



Rock the Trails

Newfoundland & Labrador Snowmobile Federation Newsletter

October 2019

Family pass rebate system created for 2019/2020

This season, a new trail pass system for families with more than one snowmobile will be introduced.

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. 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 accepted 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.

Tony Sheppard, General Manager

THREE BEAUTIES IN THE EYES OF BEHOLDERS



Photo by Dan Goulding

Thanks to funding from federal and provincial governments, NLSF was able to bring three new Prinoth Trooper Tier-3 groomers into the fold for the 2019/20 season.

Trails & Grooming Report: It's been a productive summer

Trail Maintenance

Many club members and volunteers have been busy over the summer doing maintenance and making repairs to the trail system across the island.

This includes things like vegetation control, repairs to bridges and other infrastructure and fixing a few minor washouts that came to light after the snow left.

Several areas had JCP programs over the summer and into the fall to help get some of this work done and alleviate some pressure off of our volunteers.

Through our excellent working relationship with government agencies we were able to acquire permits to do some grading of the T'railway in the Exploits Trail Net and the Discovery Trail Snowmobile Association club areas. This should greatly improve the grooming product in these areas.

The NLSF has also purchased two new pieces of vegetation control equipment that can be mounted on our groomers and we hope to have them out on the trails early in the season to cut back some of the areas that can't be easily accessed with equipment in the summer months.

This same equipment can be used in the summer with a tractor or other piece of heavy equipment and we hope that they will prove to be a good year-round tool in our ongoing battle with the almighty alder.

We have also seen the completion of the final FES projects as a result of the rain event of January 2018 and are happy to have that chapter put behind us.

Groomer Fleet

Through funding from ACOA and the provincial government we were able to purchase five new groomers this year, two Piston Bully Trail Bullies and

three Prinoth Troopers.

This along with the return of two of our groomers from repairs in Mount Pearl should relieve some pressure off of our ageing fleet as we phase out some of our older and more weathered equipment. Through the ACOA program we have also been able to refurbish our entire fleet of drags.

Our mechanic has been diligently working all summer to get the rest of our fleet in top shape for the upcoming season. We are all hoping for a great season with no major issues, fingers crossed.

As always, we would like to thank our many dedicated volunteers for all the work they do year-round to help keep everything running as smoothly as possible and we encourage anyone who may be considering volunteering to get out and help out your clubs. It benefits everyone.

*Submitted by Matthew Swain,
Trails/Groomer Coordinator*

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Mechanic's Report: This year's fleet is ready to roll

With summer done and fall moving in fast, thoughts turn to the first snow just around the corner. Work has been ongoing through the summer preparing equipment for what we are all hoping is a good season ahead.

Growing pains with the new equipment are being worked through and should be all resolved. As for the older equipment, all issues reported by operators have been addressed and other issues beyond these were addressed.

With the introduction of three new machines to the fleet, phasing out or repurposing of the older units is ongoing. As well, maintenance and improvements to auxiliary equipment such as the truck and gooseneck trailer have been done as time permitted.

During travels this summer it was good to see some familiar faces while servicing equipment at

groomer sheds. The help and access from everyone at the clubs was greatly appreciated.

Overall, the fleet was generally in good condition. With a few exceptions the repairs needed could be attributed to normal wear and tear.

Looking forward, I am hoping for a successful grooming season ahead. To expect a trouble-free winter would be a dream because equipment can fail – even new equipment. It is the nature of everything mechanical and, in some cases, the human factor can be taken in as well.

Having said that, any issues popping up will be addressed in sequence as the calls come in. With a little patience and working together as a provincial organization we can all make for a successful 2019-2020 season.

*Submitted by Dan Goulding,
Heavy Equipment Mechanic*



Make every ride a safe ride this season

Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro reminds snowmobilers:

- 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.
- 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.
- For your safety and the safety of others, be aware and keep speed down if you're riding near utility workers, vehicles or equipment.
- Stay off the ice, including reservoirs and rivers near hydroelectric dams and generating plants where changing water levels and currents create unstable ice cover.



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Club Updates



Top left: JTB's Hines Lake warm-up shelter.
 Top right: Green Bay's work at Gummy Pond.
 Far left: Nice try, Exploits Bill, but we can see you. ©
 Centre right: Northern Drifters at Saunders Mill.
 Bottom right: New bridge at WSR's Twin Ponds.
 Centre, below: Great work by Bay St. George.



Rebuilding a great trail with volunteers, support and dedication

This past summer many groups of ATV riders came to visit Cox's Cove via Hughes Brook, Wiltondale area and from Deer Lake along Goose Arm Road to Old Mans Pond then 17 kms to Cox's Cove.

They came to get gas, a great meal, or to just enjoy the spectacular scenery. Last winter it was the same for snowmobilers with a groomed trail all the way.

By 2016, the old logging road was grown in with alders and had many washouts, becoming difficult and dangerous to get through.

The Frenchman's Pond Trail Committee was created in spring of 2016 to rebuild the old logging road. We obtained lottery licenses to sell tickets and organized dart tournaments to fund the repairs for the all-season trail.

With great support from our community and all communities along the North Shore we have raised, to date, \$40,000 with 100 percent put into rebuilding the trail from Old Mans Pond though to Frenchman's Pond to Cox's Cove.

With continued fundraising and support from the NLSF and WSR the committee will continue to maintain the trail for everyone to enjoy.



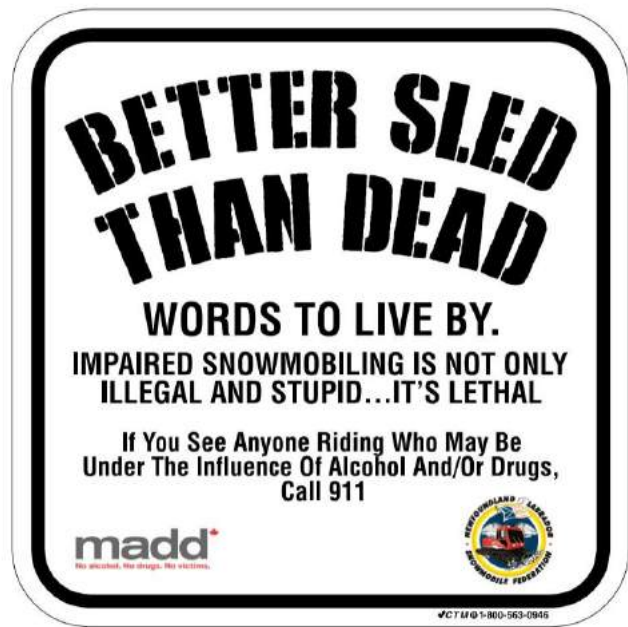
Submitted by Edmund Gaulton, WSR director

Sign program sponsored by MADD

MADD Canada has sponsored a new safety sign for our member clubs this season. Based on the original "Better Sled Than Dead" campaign it features black wording on a reflective background.

Susan MacAskill, manager for MADD's Atlantic Region, said she's grateful to the clubs, "...for such great support. Hopefully, the reminders keep everyone safe".

Each club will receive five or six 12x12 signs to be installed in their warm-up shelters or on their trails, as they wish. This program was fully sponsored by MADD Canada for NLSF.



New trail map book just launched

A new map book is being introduced by NLSF just in time for the 2019/20 snowmobiling season.

At a finished size of about 5.5 x 4 inches, the saddle-stitched, 28-page volume will stow nicely into small storage areas.

It features foldout maps and weather-resistant paper. This colourized trail book produced by Resource Innovations in Corner Brook will be updated and reprinted every two years.

The trail books are available for purchase from NLSF at their head office location in Deer Lake, or online through their website, www.nlsf.org.

What a great idea for a Christmas gift or stocking stuffer!

We're everywhere you are!

Watch for NLSF's increased public presence this season. Thanks to great support from NTV and Down-home along with boosted synergy with online apps, we'll be highly visible (and audible) on TV, radio, social media and in print, from November through next March.

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