

We realize that this hut does not come within the standard definition of a ski or snowmobile chalet, which is intended to be a club house or meeting place, and not an overnight shelter. ^{Beca} Since we have many miles of trails on all sides of town, and most of us ski from our homes, we do not feel any need for a clubhouse or meeting place. Our purpose for this hut is to extend the range of the average skier, allowing him or her access to country that otherwise could not easily be reached. Without the hut, the trip to the Canyon is a fairly strenuous all-day trip for reasonably strong skiers, yet it is visited frequently. (The writer has visited this area twice this season, and expects to go at least once more. That's fairly typical of the last few years.)

There may not be any exact precedent in Ontario for this type of hut. However, we have heard that there are one or two huts, near the north end of the Bruce Trail which serve the same function for the hiker. (We do not know if they are on Crown land.) Going farther away, there are mountain huts, owned by mountain clubs, in many places - New England, Great Britain, ^{and} the ~~Alps~~ Alps, for example - that serve a similar function. As an even closer parallel, there are in Sweden and Finland ~~long~~ strings of such huts specifically for shelter on long ski trips.

This seems to us to be the next phase in the development of cross-country skiing in Canada. Innumerable areas have excellent facilities for day trips, and there are many organized events, especially for racing, all across the country. Yet there are no or few

facilities for extended ski trips or ski holidays unless one spends a great deal of money at resorts, or carries 30-50 lb. of equipment on one's back for winter camping.

If there is indeed no precedent in Ontario for such a proposal, may we suggest that the concept is of great potential importance for the development of cross-country skiing in Ontario, and therefore that we be allowed to proceed, so that your Ministry may see from our experience whether this is indeed the right thing to do and the right time to do it. If, as we believe, it is the right step at the right time, we may well be the right people to do it. Our club has existed since 1970, providing trails, instruction, and racing programs for the local skiers. We have at the moment (19 January 1978) 139 paid family memberships and 117 paid individual memberships, suggesting a club membership of nearly 10% of the local population. Hence it is reasonable (and conservative) to conclude that perhaps 15-20% of the people here use cross-country skis. This is a very large fraction, probably one of the largest in Canada. Therefore we think it is not out of place for us to be allowed to lead the way in this manner.

Ken ...
Jan 23

Yours sincerely,

1982 April 25

Mr. E.N. McKenzie
District Manager
Ministry of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 220
Pembroke, Ontario
K8A 6X4

Dear Mr. McKenzie;

About four years ago our club approached the Ministry about the possibility of constructing a cabin or ski chalet on Crown Land for the purposes of overnight cross-country ski touring. At that time we were informed that permission could not be granted to build a cabin with sleeping accommodations; only a three-walled shelter was permitted. Now we understand there has been a change in Ministry policy so that ski cabins, similar to hunt camps, may be allowed on Crown Land in Ontario.

We should like to renew our request to build such a cabin. What we have in mind is a single room cabin, probably of logs, about 16'x16' or 16'x20' with an attached porch and containing six bunks. A privy would also be constructed nearby.

We have not definitely located a site, but it would be in the region of the Chalk River canyon, probably on lots 31 or 32, Concession VI of Rolph Township (see attached map).

The cabin is intended for the use of members and their guests only. Although we do not propose to hire it out, we would charge members a user's fee to pay for running expenses and to recover the capital cost. The hut would not be used for hunting or fishing. While it is usable in the off season as a base for trail and hut maintenance, it is not clear to us if it could be used for hiking trips. Could this be confirmed?

Our understanding of the new regulations is as follows; would you please confirm or correct the items and add any further details as appropriate:

- 1) A land-use permit cost is \$50 per year if the site is more than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from a navigable waterway, or \$100 per year if it is closer. (We assume that the upper Chalk River, where it passes through lot 32, would be considered navigable, whereas the intermittent stream running through lot 31 and 32 would not be.)
- 2) The site will be $\frac{1}{2}$ or 1 acre.

- 3) There will be a stumpage fee, expressed as being per 1000 board feet. Is this easily expressed in terms of a log of a given diameter?
- 4) Cutting of dead and fallen wood for firewood may be done without charge.

We realize that if this request is granted, we will have to get a building permit from the Township and permission for the pit privy from the Renfrew County Health Office.

The Club has appointed a committee of two (Dave Winfield and Bruce Winterbon) to make preliminary estimates of cost and to canvass members to see if the necessary money can be raised. However, we will be able to go no further until we receive permission from the Ministry to proceed with the construction.

We understand that this may be the first such proposal received by the Ministry. As such, perhaps it can be considered as a pilot project and may provide useful guidance as to how future projects of this type can be managed. We will do our best to make the project successful and will provide your office with as much information as you wish on the progress of the project, both in construction and use.

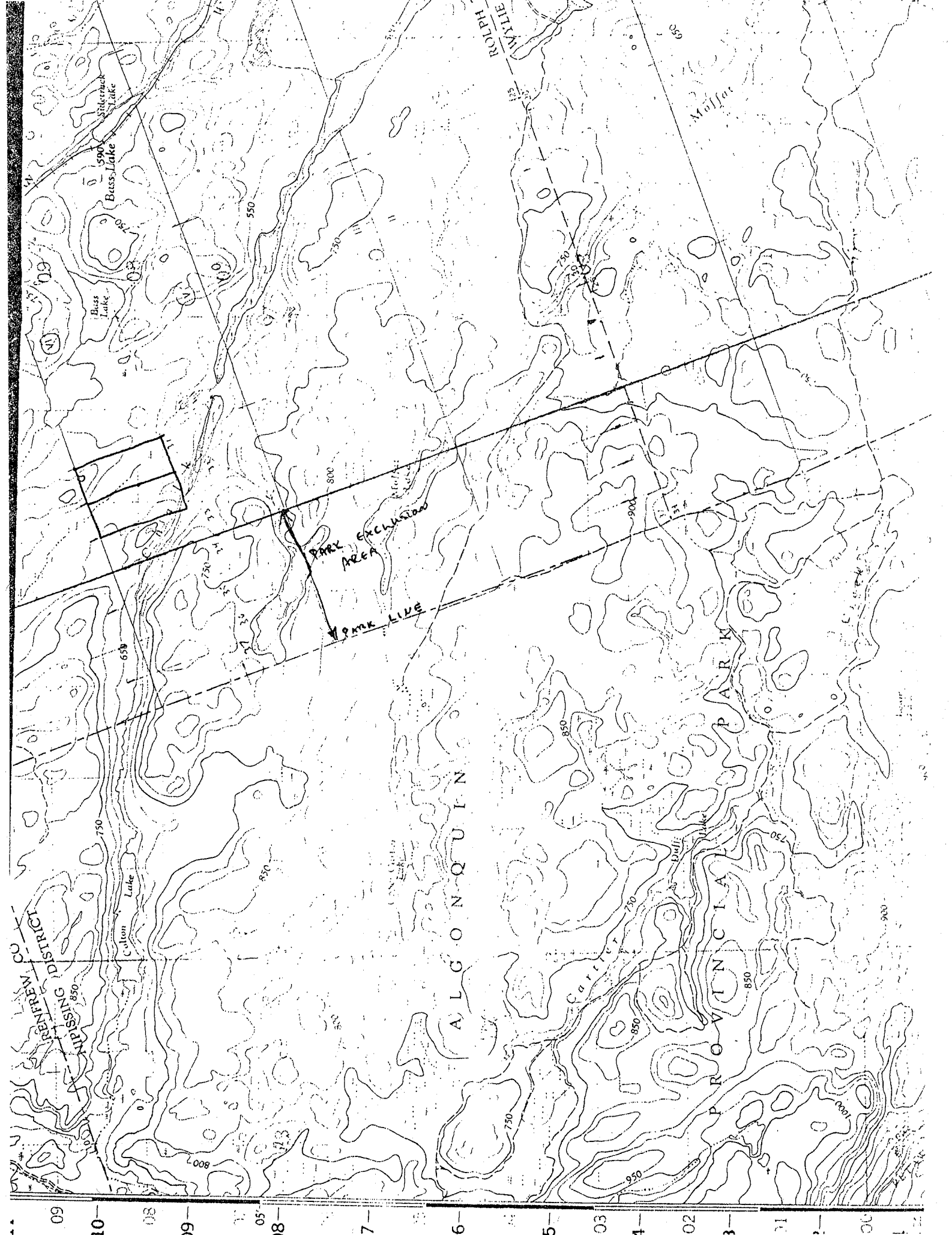
Thanking you for your help and co-operation, we look forward to continued good relations between our club and the Ministry.

Yours sincerely,

D.G. Hardy

DGH/as

cc: D.J. Winfield
K.B. Winterbon



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Your file:

P.O. Box 220
Pembroke, Ontario
K8A 6X4

Our file:

May 27, 1982

Deep River Cross-Country Ski Club
Box 999
Deep River, Ontario
K0J 1P0

Attention D. G. Hardy

Dear Sir:

SUBJECT: Chalet site on Crown land
Rolph Township

The above request has been reviewed by the District and we can now advise the following.

The Ministry is prepared to consider an application for Land Use Permit from the Deep River Cross-Country Ski Club for a skiing/hiking chalet under the following conditions:

- Site must be at least 400 feet from a lake, river, access point or other facility used by general public.
- Authority to occupy the site will be by Land Use Permit only.
- The annual rental is \$100 for a site within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of a navigable water body, or \$50 for an inland site.
- Access to the site and quality of that access is strictly the responsibility of the applicant.
- Relocation, alteration, renovation, etc. of the chalet, once constructed, will require written approval of District Manager.
- Installation of water/sewage systems are discouraged.
- Use of the camp will be strictly for cross-country skiing or hiking not for hunting, fishing or trapping, etc.

Page 2
May 27, 1982
Deep River Cross-Country Ski Club
Deep River, Ontario

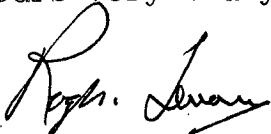
It should be kept in mind that sites for recreation camps are an interim use not a long term use, therefore, significant expenditures on improvements are discouraged.

On the matter of timber for the camp our Timber Branch has advised that poplar or balsam logs may be available but doubt if there is sufficient pine or white spruce in the area. It is recommended that you pick the exact site for the chalet and the timber (trees) you wish to use so both can be looked at on the ground by Ministry staff and a decision made on availability.

In light of the fact that no decisions have been made with respect to the future administration of the Winter Trails Programme, the issuance of a Land Use Permit for a chalet site will have no relationship to any future Ministry involvement in the provision of cross-country ski trails on Crown land.

Please contact this office once you have chosen an actual site for the chalet.

Yours very truly,



En E. N. McKenzie
Lands and Mines Supervisor
Pembroke District
Telephone (613) 732-3661

ENM/on

STATEMENT TO SHAREHOLDERS
from DRXC Ski Hut Committee ..

We are pleased to report a very successful initial year for our hut. The response to the financial appeal to build a cabin reflected the interest in cross-country skiing in this area - 62 people subscribed a total of \$3,705.00, the DRXC Ski Club contributed \$600.00 and several people donated materials and furnishings. We were equally successful in attracting help for the hut construction - 40 people donated a total of 932 hours to make the road, construct and equip the cabin and outhouse, and cut the year's supply of firewood. Our application for a Wintario grant was unsuccessful, but we can manage quite well without it. The weather did not co-operate during the ski season, but we still registered 57 overnights, and a large but uncounted number of day visitors.

The accompanying financial statement shows a balance at year's end of \$386.35. There is still an outstanding commitment to repair the trailer used to transport construction materials to the site, and this summer we hope to build a woodshed and outdoor fireplace. We also must pay insurance (\$150) and the ministry land-use permit (\$50) before next ski season. Our financial position is tight but manageable.

From the beginning the hut has been meant for both skiing and hiking, and is available for summer rental. One can get near the cabin by canoe (from the James Lakes off the Wylie-Bronson road). Improvements in the portages are slated for early this summer, and there are screens for the cabin windows!

The ski trail system to and around the cabin will be improved and extended this summer and autumn. There are already some delightful ski trails near the cabin, and we urge you to take advantage of them next season.

We are, of course, looking for volunteers for the construction and trail work.

Comments and suggestions on construction, trails, policies, etc., may be made to any member of the hut committee at any time.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - DRXC Ski Hut Committee
1982 Oct. 1 - 1983 Mar. 31

Income:

Share payments	\$ 3,705.00
DRXC Ski Club (parent organization)	600.00
Rentals	274.00
	<hr/>
	4,579.00

Expenditures:

Cabin construction	3,896.94
General operation	295.71
Balance 83.03.31	386.35
	<hr/>
	4,579.00

Committee Members are:

Bruce Winterbón, chairman
John Ormrod, treasurer & booking agent
Denis Hardy, DRXC executive liaison
Al Herriot
Bill Selander
Dave Winfield