The third Canada Winter Games were held in Lethbridge, which was in southern Alberta. These Games started on February 11 and continued until February 23, 1975. The interesting thing about these Games was that, they not only were held in Lethbridge, but in thirteen other communities around Lethbridge. All the communities were within one hundred kilometers of Lethbridge except Devon which was five hundred kilometers further north (McDonald and McLaughlin, 1979, p. 60). The cross country races were held in a community called Castle Junction, Alberta, which was several miles west of Lethbridge. These Games produced one of the best results ever for Nova Scotia cross country skiers. This was the first time the alpine and cross country teams were separate, and the men's relay team almost came home with a medal.

The coach for the 1975 cross country team was again Carl Purcell of Dartmouth, and the manager was Barb Linke. As with the 1971 team, coach Purcell had some very good skiers. For the men's Bryan Scallion of St. Margaret's Bay, was again a member and this time had much more experience to offer. Another top skier was Gary Hartling of Sheet Harbour who also brought a lot of skiing talent to the team. The two remaining men were a father and son combination from Shearwater: Moe Aller, the father, and Bryan Aller, his son. It is interesting to note that there was no age restriction up to 1975 for the athletes. Moe was forty-six years old at the time of the 1975 Games. This is different to the Canada Games of today where the athletes are usually juniors, under the age of twenty. The women's team was not as experienced as the men's team. They were basically a young team, but still did fairly well. The women's team was made up of Dianne Powell, from Gore, a very small community in Hants County, Nova Scotia. There was also Linda Lawerence of Sackville, Kerry Feetham also from Sackville and Jane Bagnall from Bedford (Nordic Ski Nova Scotia).

On February 7, 1975, some of the first athletes to leave for Lethbridge, from the Halifax International Airport, were the alpine and cross country skiers (Mail Star, February 10, 1975). Upon reaching Lethbridge, the athletes were confronted with avalanches and blowing snow which cancelled the alpine skiing events, but not the cross country skiing event (Mail Star, February 14, 1975). On February 13, 1975, at Castle Junction, the first cross country ski race was held. It was the women's ten kilometer individual race. The top female for Nova Scotia was Dianne Powell who placed 24th among 45 entries with a time of 47 minutes even. This was a personal best for Dianne by two minutes (Mail Star, February 14, 1975). The next best skier was Linda Lawrence who finished 29th in a time of 50:12 which also broke her personal best by almost two minutes. Kerry Feetham was next in 33rd spot in 51:51, and Jane Bagnall was 37th in a time of 53:32. Again both of these times were personal bests for the girls. Overall the girls finished ninth in this race which pleased coach Purcell because this event was the first time any of the girls had competed outside their home province (Mail Star, February 14, 1975).

On the following day, February 14, 1975, the men skied their first race of the competition, a fifteen kilometer individual race. They had tremendous results, placing two men among the top ten, out of 48 racers who were entered (Canada Winter Games Results, 1975, p. 11). Gary Hartling finished seventh, and was the top Nova Scotia male in a time of 55:41. Bryan Scallion, a veteran of the 1971 Games, was two spots back in ninth place with a time of 55:45, only four seconds behind Gary. The third Nova Scotia male was Bryan Aller. He too finished in the first half of the field with a respectable 21st placing in a time of 59:23. His father, Moe, placed 31st in a time of 1:06:14 (Canada Winter Games Results, 1975, p. 11). Coach Purcell's description of the race was simply "just beautiful" (Chronicle Herald, February 15, 1975).

This was the first time ever that two Nova Scotia participants placed in the top ten of a Canada Winter Games in cross country skiing, and there was more excitement to come.

Two days later, on Sunday, February 16, 1975, the men's team just missed a medal in the 3X10 kilometer relay race, placing fourth. Their combined time was 1:52:37 just behind the bronze medalists, Ontario (Chronicle Herald, February I7, 1975). The interesting thing about this race was they probably would have won a medal if not for Bryan Aller having the flu and being unable to compete. Instead of Bryan skiing the final leg of the relay, the fourth man on the team, his father, Moe, had to do it. There was nothing wrong with that, because that is why there are four men on a team; but Bryan was a stronger skier than his father. The great thing about the race was that the Nova Scotia team actually led for the first two-thirds of the relay race, by strong skiing from Bryan Scallion and Gary Hartling. It was not until the final leg that they slipped to fourth (Chronicle Herald, February 17, 1975).

The day before all this happened, on Saturday, February 15, 1975, the women had their relay race. It consisted of a 3X5 kilometer race and was not quite as dramatic as the men's race. They did manage to finish ninth out of a field of eleven teams. The time for the women combined was 1:08:09, and it was skied by Dianne Powell, Linda Lawerence and Kerry Feetham (Chronicle Herald. February 17, 1975). Coach Purcell was pleased with the way his girls' team skied because they performed personal bests at the games. He realized before the games started that his girls' team was young and not as experienced as his guys' team, and that Nova Scotia lacked the snow conditions and competition which is needed to improve and gain experience (Mail Star, January 30, 1975). All in all though, the Nova Scotia cross country ski team of the 1975 Canada Winter Games did very well.





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NOVA SCOTIA	52	9
ONTARIO	111	2
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	9	12
QUEBEC	102	5
SASKATCHEWAN	31	10
YUKON	82	6 .

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MEN/HOMMES

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NEWFOUNDLAND	48	10
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	118	3
NOVA SCOTIA	110	(
ONTARIO	121	1
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	9	12
OUEBEC	111	5
SASKATCHEWAN	57	9
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History of Canada Winter Games Cross Country Ski Team for Nova Scotia

















ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The contents of this report have been taken from the research project, November 1986, "History of Canada Winter Games Cross Country Ski Teams for Nova Scotia" prepared by Mike Neary.