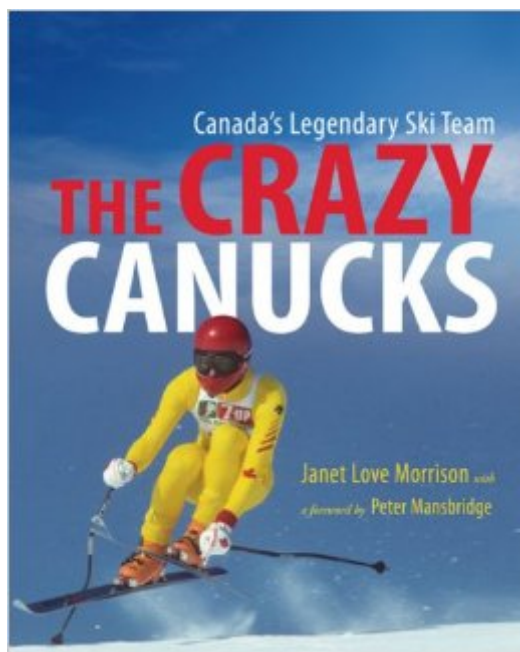


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The Crazy Canucks: Canada's Legendary Ski Team



Synopsis

Winner of the 2009 One Book, One Vancouver: The Host City Reads "Janet Love Morrison has written about an important part of our sporting history . . . For a younger generation, this is like discovering the people who laid the first tracks in fresh powder--the boys of winter who inspired so many who followed."--Peter Mansbridge, foreword

No one in Europe had ever seen anything like it: a handful of young Canadian men fearlessly hurling themselves down the iciest, steepest courses of the ski racing circuit. At first they were regarded as a bit of a joke as they travelled in a rusty old Volkswagen and showed little regard for the niceties of European alpine traditions. In the early 1970s no non-European had ever won a Men's World Cup downhill and nobody expected this to change. Then in 1975 Canadian Ken Read won at Val d'Isère and the Canadian boys began appearing on World Cup podiums with increasing regularity. It didn't take long for journalists to start calling them the "Kamikaze Canadians," but the name that stuck was the "Crazy Canucks." The courage and high spirits of the young Canadian racers--Jim Hunter, David Murray, Dave Irwin, Ken Read and Steve Podborski--made them favourites across Europe, where Swiss or Austrian or French fans would rather see Canadians win than their old archrivals.

In *The Crazy Canucks*, Janet Love Morrison chronicles the grit and perseverance of the young skiers who believed they had the right stuff to win and keep winning. Her careful research and interviews with all the key players paint a detailed picture of the Crazy Canucks. As Canadians approach the 2010 Olympics with high hopes for their ski teams, *The Crazy Canucks* provides a timely look at a most distinguished--and colourful--chapter in our nation's sporting history.

Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Harbour; 1 edition (October 17, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1550174320

ISBN-13: 978-1550174328

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.5 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #2,740,861 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #111 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Skiing > Downhill #2707 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Winter Sports

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