

News of the arts

That year also marked the opening of a national office in Ottawa, run on a volunteer basis until 1958 when the association's secretary-treasurer, Charles Cumming, became a full-time paid employee of the CFSA.

More than 160,000 Canadians at present are members of the 1,136 figure skating clubs across Canada.

The CFSA, believed to be the largest figure skating association in the world, each year hosts its own international invitational competition, Skate Canada, which this year was attended by 13 nations.

Laurentian resorts and trails the only stops for special ski train



"Le P'tit train du Nord" provides regular service between Montreal and Labelle.

The Laurentian ski train returns to the rails this winter. Called "Le P'tit Train du Nord", it ran for eight Sundays and carried over 1,000 people *per* trip last year. Encouraged by the turnout, the organizers — the Laurentian Tourist Association and the Laurentian Regional Development Council — have added a Saturday train.

The train is ideal for cross-country skiers. There are now over 1,600 km (1,000 miles) of marked trails in the Laurentian Mountains, north of Montreal, and the train provides access to most of them. Passengers board at any one of six stations in the Montreal area and disembark at any one of 12 stations in the Laurentians. Each station has an access trail leading to existing trails. In some sections an entirely new trail has been

made parallel to the track.

The tourist association has also arranged "packages" that include hotel accommodation for skiers planning weekend trips.

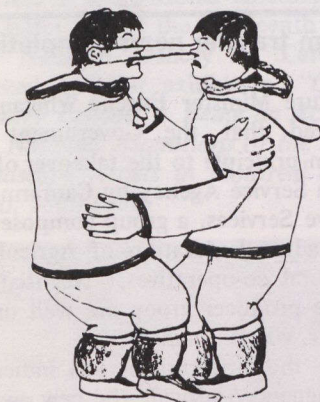
Today the Laurentians boast one of the largest concentrations of lifts (197, to be exact), hills and resorts in the world. There are 32 major ski areas, with vertical drops ranging from 120 to 750 m (400 to 2,500 feet).

The ski season began in November on artificial snow and lasts until April. A ski week for two (lodging, meals, lifts and lessons) averages \$200. Further information on alpine ski centres and the ski train is available from the Laurentian Tourist Association, 1,000, rue Labelle, Suite 200, Saint-Jérôme, Quebec, J7Z 5N6.

Northern games not funny

Isa Smiler, writing in the Summer/Fall issue of *Inuktitut* published by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, describes Inuit games remembered from childhood. While several were similar to those played by youngsters throughout the world — "bouncing ball, jumping, rope pulling", the following two are different. They are not recommended as pastimes for the Christmas holidays.

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Ear pulling

"We used to play 'ear pulling' a lot although it caused a great deal of pain. The way you would play was by tying a string around your ear and that of another boy, and pulling until it hurt so much that you gave up. Even though your ear was not strong enough to pull, you would try not to give in. Your ears would get very sore until you closed your eyes and started making funny faces. After one person won you would switch to the other ear to give the loser another chance. No one would ever want to lose.

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Pulling cheeks

"A game that is similar to the last one is called 'pulling cheeks'. You played this game by pulling another person's cheek until it hurt too much and one of you was forced to let go. People with fat cheeks would get hurt more easily than people with thin ones, as there was more to grab a hold of. Fat cheeks would get red and very warm, and of course, if you pulled away first you would lose. We used to play this game with hair as well; with our long bangs over our foreheads it was easy to get a good hold of another person's hair."