

Big White Ski Site Opens On Sunday

Big White, the highest ski area in Canada, located 40 miles southeast of Kelowna, will open December 8 a spokesman for the project said today.

"Final step in the job which required six months to finish, came Thursday when an official of the Department of Transport inspected and passed the lift facilities at Big White," he said.

Co-developers of the resort are Kelowna residents, Doug Mervyn and Cliff Serwa.

Work on the \$150,000 project actually began about a year ago when an access road was roughed into the scene. During February and March of this year, four miles of the road was completed and work on the road, chalet and tows began July 1.

The road was completed September 1.

Completing construction of the resort and facilities has kept 10 to 20 men working steadily since July 1.

Because of its height, the resort offers an abundance of good skiing snow, a southern slope offering a good deal of sunshine and it is wind-free. The ski season will stretch from November to June. The area, open alpine, is a natural skiing habitat.

TRAVEL ROUTE

To reach Big White, which will be open Sunday only this week, you go through Rutland, along the Joe Rich road to Carmi and Beaverdell. Twenty-five miles from Kelowna, a left-

hand turn will put skiers onto the final 15 miles of road to the resort.

After this Sunday, Big White will be open Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

The road to the 1,500 acre development is kept in good shape and a bulldozer is on hand at all times. Chances are very slim of being snowed in with the 'dozer readily available.

However, anyone driving to Big White should have winter tires or carry chains.

FACILITIES

The 5,500-foot T-bar is the most modern, high-speed T-bar in the northwest and one of the longest in Canada.

A 500-foot rope tow is available for use by children and beginners.

The chalet is a permanent 36 by 60 foot building that will be changed into a dormitory within the next two years. The cafeteria serves light meals and is fully equipped and modern.

SKI SCHOOL

A ski school will be started as soon as the ski resort swings into operation. Classes will be conducted for skiers at all stages of development plus group and individual lessons. Interested skiers and prospective skiers can register for the classes at Big White.

TOP INSTRUCTOR

The resort boasts a top-notch instructor for the ski classes. He is Willie Pfisterer, who ran the ski school at Jasper National Park for six years. He has been on the Austrian national ski team and for the past two years, trained Alberta's ski team.

Mr. Pfisterer ranks as one of Canada's top mountain guides and is an avalanche and safety expert. Fortunately, there is no avalanche problem at Big White.

A ski rental and repair shop is set up at Big White and also run by Mr. Pfisterer. A Kelowna sporting goods store is sponsoring the shop. Ski accessories will also be available.

Dr. K. A. France will be in charge of a six-man ski patrol and will be at the ski site at all times.

Sports