

# Lake Region Winter Sports Endowment

**T**he last members of Lake Region Winter Sports, Inc. created this endowment to commemorate many years of enjoyment brought to the Lake Region through the efforts of the club and one of its notable forerunners, Clifford Olson.

Lake Region Winter Sports was created in 1988 as a non-profit organization affiliated with the Devils Lake Park Board. Its key purpose was to develop Skyline Skiway, a downhill ski area south of Devils Lake near Sully's Hill.

Skyline Skiway had provided downhill skiing during the winter months since its formal opening in December 1932. The original ski jump—which rose 100 feet above the summit of a 200-foot hill and had a slope of 38 degrees—had been built for the tryouts of the 1932 Olympic team.

In 1938, use of the big jump was discontinued after no tournaments were held there and safety concerns began to rise. The club faced the possibility of closing down, but a supportive community pitched in, and donations kept the ski hill open.

Cliff Olson grew up fascinated by the skiers that came in from near and far and eventually became very involved with the ski jump. He served as president of Lake Region Winter Sports organization from 1963 until

he passed away in 2008. During these years, he also taught in the LRSC Auto and Diesel Technician programs, retiring in 1990.

Cliff's son, Dennis, stepped in to carry on his father's passion for providing the people of the Lake Region with a ski facility to enjoy during the sometimes seemingly unending North Dakota winters.

When the organization was disbanded in 2014, remaining funds were donated to Lake Region State College to honor Lake Region Winter Sports and Cliff Olson for all the time and effort put into recreation in the Lake Region community.

The Lake Region Winter Sports Endowment will provide scholarship support for exemplary students attending LRSC. \*

