

Snow Times

SEAWAY VALLEY SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION
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 A Member of the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs

31 Years of Growth
 1973 • 2004

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SVSA Mission Statement

The Seaway Valley Snowmobile Association is dedicated, through committed volunteers, to promote a positive image of the snowmobiling industry, to support and respect our Landowners rights and wishes, and to continue to provide snowmobilers in the Seaway Valley a safe and rewarding experience.

Welcome again to the Snow Times! The Snow Times is the Seaway Valley Snowmobile Association (SVSA) newsletter. We hope you will find this newsletter an informative source for our association's upcoming events, trail updates and the latest issues involving our association and the snowmobile industry.

Next General Meeting – Everyone Welcome!
Tuesday, November 9th, 2004 7:30 pm
Lions Club, Bonville Ontario

Where Do Your Permit Dollars go?

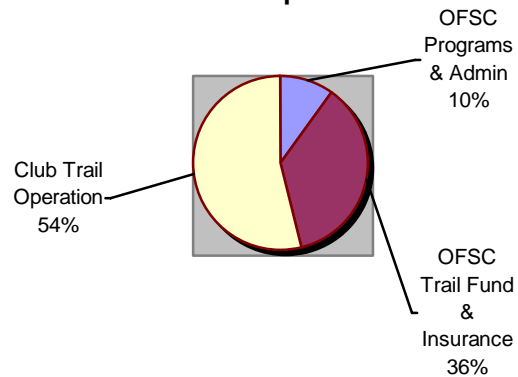
There are 260 not-for-profit snowmobile clubs in Ontario with more than 5,000 volunteers creating and maintaining over 43,000km of interconnected trails.

The OFSC/MTO Trail Permit provides you with unlimited snowmobiling access to all OFSC trails throughout Ontario and also includes five issues of Ontario Snowmobiler Magazine. This trail system has been in existence for over 30 years and is resurfaced with a fleet of over 330 groomers!

The mandate of the OFSC is to provide leadership and support to the 260 not-for-profit snowmobile clubs and their volunteers. Over 50% of the OFSC revenues goes directly back to the snowmobile clubs in the form of grants to further trail development (such as new bridges) and to assist in the upgrading and purchase of groomers and equipment.

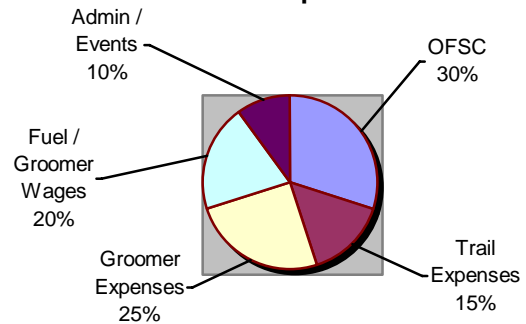
With the purchase of your 2004/2005 OFSC/MTO Trail Permit you will receive a yellow information sheet that shows the breakdown of the money spent by the OFSC. The OFSC collects around 30% of the revenue from each Trail Permit sold. This money funds the OFSC's programs and administration, club trail operations, and insurance. The following chart shows how this money is spent:

OFSC Expenses



The mandate of the SVSA differs in that we provide support to our membership and volunteers, which includes providing a safe and maintained trail system to our members and the visitors who ride in the Seaway Valley. Our expenses relate directly to the management of the SVSA trail system. The chart below depicts how your permit fee is spent by the SVSA:

SVSA Expenses



In the last few years, the cost of snowmobiling in Ontario has increased mostly due to rising insurance costs. These costs hit riders in two ways, higher Trail Permit pricing and higher

liability coverage for their snowmobiles. The portion of permit fees that goes to pay insurance increased from \$3 to \$52 last season alone. These increased costs have been reflected in the cost of the Trail Permit.

This year, the permit fee has increased \$20 if you purchase on or before December 1st, 2004. Even though this is an increase from last year, the value of the OFSC/MTO Trail Permit is still a bargain in many ways. If you think of the many purchases that you make throughout the year that equal or exceed this amount, we don't think you will find that any of them have the potential to give you the freedom to explore this great land in a way that can only be experienced by snowmobile.

Trail Permits

The fee schedule for the 2004/2005 OFSC/MTO Trail Permit is as follows:

- **\$180.00** if purchased by December 1st, 2004
- **\$230.00** if purchased after December 1st, 2004
- **\$35.00** – One day permit
- **\$100.00** – Seven day permit
- **\$10.00** – Replacement Permit

Thanks to all of our great volunteers and generous businesses, we are able to offer the sale of the 2004/2005 OFSC/MTO Trail Permit at the following retail outlets:

- Casselman Motor Sports - Casselman
- Ron's Service Shop – Moose Creek
- Mike's Service Shop – Crysler
- Monkland Mini Market – Monkland
- KCEE's Convenience & Postal Outlet – Martintown
- Scott's Convenience/MacEwen's Gas Bar – Maxville
- King Edward Hotel – Apple Hill
- Autoparts Extra – Cornwall
- D L MacDonald Construction - Cornwall
- Robertson's Lawn and Garden Equipment – Cornwall
- Claude's Small Engines – Cornwall
- Irwin Supply – Cornwall
- Brookshell Pontiac Buick Ltd. - Cornwall

Please check out our website for the addresses of these locations. **Trail Permits will also be available at the Land Owner Appreciation Dinner and can be purchased using cash, cheque or VISA.** Support your snowmobile association and be sure to "Buy Where You Ride". The SVSA relies primarily on Trail Permit sales to survive.

You may sign up for OFSC benefits at the same time as purchasing a Trail Permit. OFSC benefits include:

- Annual subscription to Ontario Snowmobiler Magazine
- Annual OSM Trail Map Atlas
- OFSC TOP Trail Guide

It is the law in the Province of Ontario for each snowmobile using an OFSC trail to display a valid snowmobile Trail Permit. This requirement applies to OFSC trails on both private and Crown land.

Landowner Appreciation Dinner/Fundraiser

Let's face it, without the Landowners generously allowing snowmobiles to cross their property, there would be no SVSA nor would there even be an OFSC.

Once a year, the SVSA has provided a night to the Landowners to show our appreciation of their support of the snowmobiling industry.

This year's dinner will take place on Saturday, November 20th, 2004 and will also be combined with a fundraising event. Individuals or businesses wishing to donate prizes for this event can contact any member of the SVSA Executive found on the last page of this newsletter. There will be a silent auction, door prizes, raffle, SVSA merchandise sales, Trail Permit sales and much more...More information can be found in the SVSA Calendar of Events.

Trail Update (More Info !!!!!)

Which trail brings you where????

Can you get from Cornwall to the trail system??

Continuous work is being done on our trail system to bring them up to standard with the new OFSC regulations. This includes widening, straightening and upgrading our existing trails to include new bridging and better signage.

Some of the work includes a new bridge installed on Trail 53 south of Maxville. Also, 2 sections of Trail E104 west of Apple Hill were revamped and widened. Volunteers are needed on a regular basis. No experience is necessary! We are looking for people with or without equipment to help. Contact Karl Sloan to see where you can help!

S.T.O.P / Trail Patrol Programs

What is the difference between these 2 programs?

- The S.T.O.P program involves OFSC volunteers trained by partnering police services, and sworn in as Special Constables and Provincial Offenses Officers. They then become members of the Snowmobile Trail Officers Patrol (S.T.O.P.), empowered to enforce provisions of the Motorized Snow Vehicle Act by issuing tickets or making arrests. They also assist police in sobriety enforcement. For MSVA enforcement purposes, S.T.O.P. Officers have the same authority as police officers.
- Trail Patrol Officers are dedicated Snowmobile Club Volunteers who regularly patrol Ontario's snowmobile trails, provide valuable trailside information to snowmobilers and promote the provincial user pay system.

If you are interested in becoming a STOP officer or a Trail Patrol Officer, please contact Gregg Villeneuve.

Signs on the Trail

The SVSA has installed 6 more junction signs bringing the total to 20 on our trail system. These signs include the following information:

- Destination and mileage
- Map showing where you are

- Nearest fuel stop
- A sponsor on each sign

Our thanks to Long Graphic Design in Cornwall for their support and generosity to make these signs possible.

SVSA 2004/2005 Calendar of Events

Saturday Nov 20th, 2004

Landowners Appreciation Dinner & Fundraiser

- Maxville District Sports Complex
- \$15.00/person
- Cocktails 6:00pm
- Dinner 7:00pm
- Door Prizes
- Raffle
- Silent Auction
- DJ music by First Choice Entertainment
- Shuttle Service
- Cash Bar

Come out and support the SVSA and show your appreciation for our landowners.

Sunday January 30th, 2005

Blessing of the Snowmobiles & Breakfast

- Lions Club, Bonville
- 12pm
- Breakfast is available from 8am.

February 19th, 2005

OFSC District Run to Calabogie

- Limited availability

Driver Training

Under the authority of the Motorized Snow Vehicle Act, The Ministry of Transportation has authorized the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) as an agent to issue Snow Vehicle Operator's License.

The following are the course requirements:

- 12 yrs old at time of pre-registration
- Minimum 6 hours of classroom instruction
- Cost \$30.00 (includes course material and lunch)

- Upon successful completion of course exam a Snow Vehicle Operator's License will be issued.

The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs Driver Training has trained over 175,000 students since the inception of the course in 1976.

Driver Training

Reservations now being accepted!!

Ages 12 and older

Contact Mike Poirier (613)937-0670 or

Angus Hope (613)932-3387

for information and registration.

Training Fee (including lunch) \$30.00

SVSA Website

The SVSA website has been updated with information that can be found in this newsletter and also has the following information:

- Current Trail Conditions
- Trail Permit Information
- SVSA Trail Map
- Weather Conditions for the SVSA area
- SVSA Calendar of Events
- Groomer Information
- Classified Section
- Snow Times Newsletter (downloadable)

Please remember that the Snow Times and the SVSA website are managed on a volunteer basis. We try to make sure that the site is as up-to-date as possible. Please email any comments, suggestions or trail updates to seawayvalley@yahoo.com to help keep our website up-to-date and useful to our members and all snowmobilers that wish to visit our region.

Again, the SVSA Executive Committee expresses their thanks to all members, volunteers and landowners that make this association possible. We wish this season to be a safe and enjoyable one for all snowmobilers and their families.

SVSA 2004/2005 Executive Committee

President	Michel Carriere	(613)937-4906	mc.carr@sympatico.ca
Secretary	Cindy Carriere	(613)937-4906	mc.carr@sympatico.ca
Treasurer	Nicole Martin	(613)936-9368	nrm13@eudoramail.com
Groomer Coordinator	Ron Barker	(613)346-2301	
Trail Coordinator	Karl Sloan	(613)933-5055	karli@cnwl.igs.net
Driver Training	Mike Poirier	(613)937-0670	
Trails	Rejean Cayer Roger Lalonde Everett McDonald	(613)913-9161 (613)932-3100 (613)932-0384	
Wardens / STOP Programs	Gregg Villeneuve	(613)538-2175	greggvilleneuve@aol.com
VIA Director	Lisette Sloan	(613)933-5055	karli@cnwl.igs.net
Website Director	Russ Barton	(613)528-4365	barton@cnwl.igs.net
Snow Times Newsletter	Jody Meunier	(613)938-7383	jody.meunier@sympatico.ca

Know Before You Go

As an off-road experience, snowmobiling is an inherently risky activity. The OFSC assumes every rider using an OFSC Prescribed Trail understands and accepts that:

- All snowmobiles will be operated under a lawful trail use permit;
- All operators and passengers willingly use the trails at their own risk;
- Operators and passengers know and will obey the law, including, The Occupiers' Liability Act, The Motorized Snow Vehicles Act and the Trespass to Property Act;
- It is recognized and accepted that snowmobiling is essentially an off-road activity taking place in the natural environment;
- The OFSC is a volunteer-based organization with finite resources and manpower;
- It is not practical, possible or desirable to maintain all trails uniformly or to remove all potential hazards;
- The OFSC is providing the privilege of trail access without any guarantee of service or quality;
- Operators and passengers will not consume alcohol prior to or while using the trails;
- Operators and passengers will be prudent and responsible and shall ensure that snowmobiles are operated with appropriate care and control at all times;
- Operators and passengers know how to snowmobile competently and understand that the operation of snowmobiles requires full cognitive abilities;
- Weather conditions affect trails and snowmobile operation and they may change without warning;
- The maximum speed on trails is 50 km/h unless reduced by law or conditions;
- There may be permitted users on the trail other than snowmobilers;
- Operators will stay to the right of the trail notwithstanding that there are no centre lines;
- Operators know that there may be grooming or other maintenance activities under way at any time of the day or night which may take up the whole or any part of the trail and have the right of way;
- Operators and passengers know that snowmobile trails are not engineered highways;
- All operators and passengers know and will adhere to the principles published as the Safe Riders Pledge by the International Snowmobile Manufacturers' Association;
- Operators and passengers are aware that emergency and cell phone service may not be available;
- Operators and passengers are aware that there are generally no legal requirements for signage on trails and, when provided, it is only for assistance and convenience;
- Operators and passengers know that snowmobiling on OFSC trails is regarded as a family-oriented activity;
- Operators and passengers know the unique and particular dangers of ice crossing;
- The grooming and maintenance of trails, when provided, is meant solely to enhance the comfort and enjoyment of the safe and prudent operators and passengers;
- Operators and passengers will dress appropriately for all conditions and will have appropriate safety and emergency equipment at all times.

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