



Brimacombe, Rutherford

Kirby/Orono

*ski destination, local employer,
community gathering place for decades*

Shared by Mark Rutherford

I'm very much a historian. I love the history of this area, and always listened intently to my grandfather when he told his stories. The Rutherford family has been here eight generations. The land directly to the west of Brimacombe, my uncle has the Crown Deed for that. We've been here since the 1830's, and so there's not too many people I am not related to.



My grandfather bought the land from the Brimacombes. The Oshawa Ski club started up in the 1936/37 season. I was told it was a bunch of people from the Oshawa Yacht Club who were looking for something to do in the winter. They would ski on any little hill they could find, and then they started using Raglan.

During the war, Dermot Conway was stationed here. He was a ski instructor from Quebec. When he saw Raglan, he didn't think it was up to his "Quebec standards." I've Richards had been out scouting for a bigger hill in the area. He wanted a hill that faced north, with a nice big pitch and a natural bowl. He found that here on the face of this drumlin.



Ive brought Dermot out to test the hill. Dermot took off down the hill, and when he got partway down, he stopped to look up at the top. Ten feet from the top was Ive Richards, who had quickly realized it was too big a hill for him. Derm put his thumb up and that was the moment this property started it's evolution into the ski hill it is today.

As a kid, my grandmother ran the canteen, and my sister and my cousins hung out and drank as much pop as we wanted. People still tell stories about the honey buns my grandmother made. This was my winter playground.

