

OFF-CAMPUS

Sugarloaf: ski utopia

by Luke Peterson
Brunswick skier

Ask any avid skier to describe the ideal ski destination and they will likely come up with a description which bears a resemblance to the following: It's gotta have lots of terrain, approximately 36 miles of downhill skiing on 445 acres of powder divided into 95 trails and trail sections. With all this terrain we obviously need plenty of snow, say an annual average snowfall of over 14 feet. Of course service is important, from the friendly attendants on all fourteen of the lifts (including the gondola) to all the other resort employees who have been specially trained by professional hospitality consultants. Also, our ski utopia needs something truly unique, like the only lift-serviced above the tree-line skiing in the East. Finally, the price must be affordable for university students, say twenty-five dollars for an entire day of skiing.

The good news is that the aforementioned paragraph accurately describes a ski resort which actually does exist. The best news of all is that it is a mere 5 hour drive from your home to this skier's

paradise tucked away in the scenic Maine woods. Ranked as the number one ski resort in the East, by readers of Snow Country Magazine, Sugarloaf U.S.A. combines ultra-friendly service and heavenly skiing to offer a truly memorable vacation.

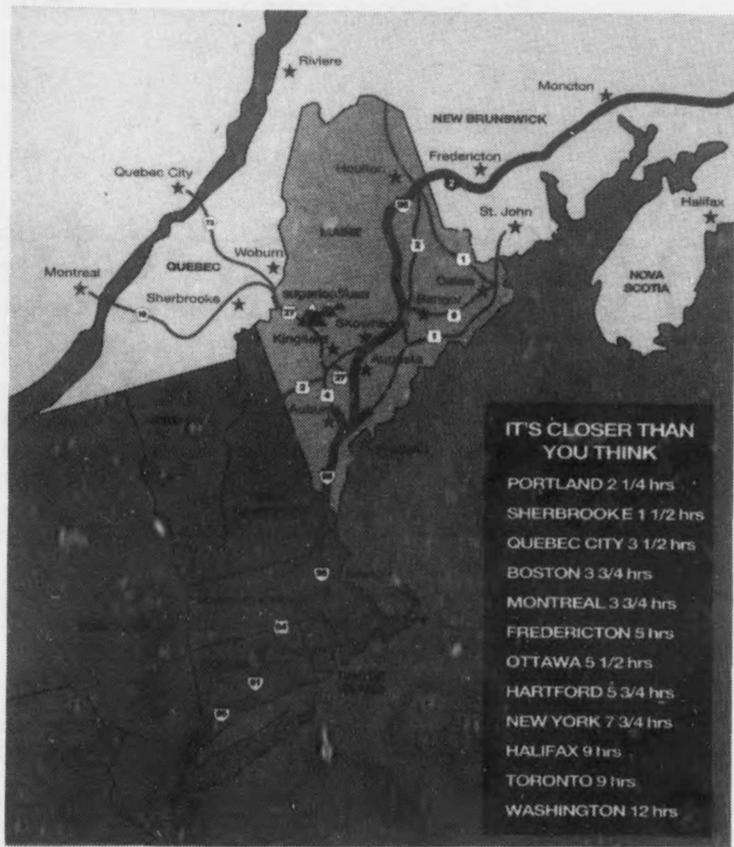
Where to Stay: With a total of 8500 beds available for on-mountain accommodations, it is quite likely that you can find one with your name on it and at a price that is conducive to worry-free slumber. During White Winter Carnival from January 24 to 28, student lodging packages are only \$56 per person, double occupancy, and come complete with slope-side lodging, all-day lift tickets, daily group ski lessons and privileges to use the Sugarloaf Sports and Fitness Club. If you value your studies over skiing and a January trip is not a reality, then take heart in the knowledge that Sugarloaf generally stays open into May (The latest it has opened is May 20) offering the perfect post-examinations destination. Spring skiing at the Loaf offers a unique way to embark on your summer vacation by skiing and partying with students from all over Canada and the U.S.

Of course, the ideal time to hit Sugarloaf U.S.A. is during the March Break, when conditions are at their peak and you are your friends could use a well-deserved vacation. Because the Spring breaks in Canada and America do not coincide, the last thing you will need to worry about is crowded slopes and lift-lines. In addition to the lack of crowding, students will be happy to know that a Sugarloaf ski vacation does not necessarily entail applying for another student loan. Rates for a slopeside condo during March break are around \$75 per person/night, and include full-day lift tickets, daily ski lessons, and access to the sports and fit-

crack at the infamous snowfields, these expert-only trails offer the only lift-serviced above the tree-line skiing in the East, and can only be accessed via the Gondola. Sugarloaf currently has snowmaking on over 90% of its trails and for the first time, snowmaking will also be available in the snowfields this season. While 33% of the mountain's trails are for the expert, there still remain a balanced variety of less difficult slopes, with 39% designated as intermediate and 28% as beginner.

Where to Pig Out: During the day, both Bullwinkle's (located on the hill at the top of the Bucksaw Double Quad) and the base lodge cafeteria offer typical lunch-time fare at reasonable prices. The base lodge also offers Mexican cuisine at Gringo's restaurant, located upstairs in the Widowmaker lounge.

The Bag and Kettle is Sugarloaf's oldest restaurant and is centrally located on the mountain in Village Center. The rustic Bag uses an authentic wood-fired brick oven to bake their legendary pizzas and bread. While enjoying a burger or a sandwich, sports fans can keep one eye on the slopes and the other on one of several TV



ness club (which includes swimming and jacuzzi privileges). If you can work out other accommodation arrangements (hotel lobbies are good for a couple hours of sleep) or you only want to ski for a day, Sugarloaf lift tickets are an absolute bargain at \$25 (with a valid college ID). Dare to compare Sugarloaf's 95 trails with Crabbie Mountain's 14 trails which come at a similar ticket price.

The slopes: Except for the sparsely populated West Mountain, the double chairlifts tend to be relatively busy, for this reason you should frequent the two high-capacity Quads and the two T-bars whenever possible. A great intermediate trail to get your bearings on is the Tote Road; stretching for over three miles, this trail can be accessed from the summit (elevation 4,237') via the four-person Gondola. In addition to the Tote Road, both Double Bitter and Binder also offer excellent intermediate skiing, and each measure over three miles long.

If, after conquering much of what the mountain has to offer, you are still seeking a challenge, then you may wish to take a

screens.

Geppetto's, located on the mountain in village center is a great restaurant for either families or friends. With a giant U-shaped bar for Apres ski and a large menu of steaks and seafood, Geppetto's serves up great food in a cozy atmosphere. Every Tuesday is Twofer night, when you can order two entrées, including Teriyaki sirlion, Prime Rib or Chicken stuffed with Pork, for only \$16.95.

How To Get There: From Calais take Route 9 West to Bangor, I-95 South to Newport, Route 2 West to Skowhegan. Route 201 North to Route 148 West through Madison to Route 201A North to North Anson then Route 16 West to Kingfield and Route 27 North to Sugarloaf U.S.A.

For more information about planning a ski vacation at Sugarloaf U.S.A. this year, phone 1-800-THE-LOAF or come by the Brunswickan office (Room 35 in the SUB) and leave a message for me. See also the accompanying column in this issue, for more information on how to effectively plan your next ski trip.



The Front Row

Planning a sugarloaf ski vacation



Regardless of how short you plan your ski vacation to be, an unforeseen injury can always cut it shorter. For this reason, health insurance is not merely a good idea, it is essential. While a car accident or an injury on the slopes are unlikely, fifteen dollars of Blue Cross could potentially save you thousands of dollars in American hospital expenses. At the risk of sounding oh-so-motherly, phone Blue Cross at 452-8581 before you embark on a ski trip to the States.

Instead of merely converting your funds into American cash, you would be infinitely wiser if you chose to purchase traveller's checks which are accepted virtually everywhere, but also offer the security of knowing, that should the checks be lost or stolen, you can get your money back. The Bank of Montreal on Campus would be more than happy to set you up with traveller's checks.

A credit card, in your name, could prove indispensable. Without plastic, it could prove considerably more difficult to secure lodging, ski rentals and other necessities. Managers may request credit card imprints as a security against damages, unpaid phone bills, etc. In addition, other ID (passport, NBLCC Card) might prove instrumental in getting you through the door of licensed establishments where the mandatory age is a very un-Canadian 21 years old.

Designate one group member to bring along such items as toothpaste, shampoo, Sunscreen, etc. This way, your limited bathroom space is not cluttered with five or six containers of every personal hygiene item (You don't have to all share one toothbrush). You should, of course, bring along lip balm to be used in addition to the aforementioned communal sunscreen, in order to save your skin. Sunglasses and goggles will also prove indispensable as ski conditions may vary daily. Many a skier has questioned his/her wisdom in not bringing along goggles, when confronted with cold, driving winds and blowing snow.



You may have noticed that both food and gasoline are rather cheap in Uncle Sam's Land, and you should exploit this when at all possible. Buy groceries for breakfast; preferably items which can be prepared relatively quickly and easily so that you can be on the slopes A.S.A.P. Obvious quickies are fresh fruit, cereal, toast and pop tarts (if you can stomach them, the Sugarloaf convenience store has yummy cinnamon flavour). Naturally a toaster is necessary for toast and pop tarts, bring one with you or if you need a new one anyways, take advantage of American prices and pick one up. Having groceries on hand for a quick lunch in your room is also a good idea or you can purchase a relatively inexpensive lunch in the base lodge cafeteria. You should try to be frugal enough so that you can afford to eat out at dinnertime. Sugarloaf offers a wide variety of possible restaurants (several of which are mentioned in the accompanying article).

To adopt the motherly tone once again, it is a wise idea to stretch out each morning before heading for the lifts. Your long-anticipated ski vacation is NOT the time you want to tear a leg muscle and spend the remainder of your trip stuck in your hotel room or the hospital. Likewise, ski with some semblance of common sense, skiing a hill that is far above your abilities is a surefire way of earning a spot back in the hotel room with the guy who couldn't be bothered to stretch out. If the ski patrol doesn't get you an injury might very well. Relax and enjoy the great skiing, after all you could be studying for exams.

Due to the size of Sugarloaf mountain, it requires a considerable amount of time to groom every trail. The grooming is done throughout the evening and night, consequently skiing ceases at 4:30 pm. After a long day on the slopes, you are usually ready for a hot shower and a good meal at one of the village restaurants. After dinner, you can unwind in various ways, with your lodging comes privileges for the Sports and Fitness Club, where you can enjoy a variety of activities, including racquetball, squash or wallyball, or a dip in an indoor or outdoor Jacuzzi, indoor swimming pool, sauna, or whirlpool. Taking along a favourite board game or a deck of cards is a cheap form of entertainment that can fill the short time before you are ready for bed. If you still seem to have an inexhaustible supply of energy, you might want to head down to the bar at Geppetto's restaurant or one of the other various Sugarloaf night-spots. Each morning, don't forget to tune your television into the 24-hour Sugarloaf weather channel to give you an up-to-date report on hill conditions and the weather. The television channel report allows you to dress accordingly for the day's skiing adventures.

Finally, send your parents and friends a postcard of the mountain and tell them what a blast you are having.