

### **Fall 2015**

BEAUTIFUL EASTERN ASSOCIATION OF SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

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

#### www.thebeast.ca

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### Permit Prices

- \*\*Online only\*\* Full Season on or before November 1st \$180
- Full Season on or before December 1st \$210
- Full Season after December 1st \$260
- 3 Day Permit \$75
- 7 Day Permit \$140
- Classic Permit on or before December 1st \$140
- Classic Permit after December 1st \$170



# The BEAST



### President's Message - By Brian Moreau

Well another summer has come and gone. The leaves are changing colour and starting to fall, and the BEAST is warming up the groomers and saws in anticipation of a great 2015/16 sledding season. As the BEAST Club President, I would like to welcome all our members back to a new season of sledding. I would also like to welcome any new members, and I extend an invitation to all members to come out to our club meetings. The meetings take place the first Thursday of the month at Jim's Garage at 1405 7th Line Beckwith. These meetings start at 8:00 p.m., and it is always good to see new faces.

We held our club AGM at our opening August meeting, and all board members returned except our Vice-President, Darin McRae. As a club, we thank Darin for all his hard work and dedication to the BEAST. He will be helping the club in a different role this season, and we know he will be an important part of the BEAST team once again.

Since we were without a VP, we were looking for a candidate to take on this position. At our September meeting, Gord Servant put his name forward and is now our new club VP. Gord is relatively new to sledding with the BEAST (last three seasons, after a long hiatus from the sport) and has been volunteering with the club for all three years. He has also been the BEAST Communications Coordinator for the past year. We, the BEAST team, are looking forward to working with Gord this season and hopefully many more.

This 2015/16 season is approaching fast, and as with all other years, we have a huge task ahead of us all. The setup of the BEAST trail system is an important job, taken very seriously by a dedicated group of people, just like any of you reading this newsletter. We all come together as like-minded people and provide a wonderful trail network for all of us to use and enjoy. As a fully volunteer-run organization, we are always more than happy to see new people come out and get involved. If you would like to be part of this great group of dedicated sled-loving and snow-loving people, you will find information in



this newsletter about whom to contact. We truly are real Canadians, eh!

We—your Executives, Board members and dedicated volunteers—are set to provide you with another stellar trail system this season. We are already putting together plans to get all the trails opened up this year. Our trail BEAST 309 was closed last season despite valiant efforts by a few members; unfortunately we just could not secure permission. We are hard at work getting it in place for the upcoming season and for seasons to follow.

So on this closing note, I hope that you all have a safe and, most importantly, fun 2015/16 season of sledding. Please come out and enjoy the BEAST trails and ride safe and sober. We want everyone to have a great time and ride another day. So as I have said before, "Keep the rubber side down," and I hope to meet you out on the trails this season.

Brian Moreau BEAST Club President

# **Permits:**

Save over \$70 online until November 1, at permits.ofsc.on.ca. Shipping and handling costs are borne by the purchaser. Shipping and handling costs on permits purchased online after November 1 are charged to the club. For those riders who want to ensure that their maximum permit contribution goes onto the snow we recommend visiting one of our permit vendors and using cash to avoid transaction costs to the club.

### **PERMIT VENDORS**

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



Do you have a snowobile 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, and for \$170 after December 1. Please buy-where-you-ride and select the Beautiful Eastern Association of Snowmobile Trails (BEAST) as the club you wish to support.



- YOU must know and obey the Ontario Motorized Snow Vehicles Act
- YOU must use caution at all times
- Emergency and cell phone service may not be available

## **BEAST Corporate Ride - By Debbie Lackey**

Although we haven't had the first picket placed on a trail or seen the first snowflake come down, we have booked our Corporate Ride leaving Friday, February 12, 2016 and returning Sunday, February 14, 2016. On Friday we will sled to Hawkesbury and stay the night at Stephanie's Inn. On Saturday we travel to Morrisburg and stay at the McIntosh Inn. Sunday we will head home.

Quite a few folks will not have been on these trails so it should be fun. Also, for less experienced riders, it will not be an overly long ride on any of the days. All should be able to join and enjoy this Corporate Ride.

The lodging information will be posted toward the end of October as details are still being finalized.

Contact Debbie Lackey 613-253-5486 or email jlackey@storm.ca for more info.



# **BEAST Trail Patrol - By George Laight**

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

The BEAST Trail Patrol is currently comprised of about 30 members who patrol as their individual time permits during the week, weekends and evenings. Patrols generally consist of two Trail Patrol members but occasionally include four to eight members. During the 2014/15 season, BEAST Trail Patrol Members logged nearly 300 hours, almost 50% over the previous year. 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 members' duties are centred around activity on OFSC Prescribed Trails and may be summarized into four broad categories:

Landowner Agent: As the agent for the landowner, a Trail Patrol has the authority to lay a notice of Trespass to Property charge.

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 with and aware of the various laws

You can help too! If you can commit to 10 to 15 hours of riding over the winter season, we are always looking for new volunteers. Getting started involves contacting the BEAST, where we will provide an introduction session to the four categories shown above and arrange some buddy excursions to familiarize you with day-to-day activities on the trail.

Think about it.



# Beauties of the BEAST - By Julie-Anne Bedard

The third annual Beauties of the BEAST women-only snowmobile ride was held February 28 to March 1, 2015. Nine women left the Almonte area and snowmobiled to Barry's Bay, where we stayed at the Ash Grove Inn. The trails were mostly freshly groomed on both days there and back. We raised \$1,775 for Lanark County Interval House.

This season the Beauties will be sledding to Morrisburg

and back on January 30 and 31, staying at the McIntosh Country Inn. The proceeds from this season's Beauties ride will again be donated to Lanark County Interval House.

If you are interested in joining or sponsoring us, please contact Julie-Anne Bedard, 613-256-2973 or email jabedard@storm.ca for more info.



# **BEAST Workdays - By Jim Lackey**

Once again, BEAST has organized workdays that provide an opportunity to pitch in and help us get trails ready for the season. Often, we hear from people that they *want* to help but family commitments or their work prevent them from participating. We are offering three different choices again this season, but don't let your unavailability on those specific dates stop you from asking to help. We do have some volunteers that work on the trails during the regular work week, which may be better suited for shift workers or people who have more time during the week than on the weekend.

Many hands make light work, so why not give our team a hand? We all seem to be able to make time in our plans to snow-mobile on the weekends after the trail work is done and ready to ride. We would appreciate it if similar planning could be considered to pitch in and help rather than leave it all to the few die-hard volunteers. I can assure you that you will learn a lot about the sport that you may not have known and you will have a lot of laughs with a great bunch of people.

Having assets like a chainsaw, an ATV or power tools are all great things but not absolutely necessary to have. All that is

needed is to show up, and we will figure out a task for you.

Workdays usually start around 9 am with people meeting at a designated location a few minutes early so we can organize work groups. As usual, there are three meeting places to choose from, so pick the one closest to you and come on out!

- Jim Lackey, 1405 7th Line Beckwith, Carleton Place: 613-253-5486
- Audy Bedard, 1465 Wolfe Grove Rd, Almonte: 613-256-2973
- Rob Thicke, 6182 Garvin Rd, Richmond: 613-838-2218

Our work dates this season are Nov. 21, Nov. 28 and Dec. 5. Note that following the Dec. 5 workday, we have an old-fashioned potluck dinner at Jim and Debbie Lackey's house at 1405 7th Line Beckwith. Everyone participating on the workdays or any other day is more than welcome to join us. Just contact Debbie at 613-253-5486 for details.

# **Driver Training - By Debbie Lackie**

Ontario Law requires any person 16 years and over to hold a valid Ontario Driver's Licence or a Motorized Snow Vehicle Operator's Licence to operate a snowmobile on OFSC snowmobile trails. Persons 12 to 15 years old require a Motorized Snow Vehicle Operator's Licence.

If this is you, or someone you know, sign up for an OFSC Snowmobile Driver Training course.

The OFSC Driver Training Course is designed to emphasize the safe operation of motorized snow vehicles. Upon successful completion of the course, the participant will be legally eligible to drive a snowmobile in Ontario.

We are very fortunate to have trainers Dale Visneskie and Joe Berardelli to help us out this season. Courses will take place at the Beckwith Township office, HWY 15 and 9th line of Beckwith. The course will cost \$40 with an extra fee for lunch (optional).

### Course Date #1:

- Saturday November 14, 2015, 8 am
- Registration on Tuesday November 10, 2015, from 7-8 pm at the Lackey house (1405 7th Line, Beckwith)

#### Course Date#2:

- Saturday January 16, 2016, 8 am
- Registration on Tuesday January 12, 2016, from 7-8 pm at the Lackey house (1405 7th Line, Beckwith)

# PLEASE NOTE: There will be no registration on the day of the course.

Each student must produce her or his birth certificate, passport or driver's licence upon registration.

Please email Deb Lackey, BEAST Driver Training Coordinator, at jlackey@storm.ca

See our website www.thebeast.ca for further details.

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

This year is no different from any other year; we are all excited about the coming 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 40 hours of community service by volunteering within the club. As with every season, we need volunteers for the following:

- trail work (spring and fall)
- social activities (planning and organization)
- fundraising (but don't worry; we keep it fun!)
- communications (newsletter)

The BEAST has organized work days: November 21, November 28 and December 5. On December 5 we end the day with a potluck dinner and some laughs; please call Debbie Lackey (613-253-5486) for the potluck. Even if you can spare a couple of hours, it is a help

and is greatly appreciated. Age and gender don't matter — we are all snowmobilers and enjoy the outdoors.

Throughout the year, OFSC, District 1 and the BEAST have awards for volunteers. Volunteers are nominated by their peers and voted on by the Board of Directors and executives of the BEAST. Congratulations to our most recent 2014/15 season winners:

- Volunteer of the Year Julie-Anne Bedard
- Sector Volunteers of the Year:
  - South West Brent Hill
  - North West Pat Hebert
  - North East Dave White
  - South East Rob Thicke
- Family of the Year Audy and Julie-Anne Bedard
- Trail Patroller of the Year Andrew Machardy
- Rookie of the Year Chrystal Bass

Your VIA contact is Julie-Anne Bedard. She can be reached at 613-256-2973 or email jabedard@storm.ca.





#### **BEAST** email updates:

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 to sign up today. We will not sell your information nor will we fill your mailbox with useless emails! You may unsubscribe at any time in the future if desired.



# **Grooming - By Jim Lackey**

The 2014/15 grooming season was very different from our awesome season of 2013/14 with all of that snow. We had a late start due to extreme cold with little snow, but once we started rolling, the grooming was non-stop from end of January until mid-March. Our grooming operations were continuous based on some new criteria we established for when to start grooming and when to stop during the off-season. The one positive note from the extreme cold last winter is that we didn't have a mid-season thaw, so there was no break in grooming service once we got started other than with breakdowns.

Last winter, BEAST members voted and accepted responsibility to purchase a new groomer. We used a combination of permit dollars and fundraising to purchase a new 2012 VMC RT 1200 groomer, which served the South East sector (Richmond area) of our trail system. The unit replaced the very tired VMC RT-01, which is now enjoying retirement in the Thunder Bay area. This new unit did provide us with some challenges, as we had to overcome a lot of issues with the cooling system, electrical wiring and cab noise, which we are still trying to fix. Rob Campbell deserves the BEAST Medal of Honour for sticking with this machine to sort the kinks out and still deliver groomed trails.

This machine also helped us retire one of our original Massey Ferguson tractors, which we have for sale. The unit does require some work but it can be converted to a regular tractor for a reasonable price. Please contact us if you are interested in this machine.

Unlike the previous year, we were hit hard with repair bills on all machines in addition to the expenses of paying for a new machine. BEAST operators must be commended for doing their best to repair machines or to coordinate other units to help cover trails not groomed due to broken equipment.

Often, people ask where their permit dollars go, so here is a quick summary just for last season:

 Payments on new groomer \$24,341.00 (5 year purchase plan) (initial purchase was 83,997.21)

- Equipment repairs \$51,375.06 (bulk of this was new tracks)
- Operator wages \$12.363.10
- Fuel for groomers \$15,169.66
- Grooming hours

883 hours over a 6-week season

For the most part, a lot of the heavy lifting on maintenance hit us last season. We have a few bugs to sort out before the season starts, but our four groomers will be ready and operators chomping at the bit to get going for first "groomable" snow. One thing the BEAST is looking forward to will be the implementation of the OFSC "More on the Snow" proposal with goals to reduce the size of grooming fleet and cover more miles per unit with newer, more modern groomers. Time will

tell how this works, but we are looking forward to a fleet refresh!

To ensure your best riding experience, always make it a habit to check the BEAST website or the OFSC Interactive Trail Guide for trail conditions. We keep these areas of information as current as we possibly can, but one of your best sources of information is to ask a groomer operator. We are here to help you enjoy your rider experience by providing some of the best trails in the area.

Important links to check before you go riding:

BEAST website: www.thebeast.ca
OFSC Interactive Trail Guide:
ofsc.mapbase.ca/viewer/
or Friend us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/snowmobile.on.ca?
fref=ts



Rob Campbell with the new Pioneer VMC RT 1200 groomer.

# Thanks to all of our generous sponsors!

All In One Septic & Excavation Ashton Brewing Company **Beckwith Auto Centre** Black's Corners Motorsports, Polaris Canadian Golf & Country Club Carleton Auto Parts, NAPA Carleton Place Marine, Yamaha **Cedar Cove Resort Central Plumbing Services Co-Operators Insurance** CP Tire & Auto Accessories, KROWN **Crawford Landscaping** Daily Scoop Cafe Danbys Bar and Grill Docteur VTT Marine, Arctic Cat **Fultons Pancake House** Generations Inn, B&B and Restaurant Georges Marine and Sports, Ski-Doo **Getty Automotive Services** Harvey Masonry & Roofing **J&M Harvey Property Maintenance Jestek Electric Ken Bonin Carpentry** 

**Kerr Karpentry Keystone Traditional Masonry** Lake Park 1887 Lodge Law and Orders Burgers **M&P Farm Equipment** Maple Leaf Studio **March Road Motorsports** Mementos Signs, Awards, Promotions MOMAC Grain Elevators, feed Muirhead Contracting Home Renovations, Murray Refrigeration, AC & Heating **Perth Motors** Rental Village, Carleton Place **Richmond Motorsports Ryno Motors** Sani-Sol Pools and Spas Smith Bradley & McGrath **Stewart Roofing** Stittsville Trailers The Septic Store Ottawa West **Total Recreation** Villa Nova Homes

# 2015/16 BEAST Sponsorship Team

The BEAST Sponsorship Team:

Almonte area: Julie-Anne Bedard: 613-256-2973

Richmond area: Dave Poaps: davidpoaps@xplornet.com

Stittsville area: Dave White: 613-836-6494

Sponsorship Coordinator: Chrystal Bass: 613-863-2500

or beastsponsor@gmail.com



# **South West Trail Sector - By Ian Edwards**

Greetings from the South West. Preparations are under way to begin work on our section of trails. We will be having three trail work days beginning in November. If you have some time and would like to help, please let us know so we can make use of your talents. Many hands make light work.

The abandoned CP Rail line from Smiths Falls to Mattawa is still unavailable to us at this time. Negotiations between Lanark County and the CPR are in the hands of lawyers to iron out more details. This purchase may be completed before our season begins; however, we are not going to take the risk of not having our existing trails up and ready to go. Stay tuned for further announcements.

Trail BEAST 309 from Brunton Side Road to Dwyer Hill Road was closed last year due to landowner changes. We have decided on a new route that will help us get there; however, again we

need landowner approval. A proper announcement will take place in November.

The E104A toward Mississippi Lake west of Hwy 15 is in jeopardy. The club has land use permission for 2015/16, but next year and subsequent years will be problematic. With all the new homes being built in Beckwith Township our traditional paths are being sold as subdivided home lots. We are still hopeful that a solution will be available. The E104A is an important east-west connector and it would be a shame to lose it.

# North East Trail Sector - 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 Trail 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 high, dry and the easiest BEAST sector to access for trail work and overall maintenance. From a trail grooming standpoint, all these trails are covered by the NE BR180. On top of that, the A trail is the NE's grooming responsibility end to end within the BEAST, as is the BEAST 203 into the north side of Richmond from time to time.

It is pretty much status quo for the NE this season. We actually managed to add

one new trail last fall connecting the A Trail to the E104A near the Hwy 7 overpass. As we all experience urban sprawl and highway expansion, holding the trails in check is considered a good year.

One key area of constant concern is the TCT leading out of Stittsville. This trail is unique as it is a shared section 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 the city limits. Each year the BEAST enters into a land use agreement with the city and pays a fee for the right to maintain an OFSC trail within the city limits. 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. Slow down to a crawl when passing other TCT users. There was (at least one) complaint registered with city council and OPP for this section of trail last season, so do not be surprised to see some sort of barriers on the east side of West Ridge Drive at the TCT to physically prevent any easterly snowmobile access. Let's all try to keep Stittsville a sledaccessible community, and the A Trail on the TCT within the city limits, for years to come

# **Volunteering - By Daryl Rauhala**

Like every other OFSC club, the BEAST is run by volunteers. Rather than put out the old generic message that we can use a hand, which is always true, we thought that this time around we'd give a few specific examples of how you could improve the local snowmobiling experience and meet some fellow sledders.

These examples encompass the many small tasks that can help offload work from 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 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. It's no small task, but something to work on at your own pace during the season.

Have some free time in the fall and some farm equipment? Sure would be nice if someone could pack down the majority of the tilled fields where the trail runs before they freeze up! Don't mind painting? A couple hundred orange trail pickets disappear or break every year. These need to be ordered, picked up, dried and 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 without impacting landowners whose land may still be in use for activities such as hunting or harvesting.

Do you have time to enjoy a fair and sell raffle tickets, or man a station at a poker run for a few hours?

For the more formal posting of club positions, please visit the Volunteers menu item on the club website, www.thebeast.ca.

There are many ways to improve snowmobiling in our region. It simply takes the shared input from many volunteers like you. Contact any club member to learn more.

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





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

### **Permits**

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 and not more than \$1,000.



# **Important Dates**

These are important dates to mark onto your calendar.

- Nov 1, 2015, Last day to buy your season pass at \$180. Online Only.
- Nov 5, 2015, General Meeting
- Nov 14, 2015, Driver Training
- Nov 21, 2015, BEAST Workday #1
- Nov 25, 2015, Trail Patrol(Recert), Signage and Risk Management Training
- Nov 28, 2015, BEAST Workday #2,
- Dec 1, 2015, Last day to purchase your season pass for \$210. After this date, \$260
- Dec 3, 2015, General Meeting
- Dec 5, 2015, BEAST Workday #3
- Dec 5, 2015, BEAST Volunteers Potluck Dinner
- Jan 7, 2016, General Meeting
- Jan 16, 2016, Driver Training

- Jan 23-24, 2016, Trail Patrol Check Point Weekend #1
- Jan 30-31, 2016, Beauties of the BEAST Ride
- Jan 30-31, 2016, Trail Patrol Check Point Weekend #2
- Feb 4, 2016, General Meeting
- Feb 6, 2016, BEAST Poker Rally
- Feb 6-7, 2016, Trail Patrol Check Point Weekend #3
- Feb 12-14, 2016, BEAST Corporate Ride
- Feb 13-15, 2016, OFSC Try our Trails Free Weekend
- Mar 3, 2016, General Meeting
- Apr 7, 2016, General Meeting
- May 5, 2016, General Meeting
- May 7, 2016, BEAST Landowner Appreciation Dinner

Please check www.thebeast.ca for full details and locations.

### **Contact Us**

### BEAUTIFUL EASTERN ASSOCIATION OF SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 8, Stittsville, Ontario, Canada, K2S 1A2

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

The B.E.A.S.T. Executive Members 2015/16

President	Brian Moreau		613-253-3153
Vice President	Gord Servant		613-250-0437
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
Volunteer Coordinator Julie-Anne Bedard			613-256-2973



# **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.