

Manitoba's Snoman REPORT



SOME BIG SHOES TO FILL

NEW PRESIDENT REFLECTS ON A NEW SLEDDING SEASON

BY ALAN BUTLER, President

What an honour it is to serve as president of the Snoman organization. I recognize I have some big shoes to fill as the previous presidents have done a tremendous job in building, developing and providing leadership to make Snoman what it is today.

I would especially like to recognize my predecessor Ernie Smelski. Ernie's involvement in Snoman goes back a number of years. Ernie sat on the Snoman board as the Department of Conservation representative for a number of years. During this time Ernie provided direction that helped Snoman grow. In addition, it was Ernie who developed the trail signing standards and the trail audit system. After retirement, Ernie joined the board as vice-president and then president. As president Ernie was progressive and dedicated to the development of the organization through the implementation of a strategic plan and a business plan. Ernie will now enjoy three months of the winter with the snowbirds, but we know his heart will be with us on the snow.

The new season is upon us. By the time you read this hopefully we will have snow and, if lucky, some trails groomed. It's great to hear that a number of clubs have upgraded grooming equipment and this will only help to ensure that our trails are well maintained. Snoman is excited about the implementation of the Solara live tracking system. This new system will enable Snoman to provide better trail information to snowmobilers and it will reduce the workload at the club level as grooming logs will not need to be submitted to the office. The new system also addresses the issue of working alone in that it provides an emergency alert system.

As a result of changes to the Snoman board it is great to have three new board members. I'm sure these new members will provide a new insight into many issues and bring forth new and refreshing ideas.

I would encourage all snowmobilers to ensure they have a Snopass on their sled before they take to the trails. Not only is it expensive if caught without a Snopass, but remember the Snopass dollars are what help the clubs groom,

sign and maintain the trails you are riding. I suggest you remind any snowmobilers who do not have a pass on their sleds that they should be paying their fair share. Trail passes are still one of the most inexpensive forms of entertainment and enjoyment; just compare it to curling, golfing, hockey and other sport membership fees. A Snopass is only \$125.

On October 28th and 29th Snoman held its first annual Snowmobile Congress and Awards Presentation and Banquet. The event was held at the Canad Inns destination hotel in Winnipeg. The congress was very well attended by all five regions with eight per cent of Manitoba's clubs in attendance.

The congress started with Snoman holding its AGM, which was well attended with representation from most clubs. Year-end reports and the auditor's report for 2011/2012 were presented followed by the appointment of 2012/2013 auditors. President since 2009, Ernie Smelski decided not to let his name stand for president for another term. As a result, elections were conducted for the following positions: president - Alan Butler; vice-president - Paul Burch; treasurer - Albert Wyborn; secretary - Tom Schindel.

On Saturday, October 29th, the congress opened with a grooming workshop and a club presidents forum. The grooming course was presented by Kim Rapp, a well-known, international speaker. The course was very well attended with 121 club members as well as personnel from the Manitoba Conservation Department. Mr. Rapp started by giving an overview of grooming basics followed by trail grooming with a drag, and types of grooming equipment with emphasis on ensuring you are using the correct equipment for the job. The correct method of grooming a trail and the safe operation of a groomer were also covered. Immediately following the grooming course, The Shop Industrial—an in-depth workshop on correct methods of preventative maintenance for Mogul Master drags—was presented by Mike Heino Jr. It was at the conclusion of the grooming course that Snoman rolled out and pre-

Continued on page 34 ►

>> SNOMAN EXECUTIVE

President

Alan Butler,
Snowtraxx Snowmobile Club

Vice-President

Paul Burch,
Springhill Trailblazers

Treasurer

Albert Wyborn,
Valleyview Sno-Riders

Secretary

Tom Schindel,
Cross Country Snow Drifters

Past President

Ernie Smelski,
Whiteshell Snowmobile Club

Snoman Inc.

Ken Lucko,
Executive Director,
2121 Henderson Hwy.,
Winnipeg, MB R2G 1P8
Ph. (204) 940-7533
Fax (204) 940-7531
Email: info@snoman.mb.ca

Directors

Central Region

Tom Schindel,
Cross Country Snow Drifters
Kevin Klassen,
Border Valley Snow Goers

Eastern Region

Paul Burch,
Springhill Trailblazers
Tonya Kemball,
Maskwa Snowmobile Club

Interlake Region

Joe Thievin,
South Interlake SnoRiders Inc.
Wayne Vandersteen,
Northern Trail Blazers

Northern Region

Kelly Martens,
Thompson Trailbreakers
Rob Vipond,
Kelsey Trail Sno-Riders

Western Region

Bill Musey, Swan Valley
Snowmobile Association Inc.
Sylvain Paquet,
Dauphin Snowmobile Club

SLEDS2BUY.COM

► **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Continued from page 33

sented groomer operators with the new Solara live tracking system. The new system will be introduced into service in all Snoman club groomers at the start of this season. The Solara system has many features that assist groomer operators. One of the most important is a safety feature that enables the operator to contact club contacts in areas of non-cellular service as well as an emergency feature that allows the operator to send out an emergency alert if required. Mike Scott of Solara gave the operators a brief overview of the equipment, its operation and the company. The clubs were then provided an opportunity to ask Mr. Scott about the units.

Also on Saturday, a club presidents workshop was held with 63 members and 80 per cent of the 51 Snoman clubs participating. A presentation was given on the new Snoman membership benefit program. Clubs were informed of the new program and how it may help clubs attract new members. Members were provided information on the benefits club members could realize by participating in the new program. Clubs were also informed that there is no cost to the club member or to the club and the only requirement of the clubs is to send in the membership list to the Snoman office. Following the membership presentation, there was a review of the Snoman

Strategic Plan—why we have a strategic plan and the process in developing it. Participants were walked through the 2009/2010 strategic plan and the status of each objective was reviewed. One aspect of the plan was to determine if clubs wanted to see a Snopass rate increase. Information was provided on club operating costs for the past three years and compared with revenues for the same period of time. Clubs were also advised that it would not be possible to implement any rate increase until the spring of 2013 due to the process required.

Saturday evening 280 club members and guests attended the first annual Snoman awards presentation and banquet. Master of ceremonies was Mr. Hal Anderson who provided humour and was an excellent MC. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all. Immediately following supper the Honourable Christine Melnick brought greetings from the provincial government. Chris Funk, a local entertainer, surprised and wowed the crowd and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

Following the entertainment the Snoman Excellence Awards were presented for 2010 and 2011. Award winners were as follows:

2010 Outstanding Snowmobile Dealership: Enns Brothers

2010 Outstanding Groomer Operator: Glen Ell of the Springfield Pathfinders

Continued on sidebar ►

>> **CLUB NEWS**

► **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Continued from left

2010 Outstanding Snowmobile Club: Border Explorers Snowmobile Club, Northern Region

2010 Outstanding Support by a Non-Snowmobile Related Business: Emercor Ltd.

2011 Outstanding Snowmobiler: Jim Mikula of the Inwood Snowmobile Club

2011 Outstanding Groomer Operator: Ted Thomas of the North Star Hillclimbers

2011 Outstanding Snowmobile Family: Jeff and Brenda Tanach of the Springhill Trailblazers

2011 Outstanding Support by a Non-Snowmobile Related Business: Twin Valley Co-op Ltd.

2011 Outstanding Snowmobile Club: Dauphin Snowmobile Club, Western Region

Past Presidents Awards:

- Blair Woods 2000-2002
- Darrel Mozil 2005-2008
- Albert Wyborn 2008-2009
- Ernie Smelski 2009-2011

Past Regional Directors:
Harold Kihn - Eastern Region,
Perry Snedden - Western Region, and Allen Cuthbert - Central Region

Following the awards presentations the results of the silent auction were announced with many people winning some very nice prizes.

The Snowmobile Congress was a great success thanks to all those who attended and participated. In reviewing the post-event comments the best comment had to be, and I quote, "It made me feel proud to be a part of the Snoman organization."

Plans are underway for next year's second annual Snowmobile Congress.

I encourage everyone to get out and assist your local club, go for a ride, but most of all, have some fun. Ride safe, ride sober and have a great winter.



High-tech safety solution

GROOMER OPERATORS WILL BENEFIT FROM NEW SYSTEM

BY KEN LUCKO, Executive Director

This has been an exciting year working at Snoman, with many changes and new initiatives. Volunteers are the soul of any organization with valued sponsors being part of the lifeblood that sustains the operation. Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba Public Insurance and One Insurance have been part of our family and we would like to welcome our new sponsors: Winnipeg Sport and Leisure (Yamaha) and Enns Brothers. Major sponsors to our first annual Snoman Congress were Arctic Cat, Manitoba Public Insurance, Headingley Sport Shop, Solara, Manitoba Conservation and Enns Brothers.

It is because of the commitment to the snowmobile industry by these valued sponsors that we are able to develop, maintain and groom our designated trail system. Thank you for your support.

To assist in recruiting new members/volunteers Snoman has initiated a member benefits program. If you purchase a membership from one of our member clubs you will automatically receive a Snoman membership card. This card will enable you to receive discounts at Mark's Work Warehouse, Choice Hotels, Haber Vision, dis-

counts from Snoman partners and four free issues of *SnoRiders* magazine. There will be more benefits added over the winter.

As we all know, technology is changing at an incredible rate and trying to keep up can be taxing. The Snoman board has made a concerted effort to not only update our GPS tracking for our groomers and mapping, but also to provide a safer work environment for our volunteers. We have purchased the Solara Field Tracker 2100 that uses the Iridium Low-earth Orbit satellite system. This unit and software is manufactured in Winnipeg and has been tested around the world, from Afghanistan to the Antarctic. It is currently being used by a Manitoba helicopter company. It was tested in various types of canopies by the U.S. Forest Service and passed every test. It will provide us with speed, time and distance in regards to our groomers and will provide accurate mapping as well as providing the volunteers with a safer work environment.

One of the deciding reasons for this selection was the added safety for our volunteers. Desig-

Continued on page 35 ►

► EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Continued from page 34

nated club members will be able to monitor their groomers in real time and the volunteers will have the advantage of an emergency switch as well as texting capabilities. Groomer operators will no longer have to fill out a trail condition report every week; they will only need to scroll to a menu that will provide the information to the Snoman office.

We are also in the process of revamping our website to make it user-friendly and to provide much more information.

If you have any great sledding photos, does Snoman have an opportunity for you! In conjunction with the Flaman Group of Companies, and the Alberta and Saskatchewan Snowmobile Associations, we are hosting a Sled 'n Snap photo contest. Just go to www.sledsnap.com and register to enter your favourite sledding pictures. There are seven categories: Trail/Scenery/Wildlife, Action, Club Rides/Events, Buried (Got the Powder Blues), Shelters/Trailers, Youth/Family and Vintage. The best part about this is that the prize for the best picture for Manitoba is an aluminum side-by-side trailer. The other category winners receive a free membership in the Snoman member club of their choice. The grand prize for the winning photo in all three provinces is the use of an enclosed trailer for a year; it is shown on the website.

On November 3rd newly elected president Alan Butler, past president Ernie Smelski and myself

travelled to Ottawa to attend the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations (CCSO) fall meeting. Prior to the meeting we contacted the Manitoba Progressive Conservative caucus to arrange meetings with our Manitoba members of Parliament. We were very successful in being able to meet with the Hon. Vic Toews, Hon. Merv Tweed, Hon. James Bezan, Hon. Lawrence Toet and the Hon. Robert Sopuck. We were able to thank them for supporting the National Trails Coalition funding and were able to discuss various issues with them and share some stories. The board of directors of Snoman feels that it is very important to stay in touch with our elected officials both provincially and federally to promote snowmobiling in Manitoba.

I would have to say that the greatest benefit to attending meetings such as the CCSO is the networking that is done and learning about what other jurisdictions are doing—everything from sponsorship, fundraising, trail numbering and marketing to unique provincial issues, just to name a few. This type of interaction lets us broaden our knowledge and helps us to bring new ideas to Manitoba. This is in conjunction with all of the CCSO initiatives and makes for a very positive and informative experience.

It has been quite a year and we are looking forward to another riding season. You will be hearing from us through our weekly CJOB commercials. As well, CJOB will be hosting the Ride of the Week again this season.

We look forward to seeing you out on the trails.

>> CLUB NEWS

► ERNIE SMELSKI

Continued from left

- Implementation of risk management programs including trail audits
- Provincial and federal funding initiatives through integration and NTC projects, which provided in excess of \$1 million to our clubs in 2009/2010
- GPS improvements for clubs with live tracking
- Mentorship with potential online training availability
- Reduction of liability premiums through implementation of risk management programs.

The above are only a few of our initiatives. There are others such as ensuring Snopass legislation is complete to provide consistent enforcement, implementation of a membership program, member benefit program and continual development of strategic initiatives annually. These are topics that we will continue to work on.

As you may see, the work is not done yet—I feel very proud to have a dedicated snowmobiler, a dedicated member of a snowmobile club, a Western Region director and chair, and my vice-president, who is equally committed to our organization, particularly to lead our organization. I wish to congratulate Alan Butler as our new president of Snoman Inc. for 2011/2012. I support his leadership and request that you support him in the same fashion as you did with myself.

I wish to thank the past 2011 executive: vice-president Alan Butler, treasurer Joe Thievin, secretary and past president Albert Wyborn; present board directors Kelly Martens, Rob Vipond, Bill Musey, Wayne Vandersteen, Tom Schindel, Paul Burch and Brad Wall; alternate directors Les Thor-

Cont'd. on pg. 39 sidebar ►



Keep moving forward

ADAPTING AND GROWING IN A CHANGING WORLD

BY ERNIE SMELSKI, Past President

Well, three terms as president of Snoman Inc. have passed by very quickly. The presidential challenge has been very exciting and rewarding. I am proud to be part of a very forward-thinking and positive group to move our recreational snowmobiling program into the 21st century.

In keeping with our vision statement—adapting and growing in a rapidly changing world—that certainly has been the case provincially and nationally; our Snoman Inc. organization has moved forward in providing one of Canada's best snowmobile recreational programs in the world. I have taken part in organized snowmobiling for the last 25 years, but particularly in the last few years I have been told on numerous occasions that Snoman Inc. has been further recognized provincially and nationally by the snowmobile community in a very positive way. They should be proud of the changes in the improvement of our organization and the service that they

provide to snowmobilers across all of Manitoba. Well done to all Snoman member clubs, their volunteers and membership. Thank you for making my past role as president very rewarding.

Some of the major accomplishments which your Snoman Inc. board of directors and staff have attained as a result of the Snoman member club direction in moving the organization forward are as follows:

- Integration (Snopass sales tied to snowmobile registrations through MPI vendors)
- NTC projects (signage, kiosks, major regional trail link, safety initiatives with trail widening, shelters, etc.)
- Provincial excellence awards with annual congress event
- Training (signs, grooming, etc.)
- Renewal of operation manual (replacement of Blue Book)

Continued on sidebar ►



Members of Manitoba Conservation attended the 1st Annual Congress and Banquet in October. Pictured are: Garry Proceviat, Brian Vinet, Jason Nazar, Dan Willoughby, Jerrod Arndt, Harry Boulton, speaker Kim Rapp, Brian Krawchuk, James Nitzsche, Rudy Barens, Sean Nedohin, Stuart Johnson, Wernon Kauenhowen, Michael Eyolfson, Gerald Brown, Cam Cathcart and Jesse Janz.

Whiteshell winter adventures

BY SLOAN CATHCART, Senior Park Interpreter - Whiteshell Provincial Park

Fresh white snow sculpted into winter's finest designs, crisp clean air, the warmth of the sun on your face and the scent of Jack pine—all beckon you to a Whiteshell winter adventure. Winter is an exciting season to discover one of Manitoba's premier outdoor recreation playgrounds.

Located only one and a half hours from Winnipeg via the Trans-Canada Highway No. 1, Highway No. 44 or Highway No. 307, Whiteshell Provincial Park offers a great cure for the winter blues. Picture your own winter adventure in the Whiteshell—sledding over the 250 kilometres of groomed snowmobile trails through the striking terrain of the Canadian Shield. For snowmobilers, this extensive network of trails leads you across frozen lakes and rivers, quaint Jack pine forests, rugged snow-capped granite ridges and spectacular scenic overlooks.

Numerous lodges and businesses are open year-round in the park, providing a variety of lodging options to suit your mood. They range from rustic to the most modern and offer all the amenities. Other services available to help make your sledding adventure as pleasant and safe as possible are restaurants, grocery stores, and gas and service stations. Numerous warming shelters are found throughout the park giving you a chance to warm up around a crackling fire, enjoy a warm meal and share the day's adventures.

It's not an easy task maintaining these trails and services. Dedicated snowmobilers from the Whiteshell Snowmobile Club have teamed up with Manitoba Conservation to provide some of the best snowmobiling experiences in the country. The season begins even before the leaves

start to turn colour. Manitoba Conservation employees take to the skies in late summer and fly over the trails in a helicopter, observing areas of trails that will need work, such as clearing windswept trees and areas flooded from beaver dams. As soon as the leaves start to turn colour, the dedicated workers take to the trails on ATVs and Argos mowing long grass, cutting trees and erecting new signs. Several thousand dollars worth of signage is purchased each year to ensure that every corner, bump, swamp, river and lake is clearly and safely marked.

Once the snow starts to fall, it becomes a waiting game. Trail groomers need to wait until there is plenty of good, hard blue ice before they dare to head out on the frozen water crossings. Once there is nearly two feet of good ice formed on all the lakes and rivers, the trails are opened and the season is officially underway.

When the groomers hit the trails, the work keeps going to provide the smoothest possible trails. At any given time there can be at least four groomers working in the park, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Most of the grooming takes place overnight, to avoid heavier traffic during the daytime.

Along with the groomers, other park maintenance staff conduct trail audits on a weekly basis to ensure that trails are in tip-top shape and properly signed. Natural Resource officers can often be seen along the trails ensuring snowmobilers are travelling safely and enjoying their ride.

All this close attention to details ensures that snowmobilers can ride all day long, enjoying the cool, crisp days of winter.

Continued on page 39 sidebar ►

>> CLUB NEWS



2011/2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS: (L to R) Kelly Martens, Albert Wyborn, Ernie Smelski, Dan Taylor (alternate), Alan Butler, Tom Schindel, Paul Burch, Joe Thievin, Wayne Vandersteen, Bill Musey, Rob Vipond. Missing: Kevin Klassen, Tonya Kemball, Sylvain Paquet, MB Conservation.



PAST PRESIDENTS: (L to R) Blair Woods, Ken Horn, Darrel Mozil, Ernie Smelski and Albert Wyborn, presented by current president Alan Butler.



PAST DIRECTORS: (L to R) Harold Kihn, Perry Snedden and Allen Cuthbert, presented by Ernie Smelski, past president.



MEETING WITH MANITOBA PC CAUCUS IN OTTAWA: (L to R) Ernie Smelski, Hon. Merv Tweed, Ken Lucko, Hon. Vic Toews, Alan Butler and Hon. Lawrence Toet.

Make new friends—join a snowmobile club



For safety sake—never ride alone!

Coast to Coast by Dennis Burns

Be prepared: make it your motto

Call for volunteers

Snow has been reported all across the country early this year—are you ready? Snowmobile clubs have put out a call for volunteers to assist with the many jobs, from administration to trail work; many hands are required to make the trails magically appear again this year. If you have a few hours or can donate your time or specialized talents, all are welcome to enjoy the camaraderie and time spent in the great outdoors with old and new friends.

Be prepared before you go

This message is for all riders. From servicing your sled, to preparing your trailer and tow vehicle, to wearing the right gear, to taking avalanche awareness and training, to planning trips and leaving an itinerary with family and friends—be prepared before you go.

It's such a simple message when tied to making smart choices. Returning home safely after each trip is a personal responsibility that everyone needs to discuss with family, friends and fellow riders—together the message is better understood and accepted by all.



Make smart choices

Early riding fever needs to be balanced with an understanding of thin ice and borderline snow conditions. Remember that many hazards lurk just under the snow for those first rides into even familiar territory. Take extra time and precautions for early-season riding. January 15th to 21st, 2012, is International Safety Week—partner with your local MADD team to kick this special week off with a personal pledge to make smart choices by not drinking and riding. Help save a life—it may be yours!

Community awareness

Now is the time to meet with your elected officials to make them aware of the economic impact that snowmobile trails have on your community. Ask for their support. From the municipality or local council members—bylaws and a snowmobile-friendly attitude from local business. From the provincial elected officials—legislation, regulation and enforcement, funding partnerships and a “how can we be a better partner” approach. From the federal elected officials—funding partnerships and ▶

► Continued from left

“what leadership can we offer to assist the volunteer efforts to make trails a reality in every jurisdiction that has snow?”

Cost of admission

Recently we had a great discussion of the cost of organized snowmobile trails and the comment was made “champagne expectations on a lemonade budget.” Now we all love lemonade and understand that the cost is very affordable. The same should be true of membership and rider expectations considering the amount of volunteer hours that are so freely given to make snowmobile trails happen all across Canada.

As signage and grooming increase so do the rider expectations. Not everyone seems to connect the amount of work for such a short season to the volunteer workload—from the increased administration, to volunteer recognition, to landowner agreements, to other trail users, to organized groups leveraging action plans for closure of trails. The local volunteer is very busy indeed. Everyone needs to get involved and to hold discussions on deliverables with a three- to five-year planning horizon. Together you will make a difference and keep both costs and expectations at a realistic level.

Permits power groomers

The best donation or fundraiser in most regions in Canada is still the permit/pass or validation tag. If every user paid their fair share then the snowmobile trail system would be the best it can be. Every user includes the federal and provincial governments—millions of tax dollars

Cont'd. on pg. 38 sidebar ▶

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!

MapSherpa
 Royal Distributing
 Arctic Cat
 Winter Ritz - Summer Rides
 Treadz
 Polariz
 Ski-Doo
 Go Snowmobiling!
 Yamaha
 McCarthy Signs
 NorArc
 Boost
 ISMA
 Amsoil
 Sleds2Buy.com
 Pathway Group
 WOT
 Camoplast
 Haber
 Spot



Dennis Burns



Brokenhead Trail Blazers

BY LEONA MALCOLM

Our club members have been busy during the off-season preparing for a great winter on the trails. We have sold our 1993 BR 400 Bombardier groomer and parts machine. Sharon and Roy Naurocki were kind enough to take a tour to Colorado to check out a newer machine and bring back the details with pictures and the decision was made to go with the purchase of a 1999 BR 275 for the club. Members are now working on the changes that need to be made on the groomer to be ready for the white stuff.

Club members made repairs to the bridge, which sustained serious damage over the summer. Trail work still needs to be done, with re-routing of the Peter Skrepetz Trail at Gull Lake.

Our clubhouse needed foundation repairs and this has just been completed. Our clubhouse is available for rental for meetings and group gatherings. Rental can be arranged by contacting us at btb_webmaster@mts.net.

Four club members attended the workshop ses-



sions at the Snoman annual conference in Winnipeg on October 29th. The sessions were very informative for our president and groomer operators, and the day was a real success. We now have Snoman raffle tickets available for sale. Anyone interested can contact a club member or email us at btb_webmaster@mts.net. We are planning the Brokenhead Trail Blazers One-Lunger 100 vintage snowmobile race, which will take place on February 25th, 2012. It will be a 100-mile Le Mans-style course for vintage single-cylinder machines that are 1973 or older. Contact us for more details.

Our club is in its 41st year of providing safe snowmobile trails in our community and our membership is aging; any new persons young and old wanting to join our family-orientated group would be welcome. Our club meets the first Thursday of the month at our clubhouse. Please contact us for more information.

Enthusiasts raise funds for kids

Eighty snowmobile enthusiasts will hit the Minnesota trails from January 29th to February 3rd, 2012, for the upcoming 9th Annual Ride for Rehab.

The event is an annual fundraiser for the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation in Winnipeg. It quickly has become the single largest snowmobile event in Manitoba and the largest fundraising event for the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation, raising \$650,000 in the last eight years.

The five-day event will take riders through almost 1,000 kilometres of Minnesota trails. Based out of The Lodge at Giant's Ridge in Biwabik, Minnesota, riders will enjoy comfortable lodging, tasty meals and daily out-trips to surrounding trails.

Spots are still available for interested riders. Registration fee is \$600 and includes five nights'



accommodation and all meals for Monday to Thursday. Riders must also raise a minimum of \$250 in pledges in support of the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation. A new website will make collecting pledges online easier than ever.

A new fundraising component for Ride for Rehab this year is the raffle. Enns Brothers Power Sports and Triton Trailers have generously donated two 2011 TNT 600 E-Tec Ski-Doo snowmobiles and one XT10 Triton trailer with multiple options.

Tickets are \$20 each or three for \$50 and are available at

477-4587 or email erin@crf.mb.ca. Draw date is January 9th, 2012.

Funds raised through Ride for Rehab will help fund equipment and adapted recreation programs for children living with disabilities and special

Continued on page 39 ►

>> CLUB NEWS

►CCSO

Cont'd. from pg. 37 sidebar

are collected annually and a portion needs to be redistributed to the volunteer clubs and organizations that make the trails magically appear.

The rider is the first piece in the user-pay system, then comes enforcement, be it peer pressure or with legislation, regulations and court action.

Keep the economic impact numbers close at hand and share the details with your politicians. Permits power groomers and all partners benefit on the backs of the volunteers—let's show them we both appreciate their efforts and are here to help.

Member benefits

The goal is to have enough member benefits that even non-snowmobilers will want to participate by purchasing a permit or pass. Member benefits include discounts on clothing, sunglasses, goggles and hotel/motel rooms. Other benefits or discounts come from affinity programs, gas cards, magazine subscriptions, safety programs, online sales programs, discounted insurance, special event coverages, WOT Motorwear, Woody's Traction products, Haber Vision, Choice Hotels, Mark's Work Warehouse, Spot, Powersports, Front Row and MasterCard. Each and every program puts real dollars back in the members' wallets. Go to <http://www.ccsa-ccom.ca/ccso/benefits.html> or your local club or provincial webpage for additional information on member benefits.

► **ENTHUSIASTS RAISE FUNDS**

Continued from page 38

needs in Manitoba, Nunavut and northwestern Ontario.

The Ride for Rehab combines determination, good humour and camaraderie with a compassionate understanding of the needs of families who have children living with special needs. The opportunity to meet new people, experience new

trails and all the beauty of Minnesota in the winter, while making a difference in the lives of others, makes for a truly unique and memorable event.

To find out more information about Ride for Rehab or the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation contact Erin Kangas at 477-4587, or email erin@crf.mb.ca or visit our website at www.crf.mb.ca.

>> **CLUB NEWS**

► **ERNIE SMELSKI**

Cont'd. from pg. 35 sidebar

dardson, Dan Taylor, Ron Palahicky and Sylvain Paquet; as well as conservation director Greg Shabaga for leadership and support.

I would also like to thank the staff: executive director Ken Lucko, Snofund administrator Christy Wiczorkiewicz, administrative co-ordinator Carol Mikula, administrative assistant Crystal Cann and GPS co-ordinator Noel Marten, for your contributions to Snoman Inc. As well, thank you to all previous staff employees and past regional directors who were part of our great organization during my last three terms.

Thank you to the Snoman member clubs and their volunteers, Snoman partners and Snoman Inc. sponsors for your direction and support. Thanks also to federal government representatives, Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Public Insurance and their staff throughout our discussions on the NTC program, provincial integration programs, field enforcement initiatives and other initiatives to help our organization move forward. I will continue to assist this organization in my new capacity as past president. Again thank you.

► **WHITESHELL**

Continued from page 36

Trail condition reports are produced weekly to provide accurate riding expectations. For trail information and more information on Whiteshell Provincial Park, you can call the Whiteshell Park interpreter at 204-369-3157, or visit manitobaparks.com.

Be sure to also visit the Snoman (Snowmobilers of Manitoba) website at snoman.mb.ca for trail riding opportunities across Manitoba.

Mooswa Lake Snowriders Club

BY AUDREY MULLA

The Mooswa Lake Snowriders Club members are responsible for maintaining approximately 140 kilometres in southeastern Manitoba. Our trails run just north of Beausejour, through Milner Ridge up towards Pine Falls and then as far east as Lac du Bonnet. Our goal is to provide safe trails and warmup facilities for all snowmobilers to enjoy. We are very proud of what we have accomplished and there is nothing more satisfying than being on our trails and hearing someone say, "Wow, those trails are amazing!" It makes you proud to say you are part of the Mooswa Lake Snowriders Club. To help us maintain those trails, don't forget to purchase your annual Snopass. We count on your support!

It takes many talents to keep a club running. Not one person can do it all, but together we can accomplish great things. A big thank you to all our volunteers. There are so many things that go unnoticed behind the scenes but are essential to the success of our club. Thank you for grooming, fixing, cutting, piling, hauling, cleaning, organizing, fundraising, promoting, maintaining, calling and all the other little things you do to show your support for our club.

We don't only work, we play too. Our club hosts a summer family picnic, an annual curling funspiel and a Christmas party for kids and those young at heart. Several club rides are organized throughout the winter focusing on local tours that usually include a stop at one of the local warmup shacks for a gourmet lunch consisting of kubasa, hotdogs, herring and even sometimes a treat like homemade baking.

We must also take time to acknowledge those that provide financial support through our many fundraisers. Each year we host a dinner and dance in November—thank you to those who attend and the many businesses and individuals

who make donations to our silent auction. This year we tried something a bit different for all concerned. For the first time our club held a raffle for an ATV—a 2011 BRP Commander 1000 XT. Thank you to Gimli Snowmobile Centre for supplying the machine and congratulations to the raffle winner, Dave Lissenberg.

With the success of our funds raised over the past few years, we were able to upgrade our groomer to a 2007 Prinoth BR 350. What a nice unit! Our groomer operators are very excited. It will need a bit of work to get it trail ready but this won't take long thanks to our talented mechanically inclined members. By the time you read this it will have several hours on the trails I am sure as we are hoping for an early snowfall with lots to follow. If all goes well over the next year or two, we plan on securing land to build a clubhouse as well as a more permanent structure to house the groomer. This will give us the needed facilities to meet, play and work.



As you can imagine,

there are many benefits in joining a local snowmobiling club. You always have someone to go snowmobiling with; you can make new friends without even trying; you get to share your talents/skills and join in sharing pride in the accomplishments of the club. If you live in eastern Manitoba and are considering joining a club, consider the Mooswa Lake Snowriders. Feel free to contact our president, Ted Molinski, at 268-2911 for more information.

So as you ride on the Mooswa trails this year think of the many hours of volunteer time it took to get them in that primo condition. Please respect the trails and warmup facilities, ride responsibly and most of all drive safely. If you do all of this, you are bound to have fun. Happy riding!



www.snoman.mb.ca



WINNER'S CHOICE RAFFLE

One Grand Prize
Your Choice of these 2012 SLEDS



ski-doo
MXZ TNT 550F
retail price \$8,899



POLARIS
The Way Out.
600 Rush
retail price \$11,399



ARCTIC CAT
SHARE OUR PASSION.
SNO PRO 500
retail price \$9,999



YAMAHA
PHASER GT
retail price \$8,999

"May not be exactly as illustrated"

Winner may choose to accept \$7,000.00 cash in lieu of one chosen snowmobile.

* Winner is responsible for pick up of selected sled. Snoman will be responsible for GST. Winner will be responsible for all other applicable taxes.*

Proceeds benefit recreational snowmobiling in Manitoba through Snoman and its member clubs.

Draw Date

January 18, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

Draw Held

Snoman Office - 2121 Henderson Hwy. - Winnipeg, MB

DRAW OPEN TO ALL TICKETHOLDERS

ski-doo



POLARIS
The Way Out.

YAMAHA

License # MGCC 2789 RF

40,000 Tickets Printed

Tickets **\$2.00** each