



Rod Roy Ski Schools: 45 Years of Montreal Tradition

By Doug Roy, Snow School Director

Rod Roy Ski School is a traveling ski school based out of Montreal. The school was founded in 1962 by Rod Roy and was initially named Snowy Eagle Ski School, changing to its current name in 1969.

Rod was a Montreal area high school teacher for 33 years and began organizing ski trips and lessons for students from his school. Rod remains active in the ski school today, getting in at least 60 ski days per season. He is a great ambassador for the sport and you would be hard-pressed to find a more avid and positive skier anywhere. For Rod, any day on the slopes is a good day!

The traveling ski school concept allows for ski center variety and the option to follow the best snow throughout the season. Rod Roy destinations include ski resorts in the Laurentians, Eastern Townships and Vermont. Students register for an eight-week package, which includes bus transportation, lift tickets and lessons.

With an average of 1,200 students participating in weekly lesson programs annually, Rod Roy programs are catered to the age and needs of the students. Younger children enroll in a fully-supervised program visiting smaller family resorts close to Montreal. Pre-teens visit medium-sized hills, and in addition to their lessons, they have the option of some free skiing time and independence. Teens and adults visit the larger resorts in the Laurentians, Eastern Townships and Vermont. Special attention has always been given to beginner skiers and snowboarders helping make their entry into the sport a positive and successful experience.

Rod Roy instructors are divided into smaller teams based upon the program they are teaching in. They travel and work with the same group of instructors, supervisors and support staff throughout the season, teaching the same group of students each week. A typical day for a Rod Roy instructor consists of a training session in the morning, four hours of teaching during the day, some free skiing at lunch and at the end of the day, followed by some *après-ski* fun.

The strength of the ski school has always been the instructors. Many have been students in Rod Roy and followed the lesson program through to the instructor training program. Most instructors teach on the weekend while they complete college and university studies. Rod Roy instructor alumni can be found teaching skiing and snowboarding around the globe.

Our instructors are committed and passionate about teaching skiing and skiing itself, and have always focused on fun in their lessons. How else can we boast to have over 400 teenagers continue to sign up for lessons each season? Snowboarding and skiing are dynamic sports, so the lessons should be positive, light and fast-paced. Rod Roy instructors understand what the students want and structure their lesson plans so their students learn new skills in a safe and fun environment.

"The biggest difference I noticed about Rod Roy is that it has such a fun atmosphere. Skiing is fun. The instructors love to ski. They ski from first lift to last lift every week, skip lunch to ski...and it rubs off on the kids." Eric Lewandowski (CSIA Level 3, Rod Roy Instructor 2004-2006).

For more information on teaching skiing with Rod Roy Ski School, visit www.rodroy.com/staff.



The early years



1970



1984