

Kawartha Lakes Snowmobile Club Spring Newsletter.....June 2009

Message from Your President ~ Wayne Harpell

Who thinks of snowmobiling at this time of year? Well, not too many of us, and I'd rather not be right this minute but alas, here I am looking out on a fine spring day, one of the very few we've actually had this year, writing this message. But I guess if we have our health every day is a fine one. While most sledders have their sleds put away for the summer and are now getting into the summer mode of boating, ATVing, cycling or whatever else you might do in the summer months, the executive of most clubs, as well as staff at the OFSC office, are still pounding away at snowmobile related issues, wrapping things up from the past season or getting things in order for the next season and seasons beyond.

I must say, even though we had a couple of meltdowns this past winter, we did have a pretty successful season. If you didn't get out and get as many miles on the sled as you'd like to have, all I can say is that you didn't try hard enough and better luck next year. If the last two seasons are a sign of global warming, well, bring it on.

Many of you might have read or heard about the advent of a new "historic" permit for next season. The idea of this permit, the approval of which passed at the OFSC convention last fall, is to encourage people with older sleds sitting in a shed at home and who have all but given up snowmobiling, to dust them off and try the sport once again. I've heard mixed opinions about doing this. On one side, we want to encourage people who were once in the sport and still have older sleds sitting around to get back into the sport, but on the other side, the older sleds are in dire need of the smoother trails that we now provide and should pay their share. Another argument on that side of the fence is that they are harder on the environment because they burn more fuel and oil burners than newer sleds. Well hold on anyway because even though it was passed at convention, the Province still has to

give it the stamp of approval and to my knowledge that hasn't happened yet. As you might have heard, the Feds have committed \$25M to multi use trails in Canada for this year, April 09 to March 10. The timing is tight and all of the details on how to apply are not fully understood yet. However, the OFSC as well as the City are plugged into the process and are committed to trying to get some of this money onto our trails. Stay tuned on this one.

The last item I'd like to mention yet once again is this; when the snow does start to fly and you just have to get out there to go for that first ride, please do not open any gates to any of our trails. That task is assigned to certain persons for a variety of reasons. We strive to maintain good relationships with our landowners and the last thing we want is to inadvertently let out a herd of cattle or something of that nature. And secondly, we have risk management issues to consider prior to opening any trail on our system. These issues need to be dealt with first.

Have a great summer and whatever your particular summer activity is, play safe.



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OFSC MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING

**Do you want to be on our KLSC
email list?**

Send your request to
klsc@sympatico.ca

We have had great compliments on our speedy replies to email inquiries. We have done our best to keep our members informed on club activities and trail conditions. We do have to rely on a web master to update trail conditions. This is why the OFSC trails update differs from the KLSC website sometimes. We try our best to get you the most current conditions. But we can boast that we did have our trails opened officially FIRST again this season and were first to have ALL of our trails officially opened as well****

Rail Trail Reminders

Directly from the by-laws;

- All use of the VRTC, including road access, is limited to between the hours of 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM, unless by special permit.
- Motorized use is limited to a maximum speed of 50km/hr unless otherwise posted.
- All use is limited to a maximum speed of 20km/hr through the urban areas of Bethany, Fenelon Falls, Burnt River and Kinmount.

Snowmobile Trail Officer Patrol (STOP)

This past season we didn't get out with the OPP as in previous years because of changes to how the OPP were running their sled program but the volunteer STOP members had another successful season just the same. Of the hundreds of sleds stopped, we only found two individuals who didn't have trail permits and yes, tickets were written.



It's the Law!

Ontario law requires every recreational sled¹ using an OFSC Prescribed Trail to have and display a valid Snowmobile Trail Permit. Fines for failure to comply range from a minimum of \$200. to a maximum of \$1000.
¹Exemptions or partial exemptions for specific user groups.

One item of concern, which we focused on, was the number of incidents of people failing to stop at stop signs. On one occasion we set up just past a road crossing and out of about 60 sleds that came our way, not one came to a stop, some didn't even take a look sideways. We realize the number of stop signs are many, but cars are going to win if you get hit.

Speed on the rail line and through the Town of Fenelon continues to be an issue and the OPP wrote several tickets in this regard. People, slow down in town and in built up areas! Our STOP officers have taken the appropriate radar training and have been outfitted with a radar gun for next season.

Let's not ruin a good thing, slow down where appropriate, and stop at driveways and road crossings.

~Wayne Harpell

Trails Advisory Committee

We are still waiting for the results of the feasibility study for a recreation bypass bridge over the Scugog River north of Lindsay, which is supposed to be completed by June. The ATV group has had several meetings to discuss this bridge, and the possibility of tapping into infrastructure money to make it happen, although with a very narrow time line on accessing this money and all the hurdles to make it happen, such as environmental assessments, it's doubtful we'll see infrastructure money for this project. We've attended a couple of these meetings to support their efforts. The anti-motorized members have already put us that they will do their best to block motorized use of this bridge if it's ever built. Try as we may, there are groups of individuals that can only see it their way and are not willing to co-operate. Stay tuned, as it's sure to get interesting.

Recreation Forest User Advisory Group (Somerville Tract)

All of the items the City said they would do in the Somerville forest have been completed. Culverts have been replaced on the main access road, gates have been installed at entrance points in an attempt to keep out unwanted dumping, two new staging areas (parking) have been established so that users of the forest can park their vehicles and trailers off the shoulder of the roads, new info signage has been placed at these points, and cautionary signage is in

place. The City is presently awaiting quotes to repair the Marsh trail following extensive damage created by the indiscriminate use of off road 4x4 trucks last fall.

In terms of new initiatives, members of this group have been exploring options of improvements to the old cross country ski trails, opening up some old and grown in trails for hiking, cycling, horseback riding, ATV riding, etc.

One thing I'd like to mention to everyone. The forest is presently open to most recreational pursuits and there are very few conflicts. Let's keep it that way. Please respect that some trails, like the ski trails, are off limits to motorized use. A second section of the forest, which is off limits to motorized use, is the section West of the main North/South trail. The committee has made a commitment to respect the wishes of our forest reserve neighbours to the West and will maintain a reasonable distance from them so that this section of unspoiled nature remains that way.

The last contract for timber harvesting in the forest will take place North of the Monk road and West of the Millennium Trail. It's to commence shortly and should be completed by the snowmobile season. If you use the forest during the off-season please be on the lookout for logging operations.

Lastly, there's a possibility that the group might tap into the Federal Infrastructure money but it's too soon to say just yet. Updates in the fall.... Wayne Harpell

District 2 News

By Gerry Rintoul

Ontario Provincial funding was utilized to the extent of \$160,000.00 in our District last year. **Most obvious in KLSC area was destination signage on TOP Trails.** Next was removal of E108 from the cottage road to Bass Lake on TMSC trails. 2.8km's of trail cost \$32,000.00 to build. Much of the money was spent East of Buckhorn on Top Trail improvement.

This year there is funding available from the Federal Government but conditions are stringent and it must all be completed by April 30 2010.

Your District representatives are working diligently to get and implement funding for more trail improvements.

Would your Business like to be advertising on our District 2 Trail Map?

Still some space available.

Call-613.478.5916 Email: dist2@snowbase.ca,

Web www.dist2ofsc.ca





We're building more than just *great trails!*

Message from Your Volunteer Co-ordinator

-Liz Dhillips

What another Early Start to an Old Fashioned Winter! (that left us too soon). Again this year we had a number of new members joining our growing list of club Volunteers! We continue to have volunteers "Adopt a Piece of the Your Trail". Thanks to all of our newest volunteers, who now have a greater appreciation for our trail system. A great deal of work goes into running our club each year. The club directors have full time volunteer jobs all year long keeping the club running. Our **FAMILY FUN RUN** continues to grow and we had another

successful year with the largest amount of prizes ever awarded to the registered attendees. **Our Family Fun Run each year goes to help support our community. This year we were proud to be able to donate just under \$1100 to each of the Food Banks –**



Lindsay-Kawartha Food Service and The Salvation Army Food Bank Fenelon Falls.

Thanks to our Landowners for providing their properties for our snowmobiling enjoyment and to all the landowners who have worked as volunteers with us to open and clear trails! At our AGM on June 28 we will be honouring our Volunteers and Landowners. Each year our committee chooses 2 Volunteers that have worked hard throughout the past season and before. We also choose the Rookie of the year! Plan to attend! Meet all the volunteers! Volunteer Pins will be presented at AGM.

Our Trail Patrollers and Stop Officers are volunteers that deserve a **Huge THANKS!**



NEW PERMIT PRICES ON THE WAY

The \$180 permit will be \$200 if purchased by December 1st and \$250 for full season thereafter. The permit has remained the same for five years and the small increase was deemed necessary by the membership at the last AGM. No other sport costs this little to belong too. Remember that the OFSC cost to our club has been almost \$92 of each permit sold. We have to make due for all our groomer fuel, repairs, trail work, building and general operations with the leftovers...



NO ATVs ON OFSC TRAILS!

ATVs are not allowed on OFSC trails on private land in any season without landowner permission.

ATVs must stay off all OFSC trails during the winter grooming season.



Thank you Landowners

A big thank you to all of our landowners. All of us at KLSC enjoy working with each and every landowner on our trail system. Our nicest trails travel through some lovely countryside along creeks and through meadows and forest areas. We try to ensure that the landowners concerns are dealt with as quickly as possible. We have been so fortunate in having such a great group of landowners.

Our Scenic Look Out off of B103-Fenelon has been permanently closed!

It is unfortunate, but a few disobeying sledders traveling off the prescribed trail into their Quarry, led to the closure.

Please STAY ON THE PRESCRIBED TRAIL!

HOPE TO SEE ALL THE LANDOWNERS AT OUR BBQ AGAIN THIS YEAR!

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO KLSC LANDOWNERS AT THE BBQ along with

**OFSC Landowner Recognition Prize
Winners of \$50 GAS Cards to:**

**BRUCE DOUGLAS, MIKE HOLLINGER,
GORD MACKAY, JIM WHITE**

Events Page

LANDOWNERS and VOLUNTEERS BARBEQUE AND ANNUAL MEETING SUN JUNE 28, 2009 1:00

Our AGM will start at 1:00 on Sun, June 28, 09 with our BBQ immediately following. We will be awarding our Volunteers of the Year at AGM and drawing the Landowner prizes. **Please RSVP to Kevin at 887.4802 on your attendance.** Special pricing on KLSC clothing for attendees!

GO SNOWMOBILING!
www.ofsc.on.ca

Drop By District 2 Booth!

We will see you on SEPTEMBER 25TH TO THE 27TH
Toronto Congress Centre, 650 Dixon Rd.
& Hwy 401.
Combined ONE Big Powersports Show

Driver Training Courses

DEC 5, 2009 & Jan 9, 2010

Driver Training Courses for anyone over the age of 12 are a great way for novice individuals or beginner families to learn snowmobile safety before that first ride

Cost of the course last year was \$30.00. **Book Early!!**

Class Sizes are limited. Spots Held for Members Only Until November 1st. **CASH ONLY PREFERRED** Call **GREG SNIDER 705.887.6393** for registration forms and info or the Club @ 705.887.1288



GPS Winner

RAPTOR TICKET Winners



Annual Family Fun Run Sat Feb 6, 2010

Enjoy a Great Fun Filled Day For the Whole Family. Over 250 people attended this past year and over \$9,000 in prizes awarded, including a GPS, RAPTOR Tickets and Snowmobile Jackets! And so much more!



Thanks Steve! Lakehouse serves up hot bevies to get Fun Run Started!

The Weather Man Was Wrong
What A Great Day!

