



SNOSCENE



A THANK YOU TO VOLUNTEERS

THE BACKBONE OF EVERY SNOWMOBILE ORGANIZATION

BY ERIN HART, President

Greetings one and all and welcome to the 2011/2012 snowmobile season in British Columbia. Just like other provincial snowmobile organizations across Canada, the BCSF has been busy in the off-season. The business of snowmobiling never really stops when the snow goes away.

There are meetings with strategic partners/alliances (both government and non-government) and conferences to attend. There are issues such as land closures related to mountain caribou to deal with and day-to-day business decisions to make sure the B.C. Snowmobile Federation represents its 4,000+ members in the most professional and fiscally responsible methods possible.

The challenges and changes have been many in this off-season, most notably the move of our office from Houston, B.C., to Whistler. We've also had the unfortunate departure of our past president, Mr. Herb Shaede. At this time, the BCSF would like to publicly thank Herb for his many, many years of volunteering at both the local level at his home club in Revelstoke and at the provincial level with the BCSF where he sat on the board of directors for over 20 years and guided us through some difficult changes over the past 12 months as president. Thank you Herb!

Also, we would be remiss not to mention past presidents Suzanne Clark and Roger Frost and their respective families for their contributions to snowmobiling in British Columbia.

On the subject of volunteering, I would like to appeal to all snowmobilers reading this to think about the superhuman efforts and volunteer hours that make up your local snowmobile club so that you might enjoy your season sledding in the backcountry.

Consider this: your local snowmobile club is comprised of a number of volunteers that fill the various positions such as president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, registrar, snow grooming operations, the people that update your club website and Facebook pages, the people that collect fees at trailheads, etc.

They all volunteer countless (and usually thankless) hours to make sure your local riding area is set each season.

Have you ever stopped to wonder what would happen if these same people simply didn't show up and help out? For instance, let's tackle the volunteer hours that go into keeping your trail open. What do you figure goes into making that all happen?

- So, what if the trees were not trimmed back or the ditches and cross-ditches not maintained through the spring, summer and fall?

- What if the bridges were not maintained?

- What if someone from your club executive did not deal with your local recreation officers to ensure there was a proper management agreement in place so that you and your friends and family could ride in your favourite areas?

- What about the volunteers that maintain and operate the snow groomers on the trail network? Did you ever consider how much time is involved in simply maintaining snow grooming equipment in the off-season to minimize mechanical breakdowns during the riding season? Then add in the time of the volunteers that operate the snow groomers through the season.

- What about the people that stand at the trailhead and collect day fees? If they didn't collect, the local club likely could not afford to run a trail grooming operation. How much fun would you and your family and friends have if you had to deal with washboard trails every time you went riding? Add all this up and the time and expenses are staggering!

To this, I tip my hat and offer all volunteers of all the snowmobile organizations across the province a hearty thank you for all you do, all you have done and your ongoing contributions. Without volunteers, our beloved pastime would be in serious jeopardy.

Even yours truly and the entire board of directors of the BCSF are all volunteers who continually donate time to guide everything snowmobiling in our great province.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OUTLOOK

On a completely different note, did you know that organized snowmobiling barely represents 10 per cent of the snowmobilers in the province?

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The BCSF & SledCom

The Canadian Avalanche Centre (CAC) is a non-government, not-for-profit organization dedicated to public avalanche safety. This is the agency that provides avalanche forecasts for much of the mountainous areas in Western Canada, including many of the areas we snowmobile in. Their bulletins and a variety of other programs aimed at managing avalanche risk are available online, free of charge, at www.avalanche.ca/cac.

The snowmobiling sector has strong representation within the CAC. Curtis Pawliuk, an avid mountain sledder and general manager of the Valemount Area Recreation Development Association (VARDA), is on the board of directors. As well, there is a very active working committee fondly referred to as "SledCom." This highly functioning group has been in place since 2009 and is made up of snowmobilers from a variety of organizations and backgrounds including the BCSF.

SledCom's duties include: fostering snowmobile-oriented training and educational initiatives; advising the CAC executive director and operational staff on program issues that relate to snowmobile avalanche outreach; providing recommendations on snowmobile-oriented educational materials and curriculum; and providing feedback and rec-

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► **ERIN HART**

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Yes, it is shocking. The fact that 90 per cent of the snowmobilers in British Columbia don't pay their way and you wonder why clubs across the province continue to struggle. How is it that an average person can purchase a sled at a dealer or through a private sale and not have to register the machine or insure it before they hit the trail? Sure, they are supposed to but does it happen? We all know the answer to that question.

So what is being done about it? Well, there has been plenty of time and effort put into meetings with various levels of government and directly with ministers in Victoria to offer up real-world, workable business solutions to this problem.

On a number of occasions the BCSF has offered government a simple, workable business model as to how the snowmobilers of the province could be organized with a legislated annual permit, which would then offer up the monetary resources to better manage snowmobilers province-wide. But up till now we have seen very little other than roadblocks such as ICBC's

inability (surprise, surprise) to manage off-road vehicles; as well, some government members believe that a legislated annual snowmobile permit would be seen as a tax, when in actual fact it is a user-pay system.

In 2009 an Off-Road Vehicle - Joint Advisory Group (ORV-JAG) was formed, of which the BCSF is a member, to find real solutions. But in the minds of many in the off-road vehicle group, we feel the solutions that will be offered up will fall short of the goal line. Why our provincial government tries to reinvent the wheel when other provinces across the country already have solutions in place is, frankly, beyond me.

Now, in stating all this, do I hold hope for the future? Absolutely! We are very fortunate in the fact that the present provincial government has minister Pat Bell overseeing the tourism portfolio. Minister Bell is a sledder and does understand the challenges of snowmobiling in the province. At the time of writing this message to you, we are arranging a meeting with him to discuss snowmobiling in the province. An update to

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► **ERIN HART**

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the presidents of your local club will be issued once I have had that meeting with Minister Bell.

In closing, I look forward to meeting with many clubs in this upcoming season. Don't be offended if I don't take advantage of your invitation to sled with many of you as I have this fascination with trail grooming operations. Many people within my home club (Black Tusk Snowmobile Club) will attest to the fact that I will, eight times out of 10, jump into a trail groomer rather than ride a sled. To the trail groomer operators out there—I look forward to riding shotgun with you through the season!

**Vernon Snow Show
November 12, 2011**

It's that time again! Time to register your business/organization for our upcoming show, which will be held:

**Saturday, November 12, 2011
2-10 p.m.**

**Vernon Recreation Centre,
Vernon, B.C.**

The Vernon Snowmobile Club and the Lumby-Mabel Lake Snowmobile Club are once again co-hosting the event. We will strive for that rec-room family-and-friends feel with our Highmark pub, burgers, 50/50 draws, door prizes, etc. Door entry fee for visitors is still only a toonie and kids are free.

Exhibitor information, registration forms, etc. are available online at <http://www.vernonsnowmobileclub.org/exhibitor-information.html>.

EXHIBITOR COSTS:

The price varies depending on your organization (commercial vs. non-profit) and amount of space you need. We regret that we have had to in-

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Introducing Nelson Bastien

We would like to introduce you to and at the same time recognize and applaud Nelson Bastien, president of the Powder Mountain Snowmobile and Outdoor Recreation Club, and an 11-year veteran of the B.C. Snowmobile Federation.

Nelson has served as a zone director, an associate director and as a director of the BCSF. He presently serves on the BCSF board of directors and the executive committee as secretary/treasurer. He has graciously provided a temporary office in the spacious upper level of his home in Black Tusk Village halfway between Squamish and Whistler for the BCSF to carry out their daily office administration.

Nelson has worked diligently for more than 40 years supporting and promoting snowmobiling in all aspects. He has worked relentlessly to save snowmobiling areas in the Squamish/Whistler/Pemberton corridor. He has logged thousands of miles attending hundreds of meetings throughout the province in support of snowmobiling. He is responsible for negotiating with the Olympic and government bureaucrats to secure a new club parking lot complete with portable washrooms, loading ramps, avalanche information boards and trail system maps.

Nelson is a hands-on snowmobiler and can usually be found early in the mornings during the snowmobile season at the new Brandywine park-

ing lot collecting trail fees with his good friend and vice-president of the Powder Mountain Snowmobile Club, Doug McDonald. With Nelson's big boisterous voice and those ears that don't miss a thing, not many get past without being signed up as a new member or paying their trail fees! They also get a measure of the wisdom gathered through his and Doug's many years of snowmobiling.

Safe riding is of great concern to Nelson and he strives consistently to keep abreast of the latest avalanche awareness and safety courses, trail safety and educating fellow riders with his vast hands-on experience. Whenever there is a newsworthy incident, Nelson will get a call from the press to solicit his opinion on the event.

Nelson is always one of the first to be on top of arrangements and to offer his assistance with lost riders or broken-down sleds, and is ready to load up and go at all hours of the day or night.

Not only does Nelson never miss a meeting, he also never misses supper. He has been married for over 50 years to his lovely wife Ruth and when he does find time for a ride at 4:30 p.m., without fail, you can hear with great anticipation, that big boisterous voice echoing through the valleys and across the ridges, "My supper's ready at five . . . I gotta go . . . see y'all later!"



Nelson Bastien, an 11-year veteran of the BCSF.



National Trails Roundtable

The National Trails Roundtable is calling on all Canadians who use motorized and non-motorized recreational trails, or who develop, build, maintain, fund or advocate for trails in their provinces, territories, regions or communities, to give their input by responding to the National Trails Survey.

This survey has been prepared by the National Trails Roundtable following a meeting of trail enthusiasts from all parts of Canada in November 2010. The objectives of this survey are to determine the most important challenges and priorities of Canadians who care about trails, to see where there is general agreement and to identify areas for potential collaboration.

For more information about the National Trails Roundtable please read the Backgrounder which can be found below. To access the survey go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/NTRsurvey. To respond to the survey it will be necessary to review the National Trails Roundtable summary report, which can be viewed on the following websites:

- Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations (www.ccsso-ccom.ca/index.html)
- Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council (www.cohv.ca/indexe.html)
- Canadian Trails Federation (www.ctf-fcs.ca)
- National Trails Coalition (www.ntc-canada.ca)
- Trans Canada Trail (www.tctrail.ca)

This is an ideal way to send or emphasize your messages about trails to policy makers and managers who make key decisions about trails across Canada.

Make your voice heard! Complete the survey!

If you have questions please contact:

Dennis Burns, executive director

Canadian Council of

Snowmobile Organizations

Tel: (807) 345-5299

Email: ccso.ccom@tbaytel.net

The National Trails Roundtable Summary Report is available directly on the CCSO website at <http://www.ccsso-ccom.ca/summaryreport.html#ntrsummaryreport>.

NATIONAL TRAILS

ROUNDTABLE BACKGROUNDER

In November 2010 trail leaders from across Canada participated in a two-day National Trails Roundtable workshop in Banff, Alberta. This workshop was attended by delegates from all provinces and territories. Most of them are volunteers. The non-profit organizations and government agencies with which they are affiliated undertake advocacy for or the promotion, development, funding, building or maintenance of trails.

This Roundtable Conference was initiated and organized by representatives of the Trans Canada

Trail and Parks Canada, both of which also provided funding for conference events.

The objective of the conference was to determine if there is a need for and support for greater collaboration at the national level between the different groups of stakeholders concerned with trails. Participants in the workshop concluded that collaboration between stakeholder groups must become a high priority.

Over the two days delegates developed their vision for trails throughout Canada and agreed on the many values they share. These include their passion for trails, the importance of safety and education, respect for diversity and accessibility, the need for co-operation, collaboration and inclusiveness, the importance of volunteer and community involvement, the importance of health and active living, and respect for nature and sustainability.

The delegates agreed in principle that the following are essential: collaboration between trail stakeholders, the need for trails to have a higher profile with the public and governments, increased funding and resources, respectful conduct on trails, sharing of information and knowledge, and interaction with governments.

The delegates identified 10 areas with major challenges that impact on achievement of their vision. These include government involvement, funding, fragmentation of the trails sector, user group conflict, land use, marketing, trail building and maintenance, education and engagement, risk management and environmental stewardship.

The Roundtable has published a comprehensive report with the results of the workshop. A working group has been formed to engage trail stakeholders and follow up on the issues identified during the workshop. A summary report has also been prepared and a trail user survey has been structured to solicit input from as many trail groups and users as possible across Canada.

The summary report and the full report can be accessed on the websites of the following organizations: Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations, Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council, Canadian Trails Federation, National Trails Coalition and the Trans Canada Trail. The website addresses are provided earlier in this article.

The Roundtable Workshop ended on a high note with unanimous agreement on the need for more collaboration on virtually all issues concerning trails throughout Canada. If you have questions about this initiative or wish to contribute your ideas please contact the Roundtable's contact person for your organization, province or territory.

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► VERNON SNOW SHOW *Cont'd. from pg. 2 sidebar*

crease our costs this year in order to deflect rising expenses at our end.

PRODUCT:

Anything that would be of interest to snowmobile or ATV enthusiasts is welcome. Our corporate sponsor dealers have precedence with respect to displaying the Arctic Cat, Yamaha, Polaris and Ski-Doo makes. However, if your business is modifying those sleds or if you offer lightweight chassis or other specialties, then you're good to go. As yet we don't have anyone with trailers or sled decks. Other suggestions are resorts/hotels that cater to these sports, apparel, safety equipment, sled/ATV maintenance, insurers, sled rentals, tours, snowmobile clubs, tourism, etc. (open to your suggestions) but must fit in with the theme of the show. If you're unsure whether your product qualifies, contact us prior to registering.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

Please register online. Your registration and payment must be received by October 15, 2011, in order to give us adequate time to lay out the floor plan. Space is limited so please get your registration in ASAP. Payment can be made either by PayPal or cheque.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me:

Dianne Evans

Show Co-ordinator

VSA Marketing Director

www.vernonsnowmobileclub.org

250-546-0980



Support Easter Seals this winter

With winter approaching and planning underway for 2012, we challenge BCSF clubs to get involved and support Easter Seals this winter. Sign up to host a Snowarama today!

Snowarama is a fundraising program where BCSF clubs host a get-together, ride or event to raise money for the B.C. Lions Society for Children with Disabilities and Easter Seals in B.C. Hosting a Snowarama is a great way to bring together members of your club to work towards a common goal for a good cause. Snowarama events can also be a great way to reach out to non-snowmobilers to promote snowmobiling and awareness about the sport.

Funds raised at Snowarama events go towards supporting the B.C. Lions Society for Children with Disabilities, which owns and operates Easter Seals services in B.C. These services include Easter Seals Camps for children with physical and cog-

nitive disabilities and Easter Seals Houses, which provide accommodations for families who travel for medical care or hospital emergencies.

EASTER SEALS CAMPS

Every summer more than 800 children with disabilities attend a week-long session at Easter Seals Camp Squamish, Camp Winfield or Camp Shawnigan on Vancouver Island.

Campers come from more than 100 different communities in B.C. to spend a week in a supportive and challenging environment with their peers at camp. At camp, children are encouraged to try new activities, socialize and discover new abilities to help them gain independence, confidence and new friendships to help them live happy and fulfilling lives.

The cost to send a child to camp is \$2,400, but thanks to **Continued on sidebar ►**



>> CLUB NEWS

► BCSF & SLEDCOM *Cont'd. from pg. 1 sidebar*

ommendations regarding issues raised by snowmobile stakeholders. Although the committee is still relatively new, the synergy and relationships built with the CAC staff and members has been incredible, and excellent quality programs and services for the snowmobiling public continue to grow.

► EASTER SEALS *Continued from left*

the funds raised at events like Snowarama, children attend a week at camp for free.

EASTER SEALS HOUSES

Every year, Easter Seals Houses in Vancouver, Victoria and Prince George provide more than 39,000 bed nights to B.C. families who have to travel for medical treatment or hospital emergencies.

Families stay at Easter Seals houses while their children are in the hospital or when their children have to have specialized outpatient services and treatments are not available in their hometown such as chemotherapy, physiotherapy or appointments with specialists. With the help of donors and supporters like BCSF clubs, Easter Seals is able to continue to offer families from all over B.C. a supportive, comfortable and affordable place to stay during a stressful time.

Show your support for children with disabilities and Easter Seals families in your community this year—sign up to host a Snowarama event.

For more information visit <http://www.bcsf.org/> or contact Louise at bcsfsnowfed@gmail.com or 877-537-8716.

**Remember...
 Don't Drink
 and Ride!**

MAKE EVERY FRESH TRACK COUNT.

www.snowaramabc.ca

Help BC's kids with disabilities with every fresh track.

Get everyone you know together for a snowmobile ride and raise money for Easter Seals BC.

Sign up now!

In support of
Easter Seals

Coast to Coast by Dennis Burns

CCSO Excellence Award winners

In June the Alberta Snowmobile Association (ASA) hosted a very successful International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) with representatives from four countries in attendance. With 400 snowmobilers from the U.S., Sweden, Russia and Canada talking snow, the antique sleds throughout the Calgary Hyatt Regency Hotel and the groomers lining Stephen Avenue, tall tales and fun were had by all as plans were discussed for the 2012 season. Well done, ASA!

CCSO Excellence Awards were presented at the President's Awards Banquet Gala on Saturday night at ISC. Congratulations to all the nominees and a special thank you to all for your efforts to highlight the many success stories. The award winners in each category were:

Outstanding Snowmobile Dealership: the 2011 CCSO Snowmobile Excellence Award goes to Enns Brothers from Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Outstanding Snow-Related Company: the 2011 CCSO Snowmobile Excellence Award goes to SnowandMud.com from Alberta.

Outstanding Snowmobile Promotion & Development: the 2011 CCSO Snowmobile Excel-

lence Award goes to Cycle Works West from Alberta.

Outstanding Snowmobile Club: the 2011 CCSO Snowmobile Excellence Award goes to the Wasaga Snowmobile Club from Ontario.

Outstanding Snowmobile Family: the 2011 CCSO Snowmobile Excellence Award goes to the Byman family - Greg, Barb and his son Bryce from Revelstoke, B.C.

Outstanding Snowmobiler: the 2011 CCSO Snowmobile Excellence Award goes to Laurent Caoutte from Quebec.

Outstanding Youth - The Pete Greenlaw Award: the 2011 CCSO Snowmobile Excellence Award goes to Blake Schofield from Gravenhurst, Ontario.

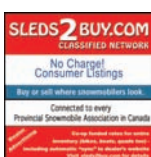
CCSO Environmental Recognition Award for 2011 goes to the Alberta Snowmobile Association (ASA).

The Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations would like to thank everyone for their nominations and wishes to congratulate all of this year's winners of the 2011 CCSO Excellence Awards.



The CCSO would like to thank our sponsors for the 2011/2012 season . . .

Please support businesses that support the CCSO—the national voice of organized snowmobiling!



Dennis Burns



Trails survey seeks your input

Trail leaders from across Canada met in Banff last fall. A report and followup survey have been compiled and are now ready for your input.

Go to the CCSO website at <http://www.ccsso-ccom.ca/>, enter the main site, then read the report and complete the survey—we need your help. The survey can also be directly accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NTR> survey.

Please offer your feedback to the National Trails Roundtable Working Group.

Election allows for long-term planning

The CCSO is working on behalf of organized snowmobiling in Canada to partner with the newly elected Harper government.

Look for more information after the summer break as the newly appointed ministers get up to speed with their portfolios. The Conservative majority will allow for longer-term planning as the next election is likely four years away.

Volunteers and snowmobile trails create over \$6 billion of economic activity for Canada. Speak to your MPs directly and ask them to support the snowmobile grant programs—the groomer fleet alone is estimated to be worth over \$180 million. Imagine the total investment in the 104,000 kilometres of trails when including initial construction, annual maintenance and operational costs.

The grant programs recognize the work and effort by the thousands of volunteers and landowners who give so much to the sport they love.



BCSF CONTACTS

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CORPORATE AFFINITY MEMBERS

Affinity members offer reduced rates to club members and clubs. They rebate a portion of BCSF member purchases to the BCSF Trails, Safety and Environment Enhancement Fund.

Amsoil

www.bcsnowmobile.wboil.com
Contact the office for your member discounts on all Amsoil products.

Bank of Montreal/MasterCard

Dan Bell, 3300 Bloor St. West, 6th Floor,
Center Tower, Toronto, ON M8X2X3
416-232-8152 • Fax 416-232-8015

Capri Insurance

204 - 1835 Gordon Road, Kelowna, BC V1Y3H5

Husky/Mohawk Community

Rebate Program

Contact the BCSF office to get your card today.

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1-888-327-7779 • www.wotmotorwear.com

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Rocky Mountain Riders

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Mid-Island Sno-Blazers

Henry Nagtegaal • 250-753-4305

North Island Snowmobile Association

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Pemberton Valley Snowmobile Club

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Don Main • 250-542-6209

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Don Mitchell • 250-675-2420

Vernon Snowmobile Club

Gord Evans • 250-546-0980

Region 7: Rockies

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Columbia Sno Drifters

Roy Smerdley • 250-348-2285

Golden Snowmobile Club

Fabrice Carrara • 250-344-5252

Revelstoke Snowmobile Club

Greg Byman • 250-837-6738

Trout Lake Snowmobile Club

Keith Thomas • 250-369-0004

Windermere Valley Snowmobile Club

Barry Lightfoot • 250-342-5148

Region 8: South Okanagan

Contact: Clayton Prince 250-869-3974

Christina Lake Snowmobile Society

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Kelowna Snowmobile Club

Vick Lockhart • 250-484-5586

Similkameen Snowmobile Club

Forrest Nelson • 250-499-6522

South Okanagan Snowmobile Club

Travis Wise • 250-488-1946

Timberline Cruisers Snowmobile Club

Norm Morrison • 250-295-4011

Region 9: Kootenays

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Corbin Country Club

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Cranbrook Snowmobile Club

Dale Howg • 250-489-4082

Elk Valley Mountaineers

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Fernie Snowmobile Association

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Kimberley Snowmobile Club

Colin Wallace • 250-417-0539

Moyie Snowmobile Club

Ken Philpot • 250-829-0519

Sciaja Scamps Snowmobile Society

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