



Rock the Trails

Newfoundland & Labrador Snowmobile Federation Newsletter

April 2019

Annual Veterans' Snow Muster a huge success

The second annual Veterans' Snow Muster, held March 9th in the Deer Lake area, was a great success.

This year, 180 registrants enjoyed a full day of fun and friendship. The event, free to veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces, included a 100-km ride that looped through Big Falls and Howley, a lunch hosted by Howley Tourist Lodge and sponsored by the Junction Trail Blazers (also co-hosts of the event), an evening banquet at the Deer Lake Legion and a dance with live music by Uncle Harry's Bar, sponsored by Westwood Suites.

Trail conditions were excellent, the weather was perfect, the food was great and a wonderful time was had by all.

As part of this annual event, an online auction held through NLSF's Facebook page raised a total of \$2,060 over five weeks, all of which was donated to the Newfoundland Command of the Royal Canadian Legion on behalf of the federation's clubs and members.

Thank you, sponsors, volunteers and participants for another fantastic event.



It was history in the making!

CBPP/DL Power opened up access across the top of Main Dam just for Snow Muster riders, for the first time ever. That's camera-shy Steve Hurley standing at the railing — he's the guy who started it all.

Participants also enjoyed a lunch provided by the Howley Tourist Lodge.

Photos by
Roxanne Ryland

Changes are in the works for NLSF's family trail pass system

The NLSF has provided family trail pass rates for the past few years. This program is designed to allow families who have multiple snowmobiles, registered at the same civic address, a reduced rate for their second and third machines. The NLSF promotes family participation in organized snowmobiling and fully supports reduced trail pass rates for legitimate families. Although registration with the NL Dept. of Motor Vehicles is a requirement for all snowmobiles, we have no access to this information for address verification. This allows numerous ways that this benefit can be misused.

This has left the work of address verification with our vendors. We do not believe it is fair to put this level of work on them. Additionally, for our online sales, we have no capability of verifying registered addresses for individuals wishing to purchase trail passes at family pass rates. The NLSF has experienced a great deal of overall misuse/abuse of this benefit over the last number of years.

It is in the best interest of the NLSF and its trail pass holders to limit the ability of those who wish to abuse the system and who are taking away from those who wish to support it.

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A thank you to everyone for one of our best seasons ever

As we enter into our 25th anniversary of organized snowmobiling for the island portion of Newfoundland and Labrador this is one of our best seasons ever! With record trail pass sales and extremely positive pass holder social media posts from across the province, it certainly appears we are moving in the right direction. It is becoming more and more obvious that snowmobiling accounts for a major portion of winter tourism in Newfoundland for both residents and those who come from away.

Over the past number of years we have been working to improve our fleet of groomers. With the purchase of 6 units prior to this season, 2 earlier this year and 3 more on order we will continue to improve our grooming efforts and strive towards providing smooth trails as often as possible. This year through our own efforts and assistance provided from both the provincial and federal governments, we were able to leverage 1.3 million dollars toward our groomer replenishment. We were also successful in having the provincial government 5% surcharge imposed on us in 2016 removed; this will allow more funds to go to our grooming and trail maintenance efforts.

On March 9 we held our second annual Veterans Snow Muster in Deer Lake. It was a great success with over 180 people registered and approximately 150 sleds joining into the event this year. The ride extended from Deer Lake through the Big Falls area and on to Howley, returning via the rail bed over Main Dam finishing with a wonderful dinner and dance in the evening. It was a fantastic event. Hats off and a big thank you to all involved!

This year I made a commitment to ride in as many areas as possible and in doing this I am even more confident in saying that our trail system has a lot to offer to both snowmobilers here and those visiting the province. I encourage all pass holders to broaden their riding areas and take in some of the spectacular sites and trails we have to offer.

I would also like to extend a big thank you to all the volunteers who dedicate so much time and effort. You all play a big part in making the NLSF the success it has become.

As board members, club members and pass holders we should all be proud of what we have accomplished.

Happy trails and I hope to see you on the snow

Bob Blundon
NLSF Chair



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THANK YOU, NLSF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers make the difference! It's always overwhelming to appreciate the volunteer effort put into our trails each and every season.

It is without a doubt that our system would not function without the effort and dedication that is put into our system every year. From club presidents to the guys/gals out cutting alders or putting up signage, it is a huge effort that is often not recognized.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, issued the following statement on National Volunteer Week: "Everyone, no matter their age, can play a role in shaping their community and building a better Canada. Even the smallest act of kindness — shoveling someone's driveway or helping a neighbor carry their groceries — can make a huge difference. On behalf of the Government of Canada, I thank all volunteers for their selfless service to their communities and to our country".

As we are in National Volunteer Week 2019, it is important to recognize that volunteers are the heart of our organization. We would like to thank each and every one of you who make a difference and put so much into the trails and grooming efforts.

Tony Sheppard
NLSF General Manager



**National Volunteer
Week 2019**





Photo by Brian Kelly

Trail pass report 2019: Our best year ever

During the 2018/2019 season, we enjoyed the best pass sales in NLSF history, with approximately 16,000 trail passes purchased island-wide.

This would not be possible without the support of our trail pass buyers, vendors, clubs and communities.

We look forward to what next year has to offer and hope for an even better snowmobiling experience for everyone.

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.

Submitted by Tara Howell

Mechanic's report 2019: This season definitely had its challenges

Well, winter 2018/2019 has been quite a season.

With the early start and good snow conditions, equipment certainly had a good workout this year. Although it was a great scenario for all trail pass holders it brought out a few issues in machines that have had a few easy seasons.

Much like ourselves when sitting too long, new aches and pains develop when we jump into hard work. Considering this, our older equipment held up to the job and even some equipment considered decommissioned was brought back into service to carry the load for new equipment suffering failures.

The new equipment is being phased in but not without issues. With an engine loss in one of our tier-3 Huskys and final drive failure in a new machine it was proof to expect the unexpected. New equipment brings new challenges but new solutions as well.

To say it has been a challenging winter would be an understatement. But with support from the office and the operators, one by one as issues came up solutions were found.

With the season winding down now it is time to catch a short breath before diving in to a full summer/fall of preparing all equipment for what will hopefully be another banner season of snowmobiling next winter.

Submitted by Dan Goulding

Changes to family pass system

Continued from page 1

As a solution, we are instating a family trail pass rebate program similar to what other Atlantic provinces have. When purchased, all trail passes will be at the full rate, either early bird or regular season. Families can then apply, either by mail (photocopy) or email (scanned), to the NLSF office for their rebate.

This will include the NLSF rebate form, copies of your snowmobile registrations (indicating a common address) and, if purchased through a vendor, a copy of your trail pass application form.

Rebate applications will be processed at the NLSF office from mid-January to the end of April. All rebates will be mailed out in cheque form. We will try our best to ensure rebates are sent out in a timely fashion.

We thank you for your cooperation and your much needed support.

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Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro reminds snowmobilers to

Make every ride a safe ride

- Before hitting the trails, 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 high 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.



www.nlhydro.com



- Club Updates -

BSG South River Riders

Overall, snow conditions were poor on the trails this winter, unlike other areas.

The club will be pushing ahead with trail maintenance this spring and fall, targeting intersecting trails where alders cause hazards to line of sight.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have worked hard at clearing brush to help widen the trail.

Water control is another area which is being addressed through trail maintenance as well.

We hosted a successful community bingo and raised just over \$1,400.

The club hired an excavator and a dozer to upgrade the trail, pulling stumps and addressing excess water issues.

The club continues to meet monthly.

Submitted by Joe Blanchard

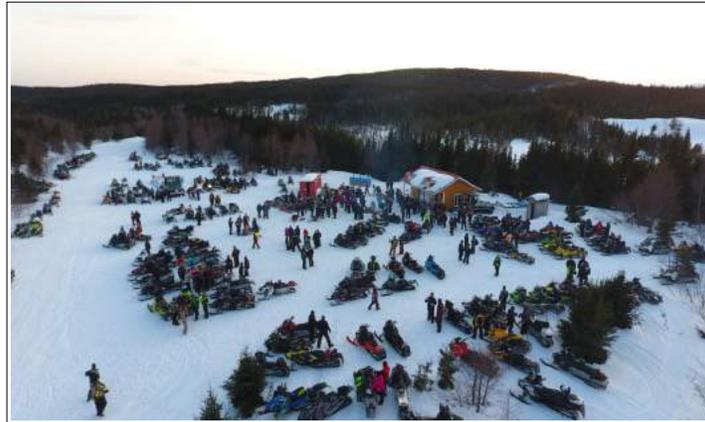


Photo by Keith Goodyear
A bird's eye view of the "Shiver Shack Challenge" between WSR and BSG

Junction Trail Blazers

This year, we co-hosted the Veterans' Snow Muster which was an awesome success.

We hosted a race day in March with the help of our sister club, Western Sno-Riders, and it too was a great success. A big thank you to that club for doing all the lights for the start and finish lines.

Also, we have installed over 400 signs in our area to provide better marking of trails, especially in open areas.

Our new groomers are doing a good job on the trails after a rough start.

We did a bypass trail around a Corner Brook Pulp & Paper wood operation in the Cormack area and this has worked well. Thank you, CBPP, for your support in making this possible.

Out of concerns for safety, CBPP kept White River Road open for one kilometre for traffic to park off-road while wood trucks were working in that area which was also appreciated.

We held a successful, well-attended annual meeting at the end of March and a new board is in place for the upcoming year.

Submitted by Guy Reid

Northern Drifters

The club enjoyed another busy, successful season.

We held a couple of poker runs and they are always well-attended. New this year, we had reflective signs made for the runs.

We held a 50/50 ticket draw again this year for a \$500 gas card.

There was a good turnout for our annual ride to Main Brook for Winterfest.

We put a float in the Santa Clause parade again this year featuring a tableau of a decorated mini warm-up shelter complete with lights, a fully decorated Christmas tree, and snow machines.

Our Family Fun Day held early this month at Jackie's Lookout on Long Pond drew a crowd for sliding, a camp fire, hotdogs and snacks.

Submitted by Sherry Squires

Western Sno-Riders

Western Sno-Riders has been very active this winter. We rebuilt the Carp Creek warm-up shelter, decked over a few bridges, opened up a new trail to Humber Valley Resort, and re-activated the Twin Ponds route to Gallants (still under construction).

We held our annual auction at Marble Mountain in November and it was well-attended and successful, given a snow storm that occurred. Planning is underway for Race on the Rock on April 13 and 14 at Marble Mountain.

We also hosted a Family Sliding Day during the Corner Brook Winter Carnival and a poker run at the Pasadena Winter Carnival. Both events were well-attended and everyone enjoyed themselves.

WSR hosted an NLSF President's Ride in March attended by presidents of clubs around the island and they enjoyed a tour around the area.

We also held a challenge with the Bay St. George club to see which group could get the most sleds to the Shiver Shack, followed by a bonfire and hotdog roast. It's been a busy winter and hopefully there's still lots of riding to do yet.

Submitted by Robin Parsons



Photo by Sherry Squires
Family Fun Day at NDSA.



Photo by Brian Kelly
Getting lined up at JTB's race

Continued on page 7 ... North Eastern Trail Riders

North Eastern Trail Riders

The 2018/19 snowmobiling season is no exception to others, cold with tremendous amounts of snow/storms. To live on the GNP, one must embrace mother nature; dress warm, take a lunch, and hit the trails! The pleasure of being nestled away in the shelter of the trails, with the freedom to explore our beautiful scenery right here in our back yard is amazing.

This season our club and recreation committee had the privilege of hosting the first skidoo races of the season, racers coming from as far as St. John's, with hopes of claiming the title King of Canada Bay! It was a success; great food, good friends, and awesome tracks! Bigger and better is planned for next season!

We give a big shout-out to our volunteers, whether it be our fundraising committee, maintenance volunteers, businesses that donated, local donations, trail pass purchasers and communities for a successful year.

Submitted by Austin Cassell and Raymond Norman



A beautiful day at the races with North Eastern Trail Riders.

Photo by NETR

Study proves snowmobiling benefits your mental health

A publication just released by the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations (CCSO) summarizes research findings which demonstrate the numerous health benefits of snowmobiling.

Research carried out by the University of Guelph in Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec analyzed three primary forms of recreational sledding.

By looking at groomed trail riding, backcountry riding and deep powder riding at higher elevations, and through extensive scientific testing, they compiled some impressive data proving the positive mental and physical health aspects provided by snowmobiling.

Citing technical data and statistics, the report delivers findings on calories, oxygen use, body position, fatigue and more, measured across every scenario of sledding including peripheral tasks (digging out, loading up), standing versus sitting, individual weight loads, varying terrain, even steering and gripping the handlebars.

Featuring great photos, graphs and pie charts, the report makes for pretty interesting reading overall. You can read it online at www.nlsf.org or view a hard copy at the NLSF office, 7 Wellon Dr., Deer Lake.

See you later, Steve-o!



Photo by Stephen Legge-Hooper

NLSF staff recently bid a sad farewell to Steve Hooper, the federation's groomer co-ordinator for the past couple of years, who has moved on to pursue other fields. Please join us in wishing him the best in all his future endeavors. Hopefully, he'll keep sending us beautiful photos like this one, taken when he's out and about on the trails. Good luck, 'kid'.

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QUICK FACTS — Did You Know?

- Snowmobiling is a good form of physical activity
- Physical activity can positively affect mental health including symptoms of depression and anxiety
- Snowmobiling can contribute to every adult's goal of at least 150 minutes of weekly physical activity
- Snowmobiling can help burn calories
- The health benefits of snowmobiling are four-fold: it involves physical activity, outdoor time, exposure to nature and socialization



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