



Member in Good Standing

**Fall 2013**

BEAUTIFUL EASTERN ASSOCIATION SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

For the most up to date information, please visit us at

**WWW.TheBEAST.CA**



Deb Lackey BEAST Social Club, Jim Lackey, Interim BEAST President and Stu Spoor, BEAST Permit Coordinator

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# The BEAST



## Interim President's Message – By Jim Lackey

Well, it's been over a year since we had the privilege of sending out our snowmobile message to our BEAST members. It has been a busy year on and off the trails. I would like to thank Dave "Krusty" Hunt again for his dedication to the BEAST

clubs, rider surveys and working with the insurance industry and our Provincial Government to see what is happening to the sport. Our Ride our trails for free weekend demonstrated people are still interested with over 15,000 registered sleds signing up to receive a free permit.

and snowmobiling. After a season break he has gotten back onto the 'saddle' in a Provincial District role as Operations Coordinator. Great news for Dave and for us!

My last message to our ridership in fall 2011 was indeed about taking a bit of a break to focus more on some motorcycling. The "experiment" as I called it, also involved selling off some snowmobiles and simply working as a club volunteer which I did. Well, the experiment didn't go quite as planned and while we did ride the bike a lot more, I think I lasted about 2 ½ weeks without a sled after the first snowfall. Clearly, we are one of the many of those "committed riders" that support this sport.

Speaking of committed riders, last year Dave spoke about the financial challenges of Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) clubs to operate. All across the province, we are faced with declining permit sales and little by little, clubs are being forced to close their doors. Our 2012 AGM delegates directed OFSC staffers to come up with a possible solution called: "Framework for Change". After many months of dedicated volunteer time and analysis, a model was proposed and approved by the 2013 voting delegates at this year's AGM.

This framework is fairly complex to understand but is based on data collection from

The goal of this new Framework is to encourage people to start snowmobiling again or we will be faced with some tough decisions ahead if we can't sustain our product. The Framework also includes better trail enforcement, more sustainable provincial funding and a revised club operational funding model. We know that there are more than 100,000 insured snowmobiles in Ontario with around 60,000 people buying permits each year. We need to get these machines back into the sport and this Framework for Change is considered to be a transition period for this season and an enabler to see if we can make that happen.

What does this mean for you, well first up: There will be more buying choices available. For this year, a regular season trail permit will be available for sale at \$180.00 if you buy on or before November 1, 2013. The season permit purchase MUST be made online as clubs will not have their permits into the regular outlets until November 2, 2013. There will be increased availability for the 3 and 7 day permit with the 3 day permit price reduced to \$75.00. Again, all permits will be available for sale online. Links for online purchasing and other details will be available at the OFSC website and BEAST website. [www.ofsc.on.ca](http://www.ofsc.on.ca) or [www.thebeast.ca](http://www.thebeast.ca).

I encourage everyone to take advantage of the new permit choices available and hopefully we can get some of the machines that we know are sitting idle back on the trails. Trail enforcement will have a bigger pres-

ence with a revised training program for the Snowmobile Trail Officer Patrol (STOP) program. The STOP team will revise their training curriculum which should see an increase number of officers out there enforcing the User Pay system and making sure we have sleds with proper permits on the trails. Lastly, there will be a new financial model put into place which is to try and balance the money across the province and making funds available to clubs that have snow and increased groomer costs. This model will be transparent to the general user but the result should be that you see better trails with more grooming.

Last season, we had a good start to the season with a fair bit of snow, a quick thaw and then a massive dump which I would say almost rivaled the Ice Storm of 1998. BEAST volunteers had just put away all the trail work equipment only to be blessed with another 2 weeks worth of work to re-open the trails. We appreciate the extra help from riders passing by that stopped to help. BEAST volunteers are the best in the business, bar none. They are real dedicated folks and my

appreciation goes to each and every one of them. As it turned out, we had a better than average season and many compliments about our trails. Communications continue to be important: We hope to produce more episodes of BEAST TV and make sure you check out our website and Facebook page to keep current on trail conditions and events.

I would like to thank Andrew MacHardy, Brent Phifer and Mike Harvey for their past service as executive and I would like to welcome Audy Bedard, Darin McRae and Rob Thicke to the 2013/14 Board. In late breaking news, I would also like to welcome Brian Moreau as the new BEAST President. Brian has been an active volunteer with the BEAST since 1995 and was elected as President at our club meeting on October 3, 2013 after I announced during AGM that I would be stepping down and would only serve as interim president until another could be found.

I said in the past that Changes were coming and man did they ever!!! Pray for snow and as always, Happy Trails!

## **Beauties of the BEAST - By Julie-Anne Bedard**

February 2, 2013 was the first organized Woman only ride of the BEAST. We called ourselves "BEAUTIES of the BEAST". A month before the day we had 30 women signed up to go. A great turn out for our first year! But as the day approached and we continued to pray for snow...we only had 16 women turn out in the end. Due to the limited conditions we were not able to ride from home to Petawawa and so in the spirit of never giving up and for the benefit of our cause (Carleton Place Memorial Hospital), we organized trailers as Petawawa had lots of snow! We made our way up to the Quality Inn which is located right off the snowmobile trail, unloaded our sleds and we were off! The weather cooperated and we had a great day of sledding with 16 friends. On Saturday night we all gathered at Kelsey's Restaurant; ate, celebrated and shared some laughs. After dinner there was cake and door prizes. All in all, we

raised \$5296.00 for the Carleton Place Hospital. The consensus was that it was a lot of fun and we got to meet some new women riders which is always a bonus.

This year the date for our second annual ride is February 1 and 2, 2014. We are going to go to Petawawa again; hopefully we will sled from home. We are hoping for 30+ women this year. So experienced riders as well as beginners are all welcome! We stick together and pride ourselves in the camaraderie of the event. If you would like further information or are interested in joining us (4 – 5 hour run) please contact Julie-Anne at 613-256-2973 or e-mail [jabedard@storm.ca](mailto:jabedard@storm.ca)



**Please note that the OFSC designation of the Trans Canada Trail ends at Westridge Drive. The City of Ottawa does not allow snowmobiles on the Trans Canada Trail East of Westridge Drive. Traveling East of Westridge Drive on snowmobile puts the entire Trans Canada Trail user agreement negotiated with the City of Ottawa at risk.**

**Help us help you!**

**Trail Work Days**

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>,**

**November 30<sup>th</sup> and**

**December 7<sup>th</sup>**

**To register call**

**Julie-Anne at**

**613-256-2973**



## Permit Prices

- **\*\*Online only\*\* Full Season on or before November 1st \$180.00**
- **Full Season on or before December 1st \$210.00**
- **Full Season After December 1st \$260.00**
- **3 Day Permit \$75.00**
- **7 Day Permit \$140.00**
- **Classic Permit on or before December 1st \$140.00**
- **Classic Permit after December 1st \$170.00**



**Buy your permit online on or before November 1, 2013 at [www.ofsc.on.ca](http://www.ofsc.on.ca) and save over \$70. Shipping and handling costs are borne by the purchaser. Shipping and Handling costs on permits purchased online after November 1, 2013 are charged to the club. For those riders that want to ensure that their maximum permit contribution goes onto the snow, we recommend visiting one of our many permit vendors and using cash. This method provides no transaction costs to the club.**

## PERMIT VENDORS

Advance Transmission (Perth)  
 Almonte Licence Office  
 Black's Corners Motorsports  
 Carleton Auto Parts (Almonte and Carleton Place)  
 Carleton Place Marine  
 Clayton General Store  
 Danby's Bar and Grill  
 Georges' Marine and Sports  
 Hank's Tire Supply (Smiths Falls)  
**Jim Lackey 613-253-5486**  
 Levi Home Hardware  
 March Road Motor Sports  
 Perth Power Sports and Marine  
 Riders Edge Performance  
 Richmond Motorsports  
 Smiths Falls Licence Office  
 Stittsville Trailer Sales  
**Stuart Spoor 613-257-1561**  
 Valley Small Engines (CP)

## BEAST Trail Patrol - By Darin McRae

The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) Trail Patrol Program commenced in 1983 at the inception of the user-pay system. Trail Patrol members volunteer their time and use of their personal equipment to be snowmobile ambassadors. These volunteers are clearly identifiable by their Trail Patrol vest and each member also carries with them their Trail Patrol ID issued by the OFSC.

The BEAST Trail Patrol is comprised of over 30 members who patrol during the week, weekends and evenings. Patrols generally consist of two Trail Patrol members but often include 4-8 members. During the 2012/13 season, BEAST Trail Patrol Members logged 228 hours. We have members stationed all over the BEAST Trail system including: Stittsville, Richmond, Almonte, Barrhaven, Carleton Place and Munster Hamlet.

The primary function of Trail Patrol is public awareness and safety. Trail Patrol Member's duties are centered around activity on OFSC Prescribed Trails and may be summarized into four broad categories:

Landowner Agent. As the agent for the

## District One Operations Update - By Dave (Krusty) Hunt

The District 1 Snowmobile Association is an umbrella organization which provides assistance to the 23 local snowmobile clubs in Eastern Ontario including the BEAST. District 1 has an office in Morrisburg, Ontario and employs one staff member and has a board of 7 volunteers all working to reduce the paperwork and provide both administrative and financial assistance when required. The district consists of the area west to Napanee, north to Calabogie and east to the Ontario/Quebec border. The clubs in District 1 sell over 6,800 trail permits annually. The clubs within District 1 spent just under 10,000 hours grooming over 3,900 kms of District 1 trails. This year, District 1 has already completed 5 grant applications including both groomers and trail improvements.

landowner, a Trail Patrol has the authority to lay a notice of Trespass to Property charge under the *Trespass to Property Act*.



Safety Promotion. Members promote safe riding by reminding snowmobilers of safe riding practices.

Risk Management. Trail Patrol Members actively identify and report unsafe or unusual conditions, remove branches, and report safety issues to the club.

On Trail Support. Trail Patrol Members provide on trail support in the form of maps, safety equipment, directions, help and updated information on trail conditions.

Members of the BEAST Trail Patrol will be out again this season checking for permits and helping snowmobilers. Our goal is to ensure the trails are safe and everyone is compliant / aware of the various laws.

We also intend to dramatically improve our social media presence in the coming months to help spread the word about club events and local snowmobile news as quickly and as widely as possible. If you haven't already done so, you can like us at [facebook.com/district1ofsc](http://facebook.com/district1ofsc).

Clearly, trail permit dollars are going a long way towards providing sledders with quality trail development, improvement and maintenance. These accomplishments could not have been realized without the small army of 1400 dedicated volunteers who, last year, put in over 100,000 hours of their own time to make the trails of District 1 so excellent.

## Volunteering - By Daryl Rauhala

This is a volunteer run club just like any other OFSC club. Rather than put out the old generic message that we can use a hand, which is always true, we thought that this time around a few specific examples of how you could improve the local snowmobiling experience, and meet some fellow sledders!

These examples encompass the many tasks that can help offload the core volunteers to avoid making club duties feel like a job. For starters... are you interested in media? You could help organize next year's newsletter ( what you are reading now ), or on a weekly basis collect information and send it out as the BEAST updates during the season.

More interested in trail tasks? We have been looking to complete the trail intersection distance markings for years with no takers. We have a spreadsheet in progress of the signs and distances, and simply need to apply the distance numbers to incomplete intersections. No small task, but something to work at, at your own pace during the season.

Have some free time in the fall and some farm equipment? Sure would be nice to pack down the majority of the tilled fields

where the trail runs before they freeze up!

Don't mind painting? The club runs through a couple hundred orange trail pickets every year. These need to be ordered, picked up, dried, painted and reflective stapling added. This is another task that can be executed to fit your time frame. We add metal posts every year that stay up year-round, but in many cases only temporary orange wooden posts are suitable.

Eager for an early season ride when the snow first hits? The club needs to pack swamps 10 plus feet wide to drive the frost into the ground before many sections of trail can be used by all. Contacting the sector coordinators at the start of the season can give you a chance to legally ride early and with a purpose that helps us all get the trails into safe condition, and available for the season.

There are many areas to improve. It simply takes the shared input from many volunteers like you. Contact any club member to learn more.

For those that have prioritized the time to volunteer in the past, many thanks!



**This young BEAST rider completed driver training with Anna and was eager for a ride.**

## Fast Facts:

Ontario has approximately 31,878 km of OFSC Prescribed snowmobile trails.

Approximately 22,213 km of OFSC trails are on private land. Approximately 10,445 km of OFSC trails are on public land.

There are 14,024 landowners with OFSC trails on their property. *If you enjoyed your ride, thank a Landowner!*

## Volunteers In Action (VIA) - By Julie-Anne Bedard

This year is no different than any other year; we are all excited for the snow! As you know the trail systems are maintained by a close knit group of volunteers who work diligently to open and close the trails each year.

VIA is looking to expand this "close-knit" group of volunteers to include more men, women and children who love snowmobiling and are looking to contribute. Of particular note high school students can earn

their 40 hours of community service by volunteering within the club.

As with every season we need the following volunteer workers;

- Trail work (Spring and Fall)
- Social activities (planning and organization)
- Fundraising (but don't worry we keep it fun!)
- Communications (newsletter/BEAST TV)

We the BEAST have 3

organized work days: November 23, November 30 and December 7. On November 30 we end the day with a potluck dinner and some laughs. Even if you can spare a couple of hours it is a help and is greatly appreciated, age and gender doesn't matter we are all snowmobilers and enjoy the outdoors.

Throughout the year OFSC, District 1 and the BEAST have draws for volunteers. Volunteers are nominated by their peers

and voted on by the executives of the BEAST.

Congratulations to our most recent winners:

- Volunteer of the Year- Andrew MacHardy
- Family of the Year-The White Family
- Trail Patroller of the Year- Jim Lackey
- Rookie of the Year-Kim McColl

Your VIA contact is Julie-Anne she can be reached at 613-256-2973 or e-mail [jabedard@storm.ca](mailto:jabedard@storm.ca).

## The True Cost:

Ontario has 352 pieces of large grooming equipment owned by OFSC clubs or associations valued at over \$26M. This equipment groomed over 82,500 hrs and consumed over 786,000L of diesel fuel during the 2012/2013 season.

It costs on average \$290/km to operate OFSC trails.



**Do you have a snowmobile that is more than 15 years old? (1999 or older)** If so you qualify for the classic permit which is only \$140 before December 1, 2013. Classic permits can be purchased at the OFSC District One office or Arnprior Sportland. Please support the buy where you ride concept and ensure the BEAST is specified as the club you wish to support.

### The Beauties of the BEAST!



## BEAST Work Days - By Jim Lackey

You say you don't have time or know how to help or can only contribute a little; BEAST Work Days can help you solve that problem. Each year, we dedicate 3 days where we "Blitz" the trails to complete as much setup as we can. Setup could be anything like opening trails, clearing brush, putting up signs and pickets or fixing bridges/gates. We have designated meeting areas where we can split up work crews and do what we can to make use of that time.

Our Workdays this year are scheduled for November 23<sup>rd</sup>, November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>. At the end of the day on the 30<sup>th</sup>, we host our Annual Potluck Dinner. Usually, we start at 9:00am and finish around 3:30pm

but this does not mean you have to stay the entire day so this gives you the flexibility.

We will show you what to do as you are usually partnered with an experienced trail worker so physical ability is what we need. While not required to help, we also appreciate if you have extra equipment like an ATV, Chainsaw, Cordless drill, warm/dry clothes and anything else you might think of to spend some time with us to help. Come as you are and don't worry if you don't have this stuff. We will cover fuel expenses for equipment used and make sure it goes back home at the end of the day in one piece if you do happen to bring it along.

There are 3 meeting locations so you have choices there too.

We meet normally for 9:00 a.m. at:

Jim Lackey's – 1405 7<sup>th</sup> Line Beckwith, Carleton Place area – Contact Jim 613-253-5486

Audy Bedard's – 1465 Wolf Grove Road, Almonte area – Contact Audy 613-256-2973

Doug Featherstone's – 6182 Garvin Road, Richmond area – Contact Rob 613-838-2218

Lot's of choices available to help you help us!! Come and join us. These days are usually a lot of fun. Don't miss out!

## Driver Training - By Anna Mould

Do you have a child between the ages of 12 and 16 who is interested in riding the trails with you this season? Sign them up for an OFSC Snowmobile Safety Course.

In Ontario, all snow vehicle

operators must have a valid licence in order to ride the trails. For individuals between the ages of 12-16, a snow vehicle operator's licence is required. Adults over the age of 16, with no drivers licence, can also receive a snow vehicle licence. To obtain a snow vehicle licence, participants must successfully pass the Driver Training course offered through local clubs. The OFSC Driver Training Course is designed to emphasize the safe operation of motorized snow vehicles.

In the 6-hour training program, participants will:

- Learn safe riding techniques and tips

- Learn how to prevent problems and avoid environment hazards
- Motorized Snow Vehicle Laws
- See practical video and live demonstrations
- Gain confidence and a safety-focused attitude

The Driver Training courses will be held on November 3, 2013 and January 12, 2014 at the Beckwith Township Office. Pre-registration for this course is required. See our website ([www.thebeast.ca](http://www.thebeast.ca)) for further details.

## Who are BEAST Volunteers - By Darin McRae

Volunteers are what power organized snowmobiling in Ontario. Over the last few weeks, I had the chance to sit down with a few BEAST volunteers and talk to them about their volunteering experience within the BEAST. Andrew and Kelly MacHardy are the husband/wife BRP duo from Carleton Place; Dave Poaps hails from Richmond and is in love with his new POLARIS Switchback 800 PRO; and Deb and Jim Lackey are the husband/wife Polaris team from Beckwith Township.

### Darin: How many years have each of you been volunteering with the BEAST?

*Andrew:* 8 great years!

*Kelly:* 8 years

*Dave:* 15 years. Since it was formed!

*Deb:* Over a dozen years.

*Jim:* 15 years and counting.

### Darin: Why do you volunteer with BEAST?

*Andrew and Kelly:* We are very passionate about snowmobiling and want to see this sport continue to thrive for many generations in the future.

*Dave:* To help make the trail system as good as it can be given the short period of time we have each season.

*Deb & Jim:* I [Jim] was one of the original founding members of the BEAST. Deb and I strongly believe that this association has helped the clubs with equipment, finances and volunteers. The BEAST has succeeded as more hands make less work!

### Darin: Tell us about a positive experience you've had as a BEAST volunteer.

*Andrew and Kelly:* Joining the club. Everybody is so friendly and you are surrounded by extremely passionate people who love the sport. This is the best place to find riding buddies too!

*Dave:* Hearing positive feedback from riders who appreciate the work put into the trails by our great group of volunteers.

*Deb & Jim:* I don't know of any other volunteer organization where people are as passionate about what they do and the fact there is no real barriers to be involved. The positives have always outweighed the negative

and we love this sport.

### Darin: What have you learned from volunteering and/or what advice can you give to a new volunteer?

*Andrew and Kelly:* After joining the club, we quickly learned that opening trails was more complex than just grooming. There are so many activities to be completed to ensure the trails are safe such as inspecting ice conditions, maintenance of grooming equipment, completing risk management documentation, installing signage, finalizing landowner agreements and completing final inspections.

*Dave:* I enjoy working with my team of volunteers and keep in mind it is a fun and sociable sport.

*Deb & Jim:* Most people see organized snowmobiling as a very short season but volunteers work at this all year round. Without the help and support from all the volunteers the trails would simply not be ready. Advice? Come to the meetings, meet people, don't be shy or don't be afraid as we all started at one time. Bring your skills to the table. Be proactive, don't wait for someone to ask you to do something.

*Darin:* On behalf of the BEAST, please accept my thanks! Deb, Kelly, Dave, and Jim – you are each great examples of volunteers that we need to keep this sport going. Your efforts, time and leadership over the years does not go unnoticed.



**Help pack swamps wide to assist with freeze up! Only inches from a groomer pass on an unpacked area is open water.**



**Ever wonder what activities are going on at the club, what events are happening or if the trails are open? Why bother with having to go check the website yourself when we are willing to deliver the news, events and information right to your inbox? If you haven't received an email from us lately, you're probably not on our mailing list. When filling out your permit application make sure to include your email address or better yet visit our website at [www.TheBEAST.ca](http://www.TheBEAST.ca) to sign up today. We will not sell your information nor will we fill your mailbox with useless emails!**



**BEAST "Where's the Sands Tour": Back Row: Dave White, unknown local rider, Michael Kahnert, Stewart Spoor, Sue Chayer, Julie-Anne Bedard and Everitt Cassidy. Front: Kelly MacHardy, Andrew MacHardy. Missing from photo: Bev Seddon**

## Grooming - By Jim Lackey

The BEAST fleet consists of 4 large industrial groomers with one smaller light duty groomer. Normally, 3 units are run on a consistent basis with the 4th and 5th serving to cover some "geographically challenged" areas. Last season, BEAST spent over 863 hours in the groomers which was the 3rd highest hours in this District.

If you are wondering where your permit dollars go, BEAST spent over \$15,000 in fuel last year and just finished our 5th year of paying off 2 of our new to us groomers at an annual purchase cost of \$34,000 in each of the 5 years. That combined, with repairs and maintenance, can add up pretty quickly but we do our best to keep these expenses to a minimal.

Several drivers take pride in covering our trails at least 2-3 passes per week over high traffic areas and 1-2 passes per week on the lesser used trails. One thing that always brings a

smile to our faces is getting the "thumbs up" when you pass by on the sled.

Speaking of passing by a groomer with your machine, we did have a couple occasions where we did get stuck or broke down. We appreciated the help of our dedicated volunteers to assist in rescue missions but also to a few riders that did stop to see if we were OK.

One thing to note that is if you do see a groomer stopped on the trail, much like a sled, it is always good sense to see if the person needs help. It could be we need help to move a tree out of the way or we have a breakdown that prevents us from doing our job. Usually you will get a friendly hello and sent along your way or a very happy operator as they now have some help. If you see a unit stopped, there is no harm in stopping and asking if we are OK.

The other aspect of grooming and a question we hear often is, "why is the

groomer not out at the start of the season". Unlike other areas, our trail system deals with a fair number of water crossings, rivers and swamps. A snowmobile needs 4"- 6" of ice to skim across a water surface while a groomer requires 20" – 24" of ice. We do have a limited number of sections where we do our best to groom early and finish late but for the most part, we need to be cautious of ice.

Trust me when I say our operators are probably the biggest die hard sledders you can run into and we want these trails to be smooth like everyone else. What may look like pristine terrain to groom can be masked with a skim of ice so please don't assume it is OK to be there with a 10 ton machine. People who help us build trails have a true appreciation of what we groom over top of and the best way to be educated is to help us in the Fall/Spring as you would be amazed by how much water you do cross!

## North East Trail Sector Status - By Daryl Rauhala

The BEAST North East (NE) consists of trails from Stittsville southwest on the Trans Canada Trail (TCT), BEAST 202, BEAST 201, portions of the A from BEAST 202 southeast to the Jock River, BEAST 303 east to Copeland Rd, and E104A(Ashton swamp between Dwyer Hill Rd and Ashton Station Rd) In general, this section is the high/dry and easiest BEAST sector to access for trail work and overall maintenance. From a trail grooming standpoint, all these trails are covered by the NE groomer. On top of that, the A trail is the NE's grooming responsibility end to end within the BEAST, as well as the BEAST 203 into the north side of Richmond from time to time.

It is pretty much status quo for the NE this season. As we all experience urban sprawl and highway expansion, holding the trails in check is considered a good year. With input from volunteers last season, we were able to re-open the access trail into Munster. Many thanks to the new landowner who graciously cooperated with the club. Aside from that, we do not currently foresee any trail changes in the NE.

That said, one key area of constant concern is the TCT leading out of Stittsville. This trail is unique as this is a shared section of trail, and controlled by the City of Ottawa. Its yearly status is controlled by City council based on feedback from the public in the context of all shared trails within

### It's the Law!

Ontario law requires every recreational sled\* 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.

\*exemptions or partial exemptions for specific user groups.

the city limits. Each year the BEAST enters into a land use agreement with the city and pays a fee to the city, for the right to maintain an OFSC trail within the city limits of the TCT. This arrangement will continue if snowmobilers are courteous to other users of the TCT. As this is the only access to OFSC trails out of Stittsville, please be extra cautious here and pass along this message to fellow sledders. There were no complaints registered with council for this section of trail last season, so lets all try for a repeat season and keep Stittsville a sled accessible community.

## Volunteers and Grooming Introduction - By Darin McRae

There has been a lot of discussion about changes required to sustain organized snowmobiling in Ontario. Jim, in the Interim President's Report, explains how organized snowmobiling is facing a turning point based on declining permit sales, increasing costs, and clubs closing. Two key elements are missing from the discussion: the importance of volunteers and the benefits of increasing shared groomer operations and equipment. The following article is written by Jeff McGirr who is the Vice President of the Mattawa Snowmobile Club. BEAST thanks him for letting us re-print parts of his article. In his article, he describes his positive experience with volunteers helping volunteers; clubs helping clubs; and the important aspect of groomer sharing.

## When a Groomer Breaks - By Jeff McGirr

This is a story about a groomer breakdown and how OFSC snowmobile clubs worked together with a nothing is impossible attitude to ensure snowmobilers were still able to ride groomed trails. When a snowmobiler reaches out with one hand, you get ten back. I've found this universal fact applies to the ridership and its member clubs.

It was February 2013 when the unthinkable happened. There was an abundance of snow and trails were in tip-top shape, "available" to ride. Unexpectedly, the Mattawa & Area Snowmobile Club's new groomer malfunctioned. The groomer had to be put on a flatbed transport to a repair shop almost two hours away. Now, 160 kilometres of snow-covered trails would be without a groomer for at least two weeks.

Mattawa Club volunteers immediately called Mike Farr, then a manager at the OFSC's provincial office. Mike was able to communicate with hundreds of volunteers at other snowmobile clubs to try to find a way to get Mattawa trails groomed.

Meanwhile, Mattawa volunteers were communicating directly with neighbouring clubs for assistance. The Missing Link SC groomer operator and do-it-all volunteer, Andy Boisonneault, assisted promptly by grooming the eastern section of TOP A trail, the Bonfield SC offered help with the west section of the TOP A trail, and the North Bay SC handled the north TOP A112A.

Fortunately, Corry Coyea, a volunteer from the Glencoe and District SC in District 5 (Southwestern Ontario), sent a Facebook message asking how they could help. A few phone calls later, a Glencoe & District SC trail groomer, along with Corry as operator, had embarked on a more than 300-kilometre drive by flatbed transport to Mattawa. "When I heard that MASC was in need of a trail groomer, I thought that it would hurt business, not only in the Mattawa area, but other areas as this would affect riders doing the RAP Tour," said Corry. "Seeing as there was no snow in the GDSC area, and our club does have two

groomers, it was a great opportunity to step up."

During the next two weeks, Corry groomed Mattawa area trails, logging over 100 operating hours and gaining valuable experience working on some of the most rugged, remote, and well-known snowmobile trails in Ontario. "During my stay here with MASC, I had the opportunity to ride the trails, meet a number of the club volunteers, and had the privilege of meeting a number of the business owners in the area," concluded Corry.

I am truly inspired by what can develop through challenges. Just like a friend in your personal network that's in need, snowmobile



**Matt and Corry with GDSC Groomer**

clubs reach out, pool resources and team up to ensure a challenge is conquered and a positive outcome results. I am so proud to be a part of such an amazing network of organizations. As our Mattawa experience shows, OFSC clubs really do go that extra mile to do the best possible job for snowmobilers. So if you're a snowmobiler and you've ever considered volunteering for your local club, please stop considering and lend a hand, because it takes good volunteers to keep our clubs strong and our trails operating.



## Trail Number Changes - By Darin McRae

In an effort to provide better trail status updates and to ease on-trail navigation the following changes to trail names/numbers was approved by the BEAST membership. These changes align common grooming patterns, removes, where possible, qualifiers on trail names/numbers (for example east or west), and provides distinct names for trails that no longer directly connect (for example 202 West and 202 East). Keep an eye out for these new numbers on the trails and on the 2013/2014 BEAST Trail Guide.

<u>Sector</u>	<u>2013 Trail Name</u>	<u>2014 Trail Name</u>	<u>Trail Description</u>
NE	BEAST 202 East	BEAST 200	Dwyer Hill Rd to Stittsville (West Ridge)
NE	BEAST 202 Central	BEAST 205	A Top Trail North to Carleton Place (McNeely Ave North)
NE	No name in 2013	BEAST 206	BEAST 205 to McNeely Ave South and Hwy 7 (Gas Station)
NE	BEAST 203/303 North	BEAST 203	A Top Trail to Copeland/Conley Road
SE	BEAST 301 North	BEAST 301	Richmond to A Top South Trail
SE	BEAST 301 South	BEAST 302	301 South to Rideau A
SE	BEAST 303 South	BEAST 303	Copeland/Conley Rd. to A Top Trail South
SW	BEAST 305 West	BEAST 305	E103 to E104A Franktown Road to Mississippi Lake
SW	BEAST 305 East	BEAST 306	Connects E103 to A Top Trail South
NW	BEAST 306 South	BEAST 307	Innisville to E104A

## Help Wanted - By Andrew MacHardy

The BEAST is a not for profit Association which is entirely run by volunteers like you. Everyone from the President down to trail maintenance is a volunteer. Without people like you, the organization would not exist.

**North East Permit Coordinator** - The candidate will be responsible for the liaison and distribution/collection of permits/money to three retailers in the NE area. In addition, the candidate will be responsible to ensure permit buyer details are entered into the OFSC online system, and the administration of any lost or replacement permits. The current volunteer performing this duty will remain intricately involved during this season and transition duties for next season.

**OFSC Response Coordinator (Alternate)** - This role is currently vacant. The candidate will provide assistance to the OFSC Response Coordinator when required.

**Health and Safety Coordinator** - This role is currently vacant. The candidate will be responsible for maintaining an up to date Health and Safety Policy, promote a safe workplace throughout the year and report any concerns or complaints to the Board.



**Signage Coordinator** - This role is currently vacant. The candidate will be responsible for inventory management, training, inspecting, auditing signage throughout the BEAST trail system. Report and ensure compliance with OFSC standards.

**Alcohol Policy** – This position is currently vacant. The candidate will review policy annually with Directors in September, communicate our policy to members annually at AGM and ensure policy material is available for events.

**North East Land owner Coordinator** - The candidate will communicate with landowners within the NE sector and continually monitor and liaison with landowners or any potential new landowners in the event of ownership changes. The importance of this task is simply stated; no land means no trails. The current volunteer will remain intricately involved during this season and transition duties for next season.

**Trail Maintainers** - The Club Trail Maintainers assist in conducting maintenance on trails. This includes signage and brushing.

**Trail Section Coordinator** - The Club Trail Section Coordinator is responsible for maintaining an assigned section(s) of the trail. This includes all aspects of operation for the specified season such as landowner permission, signage and brushing.

## Where do I put my Permit?

In support of the OFSC User Pay System, Ontario law requires every recreational sled entering an OFSC Prescribed Trail to have and display a valid snowmobile trail permit.

Before you go out on OFSC trails, ensure you have your permit and it is

affixed to your snowmobile. Ontario Trail Permits are required to travel on OFSC Prescribed Trails. A valid Snowmobile Trail Permit must be affixed to your windshield to ride on OFSC trails. The fine for failing to have a valid permit is not less than \$200.00 and not more than \$1,000.00.



## Important Dates

These are important dates to mark onto your calendar.

- November 1, 2013 Last day to buy your season pass at \$180. Online Only.
- November 3, 2013 Driver Training
- November 7, 2013 General Meeting
- November 23, 2013 BEAST Work Day #1
- November 26, 2013 Signage Training
- November 26, 2013 Trail Patrol Training

- November 30, 2013 BEAST Work Day #2
- November 30, 2013 Groomer Training
- November 30, 2013 BEAST Potluck Supper
- December 1, 2013 Last day to purchase your season pass for \$210. After this date, \$260
- December 5, 2013 General Meeting
- December 7, 2013 BEAST work Day #3
- January 9, 2014 General Meeting
- January 12, 2014 Driver Training
- February 1-2, 2014 Beauties of the BEAST ride
- February 6, 2014 General Meeting
- February 8, 2014 Richmond Poker Run
- February 14-16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 BEAST Corporate Ride
- February 15-17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Family Day Free Ride Weekend
- March 6, 2014 General Meeting
- April 3, 2014 General Meeting
- May 1, 2014 General Meeting
- May 23, 2014 BEAST Golf Tournament

Please check our website for full details and locations of each of our events.

## Contact Us

### BEAUTIFUL EASTERN ASSOCIATION SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

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 Email: info@thebeast.ca  
 Website: www.thebeast.ca

### The B.E.A.S.T. Executive Members 2013-2014

President	Brian Moreau	(613) 253-3153
Vice President	Darin McRae	(613) 831-9909
Treasurer	Jim Lackey	(613) 253-5486
Secretary	Dave Poaps	(613) 489-0750
Trail Directors	Audy Bedard	North West (613) 256-2973
	Daryl Rauhala	North East (613) 836 9348
	Ian Edwards	South West (613) 257-1359
	Rob Thicke	South East (613) 838-2218



## NO ATVs ON OFSC TRAILS!

- Please Don't Trespass -

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.

