



Snow Times

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

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This past season started out slow but snowmobilers were rewarded in February and March with large amounts of snowfall. With the snowmobile season behind us, it is time store your sleds away and prepare for summer. Also at this time, the SVSA holds their annual elections for the following year's snowmobile season.

The SVSA is always looking to add new faces to the Executive that will bring renewed interest, ideas and charisma to the table. There is no experience necessary to become involved besides a love for snowmobiling! The SVSA Executive is a group of dedicated good natured people who share the same goal - To provide the Seaway Valley with the best possible snowmobile trail system and promote snowmobiling in the Seaway Valley area.

The following positions are or will be vacant and need to be filled for next year's season:

- Vice President
- Membership Director
- Website Director
- Newsletter (Snow Times) Editor

All positions are considered vacant until the election process is complete. So if you are interested in ANY of the SVSA positions or just wish to come to the meeting to vote or be heard, please join us!

Next General Meeting – ELECTIONS!
 Everyone Welcome!
 Tuesday, April 22nd, 2003 7:00pm
 Lions Club, Bonville Ontario

Sno-Ride 2003

On Saturday, February 1, 2003, Clubs from District 1 participated in a District Sno-Ride, organized by John Boals, District Manager, and sponsored by the 4 GM Dealerships in the area. The idea behind the ride is for clubs to ride each others trails. Four clubs from our area participated – Seaway Valley, Glengarry, Riverside and Nation Valley – we had over 100 people sledding that day – 18 from Seaway Valley. We were also excited to have the OFSC's President, District Governor, District Operations Director, and the Sled Smart Team join us for this 200 km ride. It was quite an honour.

The day started and ended at the McIntosh Inn in Morrisburg – with groups leaving at various times. A few stops along the

way were Alexandria, Monkland Millenium Bridge, and the Sand Road Sugar Camp. We arrived back at the hotel around 6:00 pm for a great buffet dinner, prizes and everyone got to speak with President Dennis Burns who enthusiastically participated in all the fun. There was Karaoke for everyone after – and well – for those who were there – it was definitely a night we'll remember!!!



Pictured are (l to r) OFSC Dist 1 Mgr - John Boals, Sled Smart Team member Lindsey, Oper. Dir. Dist 1, Christine Herbert, Sled Smart Team member Caleigh, Dist. 1 Governor, Bruce Robinson, OFSC President, Dennis Burns.

Trail Patrol 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. Their purpose is to ensure trail sustainability and help make snowmobiling safe for everyone.

The SVSA currently has 11 Trail Patrol Officers patrolling the SVSA trail system. **Trail Patrol Officers would like to remind snowmobilers that the OFSC Trail Permit MUST be affixed to the snowmobile in the prescribed location. Failure to do so can result in a \$90.00 minimum fine.** Questions concerning the Trail Patrol program should contact Gregg Villeneuve (613)538-2175 or visit the OFSC website at <http://www.ofsc.on.ca/Safety/WardenProgram.asp>.

What do ATV's mean to the SVSA?

The SVSA would like to take this opportunity to address issues regarding the ATV use in Ontario. Contrary to popular belief, the OFSC and the local SVSA are not anti-ATV! At present, the current laws do not allow ATV use on the prescribed OFSC trail system. This is the law!

ATV sales have increased dramatically in the recent past and ATV users are understandably looking for a place to ride their machines for recreational fun. The OFSC trail system is not the answer to this dilemma. The OFSC trails are made up of Crown and local landowner land that has been cleared and maintained by local snowmobile volunteers over many years. There is a tremendous cost involved in maintaining this trail system which is paid for by snowmobile users who purchase the Trail Permit.

Landowners have generously allowed snowmobile activity on their lands on the condition that snowmobile clubs follow a clear set of rules. Many of these rules include, but are not limited to:

1. Stay on the trail
2. Leave the stakes intact
3. Leave gates and fences alone
4. Use only for snowmobiles
5. Use only in winter
6. Use only when the trail is open
7. Respect the landowner

Failure to abide by any of these rules means the closure of the trail system.

In order for recreational snowmobilers and ATV users to enjoy the prosperity of their two sports, we believe that these two groups must somehow work together in the future to find ways of supporting each other. It is crucial to understand that there is no intention to make snowmobile trails available to ATV's or vice versa. The idea is to foster manageable ATV development in areas where it is wanted, possible, supportable and affordable, and at the same time, to protect and sustain snowmobile trails.

One of the biggest obstacles and financial problems concerning the snowmobile industry today has nothing to do with the ATV issue. In fact, the ATV recreational organizations are soon to have the same issue. This issue is insurance, specifically trail liability insurance. Since Sept 11, 2001, insurance companies have increased their liability rates substantially and this has increased the cost of opening OFSC trails in Ontario. This is just another reason that these two great sports need to work together to ensure that both activities will survive.

Trail Permits

For more information on Trail Permits and snowmobiling in Ontario, visit www.ofsc.on.ca To purchase Trail Permits, contact an SVSA Executive member or visit our website for addresses of businesses selling OFSC Trail Permits.

As always, the SVSA Executive Committee expresses its thanks to all members, volunteers and landowners that make this association possible. Our most valuable asset is our landowners, so let's make sure that we respect the access that we have been granted to use their land and obey all signs, speed limits and noise bylaws. HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

SVSA 2002/2003 Executive Committee			
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