



**SNOWMOBILE SEASON HAS BEGUN ON MOST PARTS OF THE ISLAND:** Grooming commenced December 28 on the Western and Northern portion of the island, and although the season was off to a slow start with little snow to work with and changing weather conditions, our groomer operators have been working around the clock and are committed to delivering the best possible trail riding experiences for our trail pass buyers.

Donnie O'Keefe / Western Sno-Riders

Drastic changes in the weather have caused some sections of trails to flood or wash out and we want to remind snowmobilers to be extra cautious, know your surroundings, and keep a close eye out for hidden obstacles.

Whether it be cutting alders, putting up signage or marking hazards on trails, our volunteers have been generously devoting their time to help make a difference on our trails.



Western Sno-Riders

What better way to bond with family and friends than on the trails. Stop by the Firepit set up by the Discovery Trails Snowmobile Association, have a boil up, and enjoy some hot chocolate. Thank you to the dedicated efforts of snowmobile clubs to make the trails more enjoyable for you.

Remember...

Leave tracks, Not Trash—if you had space to bring it in, then respect nature by carrying it out too.

### Warm up shelters remain closed

Due to COVID-19 Government restrictions we want to remind snowmobilers that our warm up shelters are to be used for emergency purposes only. Stay safe!



Discovery Trails Snowmobile Association

## Rugged Edge receives Excellence Award for outstanding snowmobile Tourism Promotion and Development

Craig Borden and his team have been in business for over 12 years and are heavily involved in every aspect of snowmobile related activity on a local and provincial level. They are a huge promoter of the NLSF trail and pass system, as well as the province of Newfoundland & Labrador as a snowmobile tourism destination.

Craig has been involved with the Western SnoRiders Snowmobile Club since its inception over 25 years ago. Whether it is a loaner snowmobile/ATV for trail work or a donation for the annual live auction, his support for the club does not go unseen. Craig wanted to take his involvement with organized snowmobiling to the next level, and when approached in 2018 to become involved as a Director with the NLSF he jumped at the opportunity, and has been an active, vocal and engaged member ever since. He currently holds the position of Vice-Chair of the NLSF and uses his connections at civil, provincial and federal levels to promote the snowmobile industry.

Rugged Edge is a major supplier of brand named clothing and gear, as well as used snowmobiles in Western Newfoundland. They provide snowmobile rentals and guided tours, are highly respected and regarded by their customers and have become the most influential business in Newfoundland for promoting the snowmobile industry. They play an active role in commu-



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Honorable Gerry Byrne, Keith Goodyear (WSR), Bob Blundon (NLSF Chair), Craig Borden, Matthew Swain (NLSF GM)

nity events, FAM tours, and trail rides, including the annual Veterans SnoMuster – an annual event that started in 2018 that provides support to retired members of the Canadian Armed Forces. For this event they provided loaner snowmobiles to members, without compensation, since the very beginning. In addition to this, Rugged Edge provides financial and in-kind donations to a number of clubs and associations, as well as many hours of volunteer time. They regularly attend tradeshow across the country and work with tourism-related associations including Go Western, Hospitality NL and Experience Qalipu, and has extensive partnerships with many Newfoundland tour, accommodation, food and experience providers. They have also created NL content for TV shows including SnowTrax, DirtTrax, Histories de Senteniers, and Frontier. They offer safety seminars to educate people on snowmobile safety and assisted with changes to city bylaws to allow

snowmobiles and ATVs into the local community. (Continued on page 3)

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### Family Rebate Program

As expected, a large number of applications have been received for the family rebate program. We are asking the public to be patient while we process them. We also want to remind you to be sure to include all required information including photocopies of your machine registrations, where the passes were purchased, and sticker numbers. Buyers have until April to send in their rebate applications.



(Continued from page 2)

Craig has been on snowmobiles his entire life. He is driven by his lifelong passion for the snowmobiling industry and his personal love for the sport. Craig and Melissa opened their doors to Rugged Edge in 2008 with one line of clothing and one parts supplier. Today, they are a multifaceted family owned and operated business with strong ties to the community and have been successful in raising the positive image and profile of recreation snowmobiling locally and provincially. Craig and his team are making winter tourism the best it can be both in Corner Brook but more importantly for Newfoundland and Labrador as a whole.

Please join us in congratulating Rugged Edge, Craig Borden and his team for such excellent work in continuing efforts for trails in Newfoundland.





## At Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, safety is priority number one.

Make it yours too – think safe and stay safe year-round.

For fun and safe snowmobiling:

- This offseason, store and maintain your snowmobile with care.
- Stay away from snowbanks near overhead power lines and substations.
- Avoid snowmobiling along power lines – guy wires and poles can pose hazards.
- Stay off frozen ponds and rivers – including reservoirs around hydroelectric dams and plants where ice and water conditions are unpredictable.

For more safe snowmobiling tips, visit:

[www.nlsf.org](http://www.nlsf.org)

[www.caringforkids.cps.ca](http://www.caringforkids.cps.ca)



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



# Take a Friend Snowmobiling Week February 12-21

The Take a Friend Snowmobiling Campaign is all about introducing non-snowmobilers to our winter recreation of choice. Sometimes individuals have little knowledge about snowmobiling. If we take them out for a ride and show them how much fun and wonderful it is to experience the winter in a unique way with friends and family, we can shed the true light on the family activity of snowmobiling. We encourage you to help the NLSF and Club in your area grow by introducing new people to snowmobiling.



## International Snowmobile Safety Week

The NLSF kicked off International Snowmobile Safety week on January 15-23, posting daily safety tips and information on social media to help raise awareness on safe snowmobiling in our province. We would like to remind snowmobilers to ride safe, ride sober and practice safe snowmobiling throughout the entire season.

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Humber Winterland

## Trails & Groomer Update

It has been a later start to the grooming season across the Central and Eastern parts of the province, but luckily, we are finally getting snow across the board and everyone is now moving! We have definitely had some start up issues this season, with breakdowns in several club areas, but with the diligent work of our mechanic, and a great effort by clubs and volunteers we have been able to work together to keep grooming operations going smoothly. The NLSF's brush cutter has been running this season as well, on several sections of trail on the West coast, and we are hoping to transport it to Central in the next couple of weeks to improve grooming operations and snowmobiling conditions in that area as well. Although snow conditions have not been ideal during the early stages of this grooming season, a few cold snaps and winter storms have allowed many club areas to create a good solid base to their trails. We look forward to a long and prosperous grooming season this year. See you on the trails!

Submitted by Carolyn Compagnon



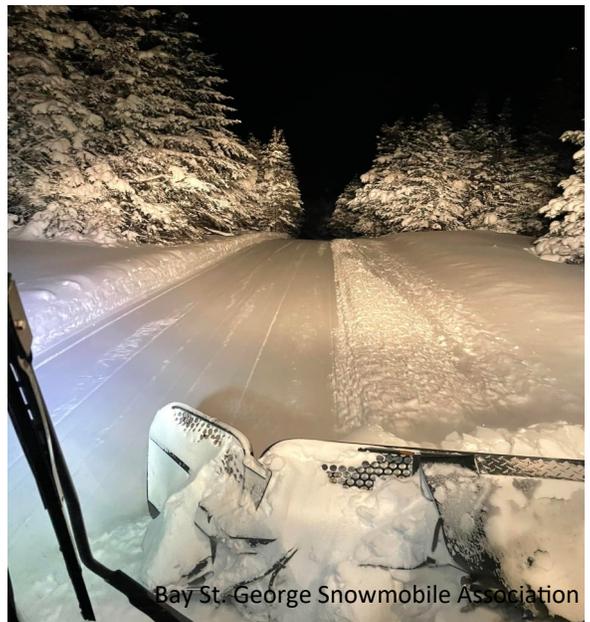
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Bay St. George Snowmobile Association

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## Thank you

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CANADIAN COUNCIL OF SNOWMOBILE ORGANIZATIONS

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