

National Life Member: Ross Penton – 1980 - LM18

Ross Penton, a member of the Toronto Ski Club since he was 12 years old, joined the Ski Patrol at the club in 1947. The first year he skied Summit (*located in Richmond Hill, Ontario*). The following year he could visit other areas, so he shared gas coupons with Alex McVicar and travelled in style in Alex's rumble seat coupe. He became a first aid instructor and was the Supervisor of First Aid Services for the Ontario Division of the Canadian Red Cross.

In 1958, he was approached by Doug Firth to become Ontario Division President. During his term in office he completely restructured the Ontario Division into zones, taking control from the clubs and enabling the patrols in the province to cooperate fully in serving the skiing public.

Ross resigned as Ontario Division President in 1962 to organize a patrol near London, Ontario. He retired from the CSPA in 1963, but returned in 1970 to become Ontario Division Training Officer. In 1972, he persuaded the Division President to send him to the U.S. to learn how the NSPS handled cross-country skiing. Ross qualified with the NSPS and became one of the two CSPA patrollers to patrol the Lake Placid Olympics.

The following year he reintroduced Nordic patrolling to the CSPA, and in 1975 he became Ontario Division Nordic Training Officer. In 1976 he became National Nordic Training Advisor. Ross received CSP #138 during his first tour with the CSPA and became Life Member #18 during his second round.

Ross and his wife Barbara met in the patrol. They now live in Stratford, Ontario and have two grown children who are also active skiers.

(Extracted from *May I Help You – the first 50 years of the Canadian Ski Patrol System*)

"In 1988, Ross was an on-snow patroller at the Calgary Winter Olympics, based at Canada Olympic Park, working with the ski jumps. Ross is one of a very few patrollers to have patrolled at two separate Olympic Games. Barbara Penton and Liz Sine are sisters. It's all in the family! Ross retired from active patrolling with over 50 years of service, which was recognized at the Annual General Meeting."