



## Rod Roy Ski School

### Special Contributor

Martin Jean proudly presented a plaque to Mr. Doug Roy, Snow School Director, for their 45 years of successful business (1962-2007).

### History

In the early 1960s, the era of the Montreal Ski Train was coming to an end. The autoroute did not exist resulting in slow travel even to the closest resorts in the Lower Laurentians. Skiing was available mainly to families with ski chalets.

Snowy Eagle Ski School was founded in December 1962 by Rod Roy and became one of the first traveling ski schools in Quebec. Rod was a Physical Education graduate from McGill University and was a high school teacher in Saint-Laurent for 33 years.

Skiing immediately became more accessible to children from non-skiing families. The name was changed to Rod Roy Ski Schools in 1969. Virtually every ski hill in the Laurentians has been part of the Rod Roy programs including long forgotten resorts like Carling Lake, mont Fugère, mont Castor, Sun Valley and Yvon Coutu.

The first season, there were only 32 members and four instructors using one school bus. Today there are 1200 members and 85 instructors using 25 deluxe coach buses.

### Philosophy & Objectives

**Safety:** Parents are entrusting Ski Rod Roy with their child from the moment they get on the bus in the morning until their return in the evening.

**Fun:** Skiing and snowboarding lessons are not a sixth day of school. The emphasis is on having fun on the slopes.

**Learning:** Using the teaching techniques of the CSIA and CASI.

### Programs Developed to Meet Skiers' Needs

- Ages 6-10 in full-supervision programs with lessons all day at smaller resorts.
- Ages 10-13 with half-day lessons and some free-ski time at mid-sized resorts.
- Ages 13+ with the option of half-day lessons or free-ski time all day visiting the larger resorts in Quebec and Vermont.

New programs evolved as the industry changed including snowboarding programs for teens, adult programs, U-drive family programs, and in recent years, a Park and Pipe Course.

Rod's passion for skiing continues to this day. He averages 60 ski days a year, and remains involved with the ski school as on-hill ambassador reminding everyone that there is no such thing as a bad ski day.



Photo: Marie-Hélène Lapierre

