



# Rock the Trails

Newfoundland & Labrador Snowmobile Federation Newsletter

October 2018



NLSF photo

**READY AND WAITING:** It's all down to nature now but the snow can't get here soon enough for our members. Thanks to some support from the government's Job Creation Program, a few crews were busy through the summer and fall clearing trails and doing badly-needed maintenance at various locations on the island. Above, from left, Eric, Dwayne, Dale and Justin took a well-earned rest from clearing alders near The Shiver Shack in the western region.

## Welcome to a new season of snow

**T**hank you for supporting the NLSF with your trail pass purchases. I would also like to thank all those who volunteer at board level, club level or in any other way to make organized snowmobiling in Newfoundland a great success and to help it grow to the potential it can be.

During our current AGM myself and several board members made a commitment to spend more time on the trails this year to provide information on how things work both at the NLSF and club levels. We will also be looking for feedback on how we can improve what we are doing.

Let's hope for tons of snow island wide this year and a great sledding season. I look forward to meeting you on the trails.

Bob Blundon  
NLSF Chair

**I**t is great to be back with the NLSF, working with everyone again. We believe we have snowmobiling opportunities here that are unparalleled in Canada. Our groomed trail network goes across most of the island, providing riders access to a huge off-trail experience that is not available elsewhere.

Clubs are busy trying to get groomers, warm-up shelters and trails ready for the upcoming season. It always amazes me the amount of volunteer work put into our system every year. Please take the time to thank a volunteer if you see them out on the trails repairing damages, cutting brush, working on a warm-up shelter or resupplying firewood. Or, better yet, get involved at the club level. They can use all the support they can get plus it's a very healthy activity.

Tony Sheppard  
NLSF General Manager

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# Make every ride a safe one this winter

Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro  
wishes you a fun snowmobiling season.

- Before hitting the trails, do a pre-season check to make sure your snowmobile is working properly.
- Avoid riding along power lines. If you do find yourself near utility poles or on a power line right-of-way, drive slowly and cautiously. Guy wires and other objects can be difficult to spot and pose safety hazards.
- Steer clear of snow banks around overhead power lines and substations.
- If you encounter a downed pole or power line, stay well away. The line and any nearby objects could be energized and dangerous. Report it by calling 911 or your power company.
- Stay off the ice, including reservoirs and rivers near hydroelectric dams and generating plants where changing water levels and currents cause unstable ice cover.
- For your safety and the safety of others, be aware and keep speed down if you're riding near utility workers, vehicles or equipment.

For more safe snowmobiling tips, visit [www.nlsf.org](http://www.nlsf.org)



[www.nlhydro.com](http://www.nlhydro.com)





## Mechanic's report: Ready for winter

With servicing ongoing for the upcoming season and hopes of Mother Nature lending a hand we should have a good season ahead.

Since May, a lot of miles and issues have been covered. With the aging fleet some were more serious than others. However, with the support of all staff and local operators our fleet will be ready for the upcoming season.

Along with this we are currently preparing to breathe new life into an older unit with an engine recently changed in BR-180-12, as well as with a pump replacement on Lam4000-16 and extensive warranty repairs completed on one of our new tier-4 Huskies.

Added to our tool list were two trailers constructed in-house to assist in trail repairs for areas not accessible by truck.

Both a lumber trailer and an equipment box trailer for transporting tools, etc., were constructed with materials existing in the shop.



Our vegetation control equipment performed well again with minimal repairs at an exceptional rate and low cost as compared to the cost and down-time involved with operating heavy equipment. The cost per kilometer has proven itself.

In summary, the off season maintenance is on the final push and will be completed in time for snow.

With our professional operators ready to go we have hopes of a banner year for trails across the province.

*Submitted by Dan Goulding*

## Trail pass report 2018

Last season had record sales for early-bird with a very low number of regular season. We are hoping to improve upon these sales this year.

Please remember that you are required to have a pass on ANY NLSF groomed trail across the island. Day passes are available for those who do not get to enjoy the trails all winter and only need one for 1, 3 or 7 consecutive days.

Every year we have trail pass holders losing their passes and requiring replacements. Many times they have just simply misplaced them or thrown them out with the trash. We will be implementing stricter rules for replacement stickers so please try to keep track of your passes!

Season trail passes and day passes can be purchased online at [www.nlsf.org](http://www.nlsf.org) or at select vendors across the island. For a complete list of vendors please visit our website [www.nlsf.org/find-a-vendor/](http://www.nlsf.org/find-a-vendor/).

*Submitted by Tara Howell*



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# Snowmobiling in designated corridors is the way to go in Gros Morne National Park

Please be aware that when travelling inside Gros Morne National Park, snowmobilers require a Parks Canada public/commercial snowmobile operator's permit as well as a park pass and must remain within designated snowmobile corridors. Public/commercial permits are valid from January 15, 2018 to April 30, 2018. The superintendent may vary the dates for snowmobiling due to factors such as, but not limited to, snow conditions, dangerous areas, and/or impact to ecosystems.

We thank snowmobilers in advance for staying safe, respecting the designated corridors, and working with Parks Canada to protect wildlife and preserve our environment. By following the conditions of the snowmobile operator's permit, riders will ensure that the wonders of the national park are protected into the future. For more information on permits, snowmobile and avalanche safety, and to access digital versions of the Gros Morne National Park snowmobile corridor maps, please visit [pc.gc.ca/grosmorne](http://pc.gc.ca/grosmorne)

For your convenience, public/commercial snowmobile operator's permits and park passes are available at the following business locations and Gros Morne National Park facilities:

**Arctic West/Pike's Service**, Glenburnie-Birchy Head-Shoal Brook  
**Arthur James**, Corner Brook  
**Coyle's Convenience & Gas Bar**, Wiltondale  
**Davis Gas Bar**, Pollard's Point  
**Deer Lake Esso**, Deer Lake  
**Driftwood Inn**, Deer Lake  
**Fisherman's Landing Inn**, Rocky Harbour  
**Foodland**, Pasadena  
**Funland Resort**, Cormack  
**Gros Morne Cabins**, Rocky Harbour  
**Jackladder**, White Hills  
**Newfoundland and Labrador Snowmobile Federation**, Deer Lake  
**Rocky Brook Cabins**, Cormack  
**Taylor's Brook Convenience**, Taylor's Brook Road  
**White Bay Convenience**, TCH, Hampden Junction  
**White Hills Tourist Lodge**, White Hills  
**Parks Canada Discovery Centre**, Woody Point, Route 431 (Wednesdays: 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm)  
**Parks Canada Administration Building**, Rocky Harbour (Mon.– Fri., 8 am–12 pm & 1pm–4:30 pm)  
**Parks Canada Warden Office**, Cow Head, Route 430 (Thursdays, 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm) ♦



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# Groomer report: Repairs either underway or completed



NLSF photo

## Funded programs

As in previous years, NLSF staff has continued to work with government departments to solidify working relationships.

We experienced success through use of JCP programs over this past summer, completing much needed trail work throughout the Bay St. George's, Western Sno-Riders, Junction Trailblazers and Notre Dame areas.

In just a few months, the JCP crews were able to accomplish a mountain of trail work, bridge re-decking, and other improvements such as warm up hut maintenance and building of convenient snowmobile loading ramps for pass holders.

These and many other tasks done by the crews help to alleviate the pressure from valued club volunteers who can now focus on other aspects of

keeping their areas clean, safe and fun for everyone once the snow flies.

NLSF has been approved through FES DFAA/DFAP programs for upwards of \$500k worth of repairs to bridges, washouts and other damages related to the intense rainfall and flooding event in mid January of 2018.

These repairs span from the Goose Arm area in the west, to the Baie Verte area in the east.

Through the course of the summer, NLSF staff and volunteers helped conduct initial assessments with FES adjusters, compiling damages and soliciting quotes from contractors on work that was split into 12 projects. These quotes were submitted to FES and approved.

## Trail repairs

Clubs have been asked to take an ac-

tive part in monitoring damages and getting trails repaired. NLSF will usually assist clubs, especially with primary trails.

It's come to our attention that some areas of trails have a great deal of required maintenance that we would likely not be able to accomplish in one season. In these areas we'd prioritize the maintenance and plan ahead, making it easier for budgeting.

## Club use of Inotechs

NLSF has two tow-behind Inotech brush cutter units which will be made available for clubs to use.

There will be an application and a sign-out process implemented prior to any club usage. Some training will also be required before the unit is released.

NLSF will not be providing delivery of the unit, nor will it provide an ATV for pulling the cutter. Club presidents will be contacted when details regarding liabilities and insurance have been finalized and a system is in place for club use of the equipment.

In closing, we would like to thank all of our loyal volunteers across the island. Volunteers accounts for thousands of hours of work done for NLSF, on trails, in clubs, at events, and much more.

Without them, none of this would exist. We are grateful to every one of them for everything they give to help maintain premier snowmobiling in Newfoundland.

*Submitted by Stephen Hooper*



NLSF photos

**SEVERE NATURE:** It was a devastating summer for some cabin owners at Bottomless Pond in the Bonne Bay area. Flooding that started in May worsened over the summer resulting in huge



financial losses, ruined property and the demise of the existing trail (shown, above). A new bypass is now in place around the flooded trail but many property owners remain desolated.



# Feeling creative? Earn a little fame and fortune

Let your creativity bend the throttle! Next year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NLSF and we're celebrating the event with a brand new logo. That's where you come in.

We're inviting everyone, members and public alike, of all ages to submit designs for a new logo. It can be square, round, any shape you like. You can go with full colour, spot colour, or monochrome. Snowmobiling can be featured in it, or grooming, snow, hills, woods, or maybe it'll just be a words-only logo – let your imagination go!

The cut-off date for all submissions is February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. At that time, a committee will review all of the entries and the winning design will replace the existing logo (shown below) to become the official brand of Newfoundland and Labrador Snowmobile Federation. Oh, and did we mention the winner will receive a cash prize of \$500.00?

Electronic submissions must be sent as PDFs. Hard copy submissions can be mailed in or dropped off at the NLSF office. Send your entries to:

By mail: NLSF Logo Contest, 7 Wellon Drive, Deer Lake, NL, A8A 2G6

Via email: [newlogo@nlsf.org](mailto:newlogo@nlsf.org)



## Get yourself some gear!



Serious sledders will definitely want to get one of these hoodies for the winter. NLSF will soon be selling a smattering of *gotta-have-it* wearable gear for snowmobiling enthusiasts starting with these two choices, great for both men and women.


They're coming soon! Check our website ([www.nlsf.org](http://www.nlsf.org)) and Facebook page in the next week or two.


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Newfoundland Labrador Snowmobile Federation, Inc.  
7 Wellon Road, PO Box 3386, Deer Lake, NL, A8A 2G6  
P: 709.635.4395 F: 709-635-4396  
[info@nlsf.org](mailto:info@nlsf.org) [www.nlsf.org](http://www.nlsf.org)

## In brief ....

 Survey says...! Beginning in November, NLSF will have an online survey available on its website. It is designed to give us an idea of how best to serve our members and help better define areas that need to be changed. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey. It's anonymous and brief—no writing necessary. Go to [www.nlsf.org](http://www.nlsf.org) and click on 'Survey'.

 Watch and listen for items of interest to sledders as NLSF is featured in television ads and radio spots on NTV and OZFM from November through next March.

 Newfoundland & Labrador Snowmobile Federation is no longer affiliated with AIL Insurance, nor does this federation have any kind of business agreement, insurance policies nor membership coverage with AIL Insurance.

 All NLSF snowmobile clubs are incorporated, not-for-profit organizations.

## The year in review — it's been a busy one

Outside of the endless work on trails, shelters, wash-outs & bridges, club involvement and government interaction that takes place year-round, it's been a busy year for the federation office too. Here are some of the things we've been working on in 2018:

- ⇒ NLSF received a small grant from CBDC for consulting advisory services that allowed us to access mentoring in the areas of access to capital, business coaching/planning and improved outreach to our members.
- ⇒ TrakMaps has been working with us in exploring potential new products that would benefit trail users and complement existing GPS/GIS applications. More to come!
- ⇒ We've welcomed several new corporate sponsors and would like to thank NL Hydro, Lamtrac, The Shop Industrial, Irving Oil and The MTN Group for coming on board in 2018. *Please consider sponsorship if you're a business owner — our rates are excellent, the advertising you receive is far-reaching and your support keeps us moving forward in the industry.*
- ⇒ A rack card program was initiated in the spring, installing NLSF info cards in every Visitor Information Centre across the province as well as hotels, motels, restaurants, museums, etc. They give info about the clubs, the volunteers, the "product", and remind everyone that Newfoundland welcomes tourists in the winter too!
- ⇒ Our 1st annual Veterans' Snow Muster was a big success last March. Planning is already underway for the next one and it's going to be even better.
- ⇒ In addition to our upcoming winter TV and radio ads, NTV will be providing us with free spots all through January, 2019, in honour of Snowmobile Safety Week. Thank you, NTV, for your ongoing support of NLSF.
- ⇒ New controls regarding invoicing, purchase orders, cheques and payments have been put in place and were announced at the AGM. Club designates are welcome to contact the NLSF accounts manager, Muriel Vaters, for the updates and system changes.
- ⇒ Finally (and perhaps the most important item for members), after months of writing, consulting with clubs and editing, members gave approval for two new NLSF documents at October's AGM — our official bylaws and an official club service agreement. We are currently working on a new groomer manual.

*Submitted by Sue McFadden*



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