



# The BEAST

## President's Message – Jim Lackey

Jim Lackey,  
BEAST President



News Flash!!! For the first time since 1973, I am without a snowmobile and not too sure what will become of this decision. While this news is certainly not creating any global shockwaves like the assassination of Moammar Gadhafi, the unstable weather or the most recent federal/provincial elections, it certainly has created some buzz within the close snowmobile community.

fact, I have been riding bikes almost as long as I have been riding sleds. I still love them both but plans are in the works for bigger and longer bike tours with a much better equipped bike.

Even with this change, I still plan to continue supporting the BEAST and not hanging it up just yet. Remember it is kind of an experiment right?? Even so, I feel that we are at a time where we could use some new ideas, some extra help in leading projects and some fresh perspective to help us deal with our current trail challenges and you can help. It would also help us balance our time between the two sports with new help.

Remember that this is still a user pay/volunteer system and we need to support the club more now than ever rather than continuously rely on the small group of people that have run operations. Perhaps we were having so much fun that we lost sight of this and should have enforced some of our own bylaws that limits anyone from being in one spot for any period of time to help keep that fresh perspective.

Something else that prompted my message for this season is what I have seen with one of our neighbor clubs, the Osgoode Carleton Snowmobile Trail Club. They have made some significant changes with their executive the past couple seasons with a dynamic President, George Darouze. George if you know him is an eager guy and with the help of a few extra people has resurrected this club from the ashes to the point where they just won Snowmobile Club of the Year and Volunteer of the Year awards at the annual OFSC Convention this year.

Fresh ideas are a must if you want to progress in this business and these guys are doing a fantastic job dealing with some difficult issues like the re-

Continued on next page...

### Inside this issue:

Osgoode Trails	2
BEAST Work Days	2
Hwy 7 and Carleton Place Trails	3
Rail Road Bed From Chalk River To Smiths Falls	3
Learn The Right Way	4
Volunteers In Action	4
BEAST Ladies Travel	5
Building Trails: It's Easy... Right?	6
BEAST Trail Patrol	6
Important Dates	8
Communications	8

For the most up to date information, please visit us

What, no sled???? The number 1 question I have been asked is "why"? Why after close to 38 years of riding would you give it up? To be honest, I don't really know why. Call it an experiment of sorts or call it plain dumb but one thing for sure, odds are that there will be no new machines in the stable anytime soon.

One could possibly blame it on the weather and I am not talking so much about the low local snow conditions over the past couple of years but rather the blistering hot weather that never seemed to end this year. This past summer afforded us a number of opportunities to do more riding than before with our other sport of motorcycling that my wife Debbie and I enjoy as much as snowmobiling.

These two sports are very synonymous in that you are riding a motorized vehicle on endless ribbons of trail or highway to see our beautiful country with the challenge of the machine, riding with friends, relatives, neighbors and complete strangers. They are so very much alike that it is easy to see the attraction. For those of you who know me, the biking game is not new. In

cent attempt to close the rail road corridor passing through Osgoode Village by some local residents. The City of Ottawa decision to keep this trail open on a trial basis is a testament to George and his team.

Fact is, many of the ideas from this Osgoode group to inspire more help are the types of things we have been doing in the BEAST for years. Our volunteer recognition, planned work days and land owner recognition is tops of any other group or association that I have met in this province or any other province. George reminded me so much of ourselves when we first started out and I still feel that our organization is every bit as good as any other around and in most cases a lot better!

Our core volunteers are the best in the business and have done an excellent job year after year in delivering a product that only seems to last a few weeks. Debbie and I both plan to continue working shoulder to shoulder with these people and we would be missing something big if we backed away completely. Many of our friends today are because of snowmobiling and I am grateful for

## OSGOODE TRAILS

This past year, snowmobiling within the City of Ottawa limits faced one of its biggest challenges. A number of residents in the Osgoode Area petitioned the City of Ottawa to close a rail road bed corridor trail that links Osgoode, Kemptville, Carleton Regional and others together.

BEAST supported our neighbors by attending the number of Town Hall sessions and making presentations on the impact to snowmobiling if the trail was to be closed. Our BEAST

## BEAST WORK DAYS

Oh, and back to that weather thing, we had no shortage of some fairly bad windstorms and rainstorms this past year as well. Many of the trails will most likely need some extra help

that. I would also be remiss not to mention some additional folks that help us on our annual work days as this certainly helps us reduce our yearly workload.

Getting involved requires change and with change, there always needs to be a period of transition. Transition is something we were never given the luxury of when we first took on running the Association and is certainly something we would have appreciated rather than getting 6-10 different jobs dropped on your lap at once. We are here to help anyone interested in taking on a new role and have all of the materials and experience to help. Making small changes to introduce new people is much easier than to get a notice in the paper stating we are closed for business (this does happen).

How do I get involved? Attending your club meetings is the best way to find out how. It is a very small, once a month, one hour commitment with some social aspect afterwards. Not much to ask. Best approach is to see how the club runs, see what needs to be done and offer your help or expertise rather than wait to be

presentation was well received by the audience and the Osgoode team should also be commended for their commitment to keep this trail open.

As a result, the final decision went to the City of Ottawa council for a vote and the end result is that a trail will be open but with a number of conditions regarding speed and a noise curfew that must be respected by snowmobilers over the next 2 years.

Please check out the Osgoode link

with downed trees based on some preliminary scouting trips made already. Our BEAST Work Days are Nov 26 and Dec 3 this year. On the December work day, we usually fol-

low up with a potluck dinner and some awards that we present annually to our volunteers. Please contact Debbie Lackey at 613-253-5486 or Julie-Anne Bedard at 613-256-2973

asked. There are many tasks that need to be completed on a yearly basis and even taking on the smallest one helps us focus on the bigger problems at hand such as the land development.

The BEAST Website and news-groups is the 2<sup>nd</sup> best way to stay informed but it takes some effort on the individual to follow up and get involved. There is no shortage of work. In fact, we are tracking some projects that need to be completed for close to 3 years. These projects need some leaders to finish them. Leaving this work undone places our trails at risk and it would be a shame to leave that on the shoulders of just a few core volunteers.

[www.snowmobile.on.ca](http://www.snowmobile.on.ca) is a must for the favorites list of any die hard sledder.

Even if after all of this you still can't volunteer, I ask that you please continue to support the BEAST. Our Annual BEAST AGM is on Dec 1, 2011 and we hope to see you there!

Happy Trails!!

for more information on this and remember that our own trail between Stittsville and Carleton Place could be next if we don't use similar common sense and protocol that has been set out for the Osgoode trail. One bad apple will be all that it takes and a ton of work could be flushed away. Make sure your younger riders are aware of this as well.

<http://www.osgoodesnowmobileclub.ca/>

low up with a potluck dinner and some awards that we present annually to our volunteers. Please contact Debbie Lackey at 613-253-5486 or Julie-Anne Bedard at 613-256-2973

## Permit Prices

- Full Season on or before December 1st \$200.00
- Full Season After December 1st \$250.00
- 3 Day Permit \$100.00
- 7 Day Permit \$140.00
- Classic Permit \$125.00



We support our farmers!



John Works to clear an overturned stump

## HIGHWAY 7 & CARLETON PLACE TRAILS

The trucks, loaders, shovels and constant buzz of workers are gone and the final chapter of the 4 lane highway expansion from Carleton Place to the 417 is complete. While this has been a blessing for many commuters, it has created some obstacles for our trails. Particularly, the closure of the BEAST 304 trail that connects the E104 trail to BEAST 202 trail just east of Carleton Place.

The loss of this link poses problems for riders traveling north/south between Almonte and Smiths Falls area. It also impacts many local riders in the Carleton Place Area who want to go for a quick jaunt after supper to their favorite spots. With the loss of this link, you must now plan your trips more carefully in and around the CP area. Locals will quickly adapt to the change but the concern will be with touring riders who may visit us once every couple of seasons.

Help with signage will go a long way to

help make sure people make their way to their destination goals until a better solution can be developed. We have worked with MTO, Beckwith Township and the Town of Carleton Place to make some adjustments.

We need some help here in building a better north/south link and we have done some of this to connect BEAST 202 (Rail Road Bed) to the west side of Carleton Place through McNeely Avenue area thanks to some rider feedback, the Town of Carleton Place and one of our dedicated volunteers.

Please note that the 4 lane highways are fenced and snowmobile use is prohibited from using the highway as a passageway. BEAST will do our best to place the appropriate signs but be advised that this trail (BEAST 304) is officially closed between E104A and BEAST 202. Our website will be updated to reflect this change.

## RAIL ROAD BED FROM CHALK RIVER TO SMITHS FALLS

Is there a savior for this Highway 7 dilemma? If there is, the possibility (and I mean possibility) to utilize the rail road link through Carleton Place could be it. We have been watching the developments of this story for a couple years and the time is now to get more active on this potential opportunity.

CP Rail has done their part to try and sell the tracks between Chalk River and Smiths Falls with no takers. The movement to save the tracks is over and the rails are starting to be pulled from the rubble. We get regular calls about the progress in and around the Cobden area with the work progressing south to Smiths Falls. Rumors are that it will be 1 more year before the project completes with the removal of rails and other related infrastructure. Until this time the tracks remain active.

This rail road link may not only help with our north/south issue but also our issue with swamps and water crossings that always delay the start of our grooming season. We have our fingers crossed.

Right now, we are starting to work with our District officials, other local clubs and the neighboring District 6 clubs to see what we can do to promote the use of snowmobiles once the rails are gone. We need to develop a strategy about Who we are, our benefits to business and tourism and the importance of trail sustainability.

Today, there is no permitted snowmobile use on the railway corridor so please respect this. Again, any help you feel you could contribute from presentations, speaking or general support at local meetings to help secure this trail would certainly make a lot of lives easier in running our trails.

## LEARN THE RIGHT WAY

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 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 12, with no 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. The **course fee is \$40**, and course content is approved by the Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO). Lunch will be available at an additional fee.

## Volunteers In Action (VIA)

If you've been snowmobiling for a while, you know the trail system is maintained by a group of dedicated volunteers. What you likely don't know is that this group of volunteers is small, and they work year-round to ensure that our local trails are ready for snowfall, maintained during the season, and closed up when Mother Nature melts the snow away.

Within the BEAST, male and female volunteers of all ages contribute to making snowmobiling a viable sport in our community. It's our volunteers that have made this one of the most respected and progressive volunteer organizations in Ontario.

You can get involved! We're always looking for enthusiastic individuals to volunteer. You don't have to be a snowmobiler; anyone who wants to contribute can. Whether you have a lot of time, or just one afternoon, we can tailor a job to suit your abilities and interests. And, as a non-profit organization, **high school students can complete their 40-hours community service with our club!**

Volunteer projects that are always in need of assistance include:

- Trail work
- Social activities
- Fundraising
- Communications (writing articles for this newsletter!)

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 BEAST is pleased to have three MTO-certified instructors delivering courses in our community. Our 2011-2012 training dates are set, and registration is now open.

December 4, 2011 or January 21, 2012  
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

For details and to register please contact Tanis Cordick at 613-253-0139



The boys are smiling even though the trail is WET

*“We are looking for volunteers just like you!”*

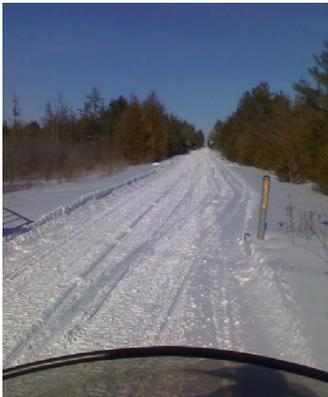
Who can resist watching a sunset at the look out on the White-Lake Trail (BEAST 308)



## BEAST LADIES TRAVEL



Believe it or not we did have some good local riding last year



Group Photo from the BEAST LADIES TRAVEL TRIP

It was early December 2010 at the BEAST Pot luck dinner when three ladies in the BEAST club decided to put everything they knew about snowmobiling to the test. It was decided they were going to the North this year and no they didn't mean North Bay. They decided they were going to reach the pinnacle of the OFSC trail system, as far as the OFSC would take them, to Fraserdale located on the A103 and a visit to the Abitibi Canyon. Over the next couple of months, plans were put in place, husbands and friends invited, and a guide booked for a tour of the Abitibi Canyon. The ladies were strongly advised to prepare for unbearable frigid cold but after months of planning and preparation for -40C, the mid February forecast changed to mid April weather and wiped out almost all of Ontario's rideable snow and turned every trail on the OFSC interactive website to a dreaded

mid February red. Cell phones burned over the next couple of days about what they would do. All inclusive Mexico get away's called their names for a mere \$450/person but they did what any level headed female snowmobiler would do; they packed up the sleds and started driving North until they found the white gold in Kirkland Lake. The first morning they awoke to -28C with a stiff wind making it feel like -40C but after a rough start which required the creation of a tail whip to keep track of a wayward member of their team and some light frost bite within the group they made Cochrane. The next morning was a more bearable -18C and the ladies were off to achieve their goal of parking their sleds on the Northern most part of the OFSC trail system. Once outside of Cochrane it was very remote, crossing only the same road twice in 120km to Extreme Tours base camp but once there, warm

food was available and so was gas...for \$2.40/litre! The guide then led the group into the Abitibi Canyon which was tracked out so traction was not a concern for the short tracked sleds in the group but some of the hills were too steep and long for the entire group. The return trip to Cochrane was as quick as the posted speed limit would allow as darkness was approaching. After a early morning visit to the Polar Bear Habitat, with heavy hearts the group turned south and stayed the next night in Timmins. The final day was back to Kirkland Lake and after four days and 1000km it was time to load up the sleds for the long drive home to green grass...in the middle of February!

Everyone enjoyed the trip and special thanks were given to the ladies for their excellent organization skills once again.

What will this year bring?



## BUILDING TRAILS: IT'S EASY... RIGHT?

A number of years ago I was enduring the worst case of road rash my snowmobile had seen in years and just to the left of me was a pristine field of unbroken powder and I thought why the heck doesn't the local club have the trail there instead of on this road! I thought to myself it can't be that hard, the club obviously hadn't asked the property owner leaving me to fend for myself on the road. With that I resolved I was going to join my local club and make a difference in the trail system. What I found out was it used to be that easy. The snowmobile club used to approach the property owner who would say "Sure Johnny, put'r straight between the old maple tree and the apple tree just over the stone fence. Oh and by the way make sure you stay on the trail!" After pounding in a couple of red painted stakes at an inconsistent frequency and placing a scratched out arrow

just before the stone fence, presto you now had an OFSC snowmobile trail. Fast forward 30 years later and issues like the environment, urban sprawl and liability weigh heavily on the minds of snowmobile clubs and land owners alike.

I'm sure many of you, like me, have wondered why is there no trail to "there" or "jeez, if they just went over there, we wouldn't have to wait until February for the swamp to freeze". Believe me club executives are made up of fanatics, desperate to get onto the first snow as soon as possible. The trails generally span across numerous property owners and any re-route requires approval of all land owners. If you are lucky enough to find one owner who will graciously allow you to cross their land, sometimes the next property owner will deny access. It takes years to search out and contact property own-

ers and string together a network of adjoining properties in which a trail can be placed. Sometimes by the time you get the adjoining property owners approval your first contact has sold the land necessitating the need to restart all that hard work. After all the leg work is complete the trail must be built and signed according to OFSC regulations which mandate specified spacing and offset for fluorescent orange trail stakes, signs and hazard marking. This all takes time and effort of numerous volunteers on a 365 day basis and there is never enough help. So the next time you want to break that powder off trail or go screaming by a landowner and their dog with your too cool piped sled, think about how many years of effort has been put before you by volunteers and don't be surprised when the trail is located on the side of the road next season.



Setting up trails doesn't always mean leaving the heater behind...

Help us help you!

*Trail Work Days*

*November 26th*

*and*

*December 3rd*

*To register call*

*Julie Anne at*

*613-256-2973*

## BEAST TRAIL PATROL

The Ontario Federal 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. Trail Patrol Members are clearly identifiable by their Trail patrol vest and each member also carries with them their Trail Patrol ID issued by the OFSC. These two items

make up the Trail Patrol 'uniform'. Many members also wear an optional Trail Patrol jacket and hat.

The BEAST Trail Patrol is comprised of twenty 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 2010/11 season, BEAST Trail Patrol Members logged over 300 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: Land-

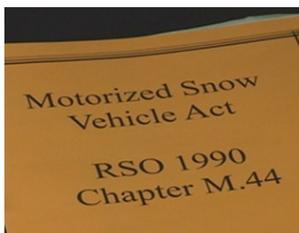
### It's the Law!

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.





Last year limited ice conditions resulted in a groomer recovery mission. More than 10 volunteers worked over a combined 100 hours of volunteer time to get the BR180 out of it's shallow grave. After \$20,000 in repairs, this groomer is once again ready to roll when the snow arrives.



## BEAST TRAIL PATROL (Continued)

owner Agent, Safety Promotion, Risk Management and On Trail Support.



Before you go out on an OFSC trail, 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.

Trail Patrol Members should not be confused with police officers or OFSC Snowmobile Trail Officer Patrol (S.T.O.P.) officers. S.T.O.P. is a partnership between the Ontario Provincial Police and the OFSC where S.T.O.P. members are Special Constables. The goals of the S.T.O.P. program are to: increase public awareness of snowmobile safety and the dangers of drinking and riding a snowmobile; educate snowmobilers on safety and nuisance concerns and promoting voluntary compliance with the snowmobile laws; and enforce the Motorized Snow Vehicles Act (M.S.V.A.) and, where applicable, municipal snowmobile bylaws. S.T.O.P. officers also assist police in sobriety enforcement. For MSVA enforce-

ment purposes, S.T.O.P. Officers have the same authority as police officers. BEAST Trail Patrol members do work closely with the OPP, OFSC STOP and City of Ottawa's Marine/Dive/Trail Unit to promote safe snowmobiling.

Understand the applicable laws before you go snowmobiling. The *Motorized Snow Vehicles Act* is enforced by local/provincial police and OFSC STOP Officers. This act details the requirements for licensing, registration, and insurance. It also describes how to cross roadways, age restrictions, driving requirements, operator's licences, and duty to report accidents, towing, speed limits, and careless driving.

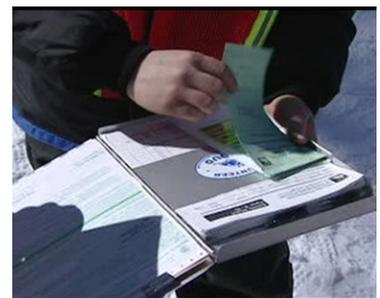
Under Section 2.(1): The owner of a motorized snow vehicle shall not drive on an OFSC Prescribe Trail except under the authority of a permit. Any driver who contravenes this section is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine of not less than \$200 and not more than \$1000.

The *Trespass to Property Act* provides the legal basis for the OFSC to patrol OFSC trails and require operators of snowmobiles to either pay for (and display a trail permit) or exit the trail system. Driving a motorized snow vehicle over private property without a permit constitutes a trespass.

Under the *Provincial Offences Act*, a snowmobile owner is liable for any fines unless the driver is convicted of the offence or the driver did not have the owner's consent to use the motorized snow vehicle. If found guilty, the person is liable for a fine of not more than \$2000. Trail Patrol Members will contact the police and ask them to lay a charge.

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. Becoming a Trail Patrol, involves a formal training session followed by approximately 10 hours of mentoring by a senior Trail Patrol Member. If you are interested, contact the club as the opportunities for this position are endless given the size of the BEAST trail network. Training is scheduled for late November or early December of each year.

Remember, 'buy a permit where you ride' and ride safe!



## Club Contacts



BEAUTIFUL EASTERN ASSOCIATION  
SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 8 Stittsville, Ontario

**The BEAST**  
Jim Lackey 253-5486

**ADSA (Ashton)**  
Dave Hunt 256-8526

**RSR (Richmond)**  
Dave Poaps 489-0750

**SDHSA (Stittsville)**  
Daryl Rauhala 836-9348

## 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.



## Important Dates

These are important dates to mark onto your calendar.

- November 1, 2011 Early Bird Draw for season permits
- November 3, 2011 BEAST Club Meeting
- November 21, 2011 BEAST Volunteer Training Day
- November 26, 2011 BEAST Work Day
- December 1, 2011 BEAST Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- December 1, 2011 Final day to get your discounted season permit
- December 3, 2011 BEAST Work Day, Pot Luck Dinner and Volunteer Recognition
- December 4, 2011 Driver Training Course
- January 5, 2012 BEAST Club Meeting
- January 27-29, 2012 BEAST Corporate Ride
- January 21, 2012 Driver Training Course
- February 2, 2012 BEAST Club Meeting
- February 4, 2012 Carleton Place Hospital Poker Run
- February 11, 2012 Richmond Poker Run
- March 1, 2012 BEAST Club Meeting

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

## Communication, Communication, Communication

It seems every year we hear the same thing over and over. "I wish I knew about that."

It really is easy to keep in touch with the club and there are many different ways. And no, this newsletter probably isn't the best of them. Sure it lets you know some of what has and will be happening, but it really only is a point in time once a year.

### Attending Club Meetings

The first Thursday of every month during the winter is the general club meeting. These meetings are typically held in Jim's Garage at 1405 7th Line of Beckwith not far off Hwy 15. You will

find out what's happening, what needs to be done and get information overload.

### BEAST Website [www.snowmobile.on.ca](http://www.snowmobile.on.ca)

The next best way to keep yourself informed is regular visits to the BEAST Website. After much work, the executive and groomer operators now have the ability to perform updates without the requirement of a webmaster. This means that the site contains regular posts during the winter months. The website even supports RSS so if you are a geek you can automatically be notified of updates to the site.

### Email List

Why fuss with having to go check yourself when we are willing to deliver the news and events 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, send us an email to [webmaster@snowmobile.on.ca](mailto:webmaster@snowmobile.on.ca) and request that you be added today.

### You Tube

Finally, don't forget to subscribe to Krusty's YouTube Channel. [youtube.com/user/krustyproduction](http://youtube.com/user/krustyproduction)