



SASKATCHEWAN Snowmobiler

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A VERY BIG DEAL

ISHOF INDUCTEES ENJOY THEIR MOMENT OF FAME
BY BARRY BRADSHAW, Chairman

At present we have snow—more, I think, than we had all of last season in our Yorkton area. Now we need some cold weather to freeze the wetness under the snow.

I know all clubs will be scrambling to get trails cleared and signs put up. As long as the snow stays our local club, the Yorkton Sno-Riders, will try and get our signing completed by the middle of December right after deer hunting season is over.

Now onto an exciting event that took place on November 14 at the Saskatchewan Legislature. The snowmobilers from Saskatchewan that have been inducted into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame (ISHOF) were all invited by the government to be introduced in the Legislature. We were all introduced individually by Greg Ottenbreit, our MLA and Saskatchewan party whip from Yorkton, who is a longtime supporter of snowmobiling in Saskatchewan.

Some background information on those who were introduced by the Hon. Greg Ottenbreit follows: From the 2008 inductions in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, John Popoff of Saskatoon is a longtime volunteer with the Saskatoon Snowmobile Club. As well, John was a founding member of the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association. Along with John, I was also inducted in 2008—mostly for my work for over 35 years with Snowarama, our Yorkton fundraiser for Easter Seals.

In 2009 Prairie Women on Snowmobiles (PWOS) was inducted into the ISHOF. This was the ISHOF's first induction of a group so it was an exception to the rule. PWOS, as everyone in Saskatchewan knows, does fundraising for breast cancer research. The PWOS ride has raised over \$1.4 million in the 10 years of its week-long yearly rides across Saskatchewan. A very good mix of the women who have ridden over the years came to the Legislature—it was like a school reunion of old friends. I personally know that the two co-founders of PWOS, Jeannie Brewer and Carol Tulik, who were at the Legislature ceremony, never in their wildest dreams expected PWOS to grow into the fundraiser for

cancer research that it is today and be so well known and accepted throughout Saskatchewan.

Last but not least, for their volunteer work for many years, Chris and Jeannie Brewer were just inducted this past September in Eagle River, Wisconsin. I had the privilege of introducing Chris and Jeannie at the induction banquet and what an honour it was to have them both come up to the podium to accept the award. We started the introduction off with Stompin' Tom Connors' *The Snowmobile Song*, which, of course, is a Canadian tune. It was the first time most Americans had heard it, so it broke the ice and went over very well. The folks in Eagle River showed us a great time with their hospitality and certainly didn't cut any corners in the ceremonies.

Eagle River is best known as the home of the World Championship Snowmobile Derby held every year in January. In 2009 the ISHOF committee saw fit to move the Hall of Fame, along with the Derby Snowmobile Museum, from Minnesota to Eagle River, Wisconsin, and call it the World Snowmobile Headquarters. This new facility was made possible by a longtime supporter of snowmobiling—Tom Anderson of Wisconsin. An abandoned strip mall right next to the Eagle River racetrack came up for sale by one of the local banks. Tom had the insight to put in a bid and was the successful bidder. With some re-modelling the World Snowmobile Headquarters was opened—what a great facility. For more info and a list of all the inductees over the years go to www.ishof.com.

Now I want to get into more depth on how all these inductions came about over the last few years. One person in the province had the insight to make the nominations happen and her name is Emily Grimes. Emily has been a longtime supporter and volunteer for snowmobiling in Saskatchewan. She was one of the founding members of the Esker Bear Snowmobile Club and of the Forest Fringe Snowmobile Association. She was later nominated to the board of the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association (SSA) in 1996 and retired in 2009, after spending 13 years serving on

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>> EVENTS

Provincial Snowmobile Safety Week

January 13 - 19, 2013

Snowarama

February 9, 2013

Yorkton, SK

Take a Friend Snowmobiling Week

February 17 - 23, 2013

Provincial Snowmobile Festival: Tourin' Twin Lakes II

February 22 - 24, 2013

Nipawin, SK

Zones 1 & 4 Meeting

April 13, 2013

Shellbrook, SK

Zone 2 Meeting

April 14, 2013

Nipawin, SK

Zone 3 Meeting

April 20, 2012

Yorkton, SK

AGM and Diamonds in the Snow Awards Banquet

June 22, 2013

Regina, SK

>> CLUB NEWS

Hudson Bay Trail Riders

—by Karen Dolezsar

Hi everyone. The Hudson Bay Trail Riders are hard at it again. Our club has started trail cleaning, fixing shelters, updating signs, cutting firewood, packing swamps and all the other fun stuff. Of course, this year's early snow has made everything that much harder as it has stopped the frost and ice from forming.

We also took part in the SSA

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► **CANDLE LAKE** *continued from page 36*

Shelter and the children in our club have claimed it as their own. The kids were there every day to help build and remodel the shelter. At any given time you can find a family gathering at this shelter enjoying a campfire—everyone is welcome to join.

We are also starting to build a new shelter for the Clear Sands Trail and, hopefully, that should be in service by January 2013. With these three upgrades to our trails, I'm sure your experience will be an enjoyable one at Candle Lake.

March 9, 2013, is our annual 250 Rally with a

ride and trail lunch. We will be using the Rachele Trail again this year and the trail lunch will be at the Ice House Creek shelter. We will also be hosting a supper, dance and silent auction in the evening. The supper and dance is open to everyone; even if you don't own a sled you are welcome. Tickets will be available in January 2013—get them fast as we only have limited space. We will post more details on Facebook when plans are finalized. Come out and enjoy the Candle Lake trails this year and find our hidden gem!

Have a great season and safe riding.

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>> **CLUB
EVENTS**

December 28, 2012

Snowmobile Safety Course,
Regina

Contact: Sask. Safety Council
(Donna) at 306-757-3197

January 7 - 9, 2013

Snowmobile Safety Course,
Regina

Contact: Sask. Safety Council
(Donna) at 306-757-3197

January 19, 2013

Grenfell Snowdrifters Rally,
Grenfell Curling Rink, Grenfell
Contact: Terry at 306-697-3293
or Brian at 306-697-3080

Tisdale Annual Supper
Fundraiser, Tisdale Hotel, Tisdale
Contact: Roy Skoglund at 306-
873-5000 (days) or 306-873-3588
(evenings) or tcb@sasktel.net

January 21 & 22, 2013

Snowmobile Safety Course,
Regina

Contact: Sask. Safety Council
(Donna) at 306-757-3197

January 26, 2013

Naicam Snowblasters
18th Annual Snowmobile Rally,
Naicam Town Hall, Naicam
Contact: Brad Kellington at
306-874-7777 or email
big-keller@hotmail.com

February 1, 2013

Snowmobile Safety Course,
Vibank

Contact: Angela Ogden or Remi
at 306-762-2144

February 2, 2013

Broadview Snow Busters
Derby & Supper/Dance -
40th Anniversary for Snowbusters
(\$25/per person), Broadview
Community Hall, Broadview
Contact: Dennis Richter (presi-
dent) at 306-697-3020 (home) or
306-697-7373 or email
d.richter@xplornet.com

Canwood Sno-Blazers Sled Rally,
Canwood & surrounding
provincial forest

Contact: Glen Andrusyk at
306-747-8146 or email
andrusykgcmj@sasktel.net

Kelvington Trailblazers Winter
Carnival, Kelvington

Contact: Leann Bisschop at
306-327-4469 or email
klbisschop@sasktel.net

February 9, 2013

Hudson Bay 100 Rally & Steak
Night, Brooks Hall, Hudson Bay
Contact: Rick Watt (president),
at 306-865-2462 or email
cherickventures@sasktel.net

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Yorkton Sno-Riders

BY SANDY KONKEL

When I first started to write this month's article there was only a little sniff of snow here. Well, the storm is here and we are getting lots of snow, which is a promising sign. The downside to this snowfall is that the bodies of water and rivers, etc., are not frozen. This could mean another year of making sure that our groomer operators can groom the trails without running into water situations on the trails. The snowfall also means that clean-up of the trails will be a little more difficult.

Club members were out checking the trails on quads for fallen trees and debris, trying to clean up before any snow arrived. They were also checking out the beaver dam situations and, believe me, they did not earn the term "busy

beavers" for nothing. The beavers have been extremely persistent this year. It's hard to believe that after a drier summer there are still numerous areas with lots of water.

The club has been busy organizing for the trade show in Yorkton that will have come and gone before you read this article. I will have an update on that event in the next issue.

Wood has been hauled out to some warm-up shacks, remodelling, painting and deck building have been done and also general maintenance has been occurring.

A big bouquet of roses to the volunteers who have donated their time and energy to the trails and shacks.

Everyone have fun in the snow and be safe!

Tisdale Snowmobile Club

BY SHANE BECKER

The Tisdale Snowmobile Club had a very busy fall. With numerous work bees, the shelters were cleaned up, mowing was done, firewood was cut and split, and some shelters even saw some fresh paint. You will also notice some new advertising billboards at two of our shelters. This will make it easier to post the advertising signs and will create a much better view of all of our club supporters' advertising signs.

We would like to thank all of our snowmobile club supporters for the purchasing of the advertising signs at all of our shelters. Without this support, the club would not be able to run.

Our annual fundraiser supper is planned for January 19, 2013, at the Tisdale Hotel. It is guaranteed to be a good time for everyone. Please contact club members for your supper tickets.

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>> CLUB EVENTS

▶ *Cont'd. from pg. 37 sidebar*

February 9, 2013

Timber Trails Annual Rally, Big River

Contact: Barry Nontell at barynontell@sasktel.net

February 11 - 13, 2013

Snowmobile Safety Course, Regina

Contact: Sask. Safety Council (Donna) at 306-757-3197

February 23, 2013

Quill Lake Trail Twisters Annual Snowmobile Rally, Quill Lake Hall, Quill Lake

Contact: Aaron Friesen at 306-383-7191 or email trailtwisters@sasktel.net

March 4 & 5, 2013

Snowmobile Safety Course, Regina

Contact: Sask. Safety Council (Donna) at 306-757-3197

March 16, 2013

Snowmobile Safety Course, Humboldt

Contact: Fred at 306-682-2623

For Safety's Sake...

*use the buddy system
never ride alone!
Tell others about your plans—just in case.*

SSA MEMBERSHIP JOIN TODAY!

All 2012/2013 family/individual SSA memberships are entered to win one of these membership prizes:

- \$500 in Federated Co-op fuel (10 x \$50 gift cards)
- One coupon for a Free Avalanche Training Course (Avalanche Skills Training Level 1 Class and Field) anywhere in Western Canada. Valued at \$350.00.
- One coupon for a Free Avalanche Training Course (Avalanche Skills Training Level 1 Class and Field) anywhere in Western Canada. Valued at \$350.00.
- Free Rental of Sled Trailer coupon from any Flaman location in Saskatchewan for a weekend (pick up Friday before 6:00 pm and return Monday morning) valued at approximately \$200.00.
- Entry for the Grand Prize: \$500 Gift Certificate from Recreation Supply



Your membership ensures that the SSA can deliver snowmobile safety, provincial/national and international representation, accessibility to land access for trails, a strong government partnership, insurance for trails and long-term planning to keep snowmobiling alive and well in Saskatchewan. For only \$25 you receive an entry for the 2012/2013 membership draw, Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association calendar, four issues of SnoRiders magazine, snowmobile information, two reflective helmet decals, and snow/trail conditions and event information on the SSA website. Purchase your SSA membership by visiting the SSA website at www.sasksnow.com and click on membership!

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Nipawin, Saskatchewan



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Contact the SSA @ 1-800-499-7533 and purchase your tickets using Visa, MasterCard or American Express!

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Winners will be announced on www.sasksnow.com



► TISDALE SNOWMOBILE CLUB

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The Tisdale Snowmobile Club held a snowmobile safety course in early November with a great turnout. All 15 students passed with flying colours. Nice to see 15 more safe snowmobilers on all of our trails.

The Town of Tisdale is a wonderful community with three hotels and one motel, and numerous

restaurants and fast-food establishments to satisfy your appetite. We also have fuel available 24/7. Snowmobilers are always welcome in Tisdale—come and make Tisdale your home base for a weekend and enjoy our great trails and countryside. We are an excellent central location with our trails joining four other great clubs in the Northeast. Until next time, ride safe and enjoy our great Saskatchewan outdoors.

Big River Timber Trails Sno Riders

BY BARRY NONTELL

Snowmobiling has never really been off our club members' minds in Big River this past summer. Our club, under the direction of ATV club president and snowmobile club member Alfred Prosofsky, has had a busy summer. We have been working closely with the Saskatchewan Ministry of the Environment to improve, widen, reroute and GPS all of our trails. Once our trails were GPS'd we were able to have them plotted on the forestry maps thanks to Sakaw, the forest management company for our area. We have been in constant contact and have had many meetings and field trips out on our snowmobile trails with Sakaw representatives.

Thanks to a CDIF provincial grant, we have secured funds to repair many of our trails that have been damaged by wheeled vehicles. Due to wet conditions we have been limited in many areas

that we still need to repair. With our first significant snowfall already, we will be clearing trails of fallen trees and signing as weather permits—please watch for volunteer workers on the trails.

Big River will be hosting the Prairie Women on Snowmobiles kick-off dinner January 31, 2013. We welcome everyone to come out and support this great cause and support our local core rider, Dina Darbyshire.

Big River offers great accommodations—the Timberland Motel has recently been sold to new owners Jim and Rose Beitz, and the new owners are very accommodating and welcome all snowmobilers.

Big River Timber Trails Sno Riders will once again host our annual snowmobile rally on February 9, 2013.

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>> CLUB NEWS

► BIG RIVER TIMBER TRAILS SNO RIDERS *from left*

Big River has a number of new resort developments in our area and our snowmobile club would like to welcome all new cottage owners and anyone looking for resort property to come out and explore our trails and join our club.

Big River is a snowmobile-friendly community offering several great restaurants, a local hotel, cocktail lounge, gas stations, convenience stores, local shopping and snowmobile/RV service centre close to the Trans-Canadian Snowmobile Trail 115A.

Twin Lakes Trail Blazers
—by Lynn Palidwar

Mother Nature blessed us with an early snowfall in October. It was beautiful crisp, clean, heavy and wet snow that covered all the dry grass and harvested farmland. With any luck it will stay and become an excellent base for our snowmobile trails this year.

Our club has started the monthly meetings and the trails committee has plans underway to get the groomer/sled maintenance complete, trail marking and "U R Here" trail signs placed and some trail mowing finished to keep the full 14-foot trail open. The social committee planned the membership/landowner appreciation night for November 30 and a great time was had by all.

We are also hosting the SSA Provincial Festival on February 22 and 23, 2013, and the planning committee has been meeting for months already. Plans are coming along nicely; contact Lynn Palidwar at kellynn@sasktel.net to pre-register.

This will be a busy year for
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The day the snowmobiles stopped

BY RANDY TOTH

Adapted with permission from an article written by Randy Toth and originally published in the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts Magazine.

One chilly fall day in the not too distant future, as you prepare for the upcoming snowmobiling season, you will remember that you have not received your Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association (SSA) and local snowmobile club's annual membership information. You go to the SSA's website only to find a notation from the Internet service provider that the domain name is now available for sale to any interested parties. Huh?

You call up a friend and ask "What's up with the SSA?" He informs you that last spring they announced that they were disbanding due to lack of volunteer support. "Well, exactly what did they ever do for me?" you say. Then you call one of your local club officers only to find that no one volunteered to run for club office and that the current president and vice-president had retired and moved south. Your club has also disbanded and sold your grooming equipment to an out-of-province organization and donated the remaining club money to charity. Your buddy says that the club two towns over is still active and he has joined there, so you decide that you will join there also.

He then mentions that the dues have gone way up since the SSA is no longer around to provide some much-needed grooming money. You decide you had better go to a club meeting to find out what's really happening.

The club meeting holds a few surprises for you as they discuss their huge loss of former friendly landowners. Apparently when they found out that they were no longer covered by the SSA-sponsored liability insurance, they immediately revoked permission to ride on their land. You also find out that you can no longer ride from one provincial property to another because of the lack of private landowner connector trails. "OK," you say, "I will just ride in my local town area then." Of course, without your old local club there is no grooming or snowmobile trail maintenance in your area. There is still riding there but only on about 15 miles of unmaintained and ungroomed trails. Furthermore, you no longer have riding access to any food or gas because those connector trails were located on private land. The next day you read in the paper that snowmobiles are being banned on a number of provincial lands due to damage caused by wheeled vehicles.

Incredibly, no one attended any of the planning meetings and spoke up and defended snowmobiling—which has virtually no negative impact on trails. With no organized opposition, snowmo-

biles were simply banned along with wheeled vehicles.

There is also a notice that an environmental group is fighting hard to pass a provincial law banning all internal combustion engines on provincial land to protect the health of native miniature snails. Who do you turn to? "I'll just call my local MLA," you decide. The call goes something like, "Hi, I'm Joe and I like to snowmobile so you need to help me." The response is something like, "Thank you for calling to express your opinion. What organization did you say you were representing?" Now you start to sweat and remember having heard about how to approach your MLA from the SSA, and you realize that your encounter didn't go as you had planned. OK, so you and your friends decide your club should hire a lobbyist. Now, just how will you find one and pay for him or her? Your club will just have to raise lots of money—somehow. Of course, you always voted against dues increases on principle in the past.

You then remember that in the past, revenue from the SSA trail fund helped fund these key access-related activities.

Furthermore, many of your friends said they weren't even going to join the club until there was rideable snow on the ground, because they remember a year in the past when there wasn't much snow.

You call some like-minded friends and you all agree to organize to fight these injustices, but you have no clue how to begin. You also start to experience that sinking feeling that it might already be too late. You want to turn to the guys who have always maintained and groomed the trails for help. Did you know the average age of an active three-man trail crew in Saskatchewan that maintains snowmobile trails on a very large tract of provincial land is now over 70 years old? No answer when you call. You call your friend back only to learn that two of the three have retired from trail work and the other is no longer around. Now what? Where are all of the younger folks who were supposed to take over? You then cringe at the thought that you personally have said many times, "I'll help when I get around to it," but you never did.

Well, you can always drive to nearby provinces where they used to have large trail systems. Maybe they're still in operation.

To get your mind off of this mess, you then decide to drive out of province to attend a snow show. Your wife reminds you that with gas prices at 130.9 cents per litre you can't afford to, since you will need to save the money to go

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>> CLUB NEWS

► SNOWMOBILES STOPPED *Continued from left*

snowmobiling.

OK, you decide to go to the smaller snow show in your own province. Darn!—the lack of volunteers and support caused it to fold a couple of years ago.

Remember how you and your friends said that there were bigger and better shows elsewhere, so why should you support your local one?

If you think that this scenario can't happen, just sit back, put your feet up, do nothing and wait. It may now be later than you think!

► TWIN LAKES TRAIL BLAZERS *Cont'd. from pg. 39 sidebar*

our club. In addition to hosting the festival we will welcome over 120 vintage drag racers to Nipawin on March 2, 2013, and there's talk of starting some oval vintage races. We also help run the regular snowmobile drag races—details to follow.

You'd think the summer months would be a time to relax but our club is partnering with the local Nipawin Hawks junior hockey team to host a ladies-only fishing tournament in August. We have 120 teams from Saskatchewan, Alberta and even the States who will enjoy a day on the river reeling in the walleye for a top prize of \$2,000. We do this to raise funds to keep our trail system open and safe for local riders and the many winter tourists who will come to Nipawin this season.

Thank you in advance for supporting our community. Happy sledding everyone!

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



Keeping it safe

JUST SAY NO TO ALCOHOL AND EXCESSIVE SPEED
BY CHRIS BREWER, President/CEO

Early snow can bring early issues for you and your snowmobile. Given the early snow this year you need to take caution until the trails are set and signed. Objects are hidden under the snow that can cause damage to your sled and could cause injuries to you—stones, stumps, pocket gopher mounds, culverts, farm implements, fence wire and other objects. As well, this season we haven't seen the cold temperatures that allow good ice to form. The early snow isn't helping as it provides too much insulation.

We ask that you stay off all bodies of water until we have a few weeks of extreme cold temperatures. Safety must come first before heading out on your sled. Never go alone, plan your trip and inform someone where you're going and when you are returning. Take a cellphone, make sure your sled is full of fuel and oil and it's in very good mechanical running condition. Remember, you can ride in a half hour what you can't walk in a day.

Be the first in your group to start a new tradition when going out riding—take water and leave the alcoholic beverages at home. Consuming al-

cohol lowers your body's temperature and will bring on hypothermia quicker. The leading cause of snowmobile accidents, injuries and fatalities is consumption of alcohol—it lowers your reaction time. Speed is the second leading cause of snowmobile accidents, injuries and fatalities and oftentimes speed and alcohol are combined to cause major snowmobile issues.

The SSA has a new safety initiative that makes the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Safety Certificate much easier to access. The safety course is now available online, so visit www.sasksnow.com and follow the link to enroll and take this valuable course.

Anyone born on or before January 1, 1989, must have their Saskatchewan Snowmobile Safety Certificate to operate a snowmobile in Saskatchewan. You can now obtain yours online at www.sasksnow.com for only \$45. If you are new to the recreation of snowmobiling or feel you would like to learn more about the operation of your snowmobile then please go online and take the course.

Have a great ride and do so without the booze.

Keeping expectations realistic

BY RICK DOLEZSAR, SSA Zone 2 Representative

Looks like this year will bring early and plentiful snow across the western snow belt if the current weather patterns persist. With this early snow there seems to be an abundance of unrealistic expectations from the general public about when trail systems will be fully open and complete. In a normal good year without any catastrophes it would take our club until Christmas to have our complete 670-kilometre system open and signed safely.

This year with snow early in November, I am amazed by the number of otherwise intelligent individuals who will ask if the groomers are out yet. These individuals and the business interests that some of them represent obviously have no idea what it takes to annually open a trail system, particularly in the provincial forest. Although there is ample snow to groom, there is no frost in the ground to support a six- to eight-ton grooming unit in the muskeg, and no chance for the minimum two feet of ice to form that is required for any water crossings with such a unit. Also, although the snow is nice to see, it has complicated trail cleaning efforts, with the wet snow making

everything twice as difficult, wet and time-consuming.

As a result of this I often ponder the identity crisis many local clubs must endure. What exactly is our job in all of this? Who actually receives the financial benefit of the trails going in early and the increased season length, particularly in the main snowmobile trail tourism destination areas? In most cases club membership is made up of local individuals who simply have an interest in the sport, and who may enjoy volunteering for some outdoor activity. Those who have a vested interest in accommodation, restaurant and fuel services claim they are simply too busy to become directly involved, but ironically are the first ones who may ask if the work is done and the trails are ready. You can probably see where I am headed with this—when the people with vested interests and those who simply wish to reap the recreational rewards of someone else's volunteer efforts have unrealistic expectations and start to make demands on our goodwill volunteer resources, the fun has ended.

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>> CLUB NEWS

► CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE Continued from page 33

many committees. While on the SSA board Emily developed a reference manual for all board members. This manual included all the info needed to run the SSA. We named this manual *The Emily Book*. It was adopted by the SSA board, is updated from year to year and is still used today.

Emily had the very keen ability to be thorough in any project she put her mind to. She was instrumental in doing all the legwork for all the above nominations to the ISHOF and there was literally a book written by Emily on each of the nominees. It was so good that all of them were accepted and inducted into the ISHOF. Thanks again Emily.

Another important announcement is that the online snowmobile safety course has been approved. As of November 19, 2012, it is up and running; go to www.sasksnow.com for details. The course is mandatory for everyone born on or after January 1, 1989, which would be anyone 24 years and younger.

Until next time, safe sled-ding and don't drink and ride.

► HUDSON BAY Cont'd. from pg. 33 sidebar

Snow Show held in Saskatoon. As always, it was great to see old friends who have visited us in The Bay. It always seems Hudson Bay is the place where you have been, passed through, is next on your want-to-ride list, or you know someone who lives here.

We hope to meet new friends on the trails again this year. Our club would like to invite all folks to our annual rally and steak supper to be held on Saturday, February 9, 2013, in Hudson Bay. Happy trails!



► RICK DOLEZSAR

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If our vast Saskatchewan trail system is going to continue, the current aging volunteer base is going to have to be supplemented by those who are asking when the trails are ready and when they can start to promote their enterprises for the season ahead. Yes, our trail-funding programs have improved immensely in recent years, but

even with better funding, someone still has to go out and do the work and operate the local organization.

Please feel free to share this article with anyone who you think needs to read it. Next time someone asks you if the trails are ready, signed and groomed and wants to know why not, the answer is simply because they haven't been out there to help you do it.

Moose Mountain Snowmobile Club

BY TROY FOSTER

Welcome to winter in Saskatchewan. On the weekend of November 9, 2012, we received eight to 10 inches of snow in the Moose Mountain area. This was great to see as we were one of the areas that did not get our trails in last season.

There were a quite a few locals who attended the SSA show in Saskatoon and everyone says it was another great event.

The club is still looking for someone in the Stoughton area to help with the trails. If you know of anyone who would like to help, please have them contact us by going to our website and clicking on the Contacts list.

The Arcola Optimist Club will be holding their rally on January 26, 2013. This rally uses the Moose Mountain Snowmobile Club's trails and runs north of Arcola on Trail 311J into the provincial park then comes down our 311C trail north of Kisbey, and back to the hall in Arcola for prize draws and supper. Some years this rally pulls in more than 400 sledders, so register early. There are lots of hotels in the area now, but with the oilfield so busy you will want to book a room early.

Last season we bought a new 12-foot-wide drag from a manufacturer in Quebec. The guys at Kisbey did manage to groom a few miles with it and

it really looks like it will keep the trails smooth and cut out any moguls. If anyone is planning a trip to our area and you would like a local to ride with, contact one of the names on the web page—most of us ride every weekend and there are lots of friendly folks who would help you find your way. Also while riding here, if you have any suggestions or see anything we should change along the trails, please feel free to drop us an email or leave a message in the shelter books.

The area has three snowmobile dealerships, at last count 10 hotels and many fast-food chains and full-service restaurants. Gas stations are located in Stoughton, Kisbey, Arcola, Carlyle, Kenosee Lake and Kipling and are open seven days a week. There are also fuel stops in Windthorst and Corning but they are only open during the week and some Saturdays. We welcome everyone to come to the Moose Mountain area and enjoy the trails. The trails here link up with other great snowmobile clubs around us to make it a very nice area to spend a weekend or just a day. If you want to stay up-to-date with the goings-on of the Moose Mountain Snowmobile club, check our website at www.mmsnowmobileclub.com and click on our news link or our Facebook link.

Pasquia Snow Goers Club

BY KATHY LINDSAY

♪Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!♪ may be a favourite Christmas carol but it is also the chant of the snowmobilers throughout Saskatchewan as they get their sleds polished up for a winter of fun! We are excited by the early arrival of snow and with the Trans-Canadian Snowmobile Trail just out our back door, we have lots of places to go.

Last winter, we in the Northeast were graced with lots of snow, unlike those in the rest of the province who were taunted with cold temperatures and little snow. We are very willing to share as we have unique scenery only found in

the Northeast. On a day's ride you go from wide open fields to the winding trails through the Pasquia Hills.

We are pleased to hear that the new Carrot River Inn (1-855-768-2111) will hopefully be open in December, just in time for you to take advantage of their great location. Give them a call to book your rooms early as it will be a popular stop for many snowmobilers. Or if you prefer a quaint bed and breakfast, there is also the Old Bank Bed and Breakfast (1-306-276-8771) located in Arborfield—both are on the Trans-Canadian

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>> CLUB NEWS

Whiteswan Snowhawks

—by Loren Wrubleski

The Whiteswan Snowhawks held a fundraiser steak night on November 9. Even though it was one of our smaller groups, it was a huge success for our club. Thank you to everyone who contributed prizes and their time to make this event a success.

We have received several inches of snow but still need the cold weather to freeze the lakes and sloughs before we will be able to groom.

There have been several work bees to cut firewood for the warm-up shelters, replace trail signs, and clear fallen trees and new growth on our trails. There was a stubborn beaver that once again has dammed up one of our trails. Thank you to all those that put in their time to clear and mark our trails.

Our annual snowmobile rally will be held on February 9, 2013. Registration will be at Eagle Bay Resort, East Trout Lake. Come out and ride our fabulous northern trails!

Club members should watch for the date of our annual Get Ready to Ride day in January.

Esler Bear Inc.

—by Jean Milowski

I'm glad to report that we at Little Bear Lake have received quite a bit of snow and smaller amounts are added almost daily. There was one small rain that made ice, but we lost very little snow depth.

Our biggest problem is that the swamps didn't freeze, which will cause grooming problems. Another big obstacle with the heavy wet snow is that the pine and willow branches and small trees have come down onto the trails so more trimming will be needed.

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► **PASQUIA SNOW GOERS**

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an Snowmobile Trail. We are more than ready to have you come to the Northeast to check out our accommodations and our scenic trails.

The hours of work Emily Grimes, our treasurer, spent on the nomination paid off for Chris and Jeannie Brewer, who were inducted into the Snowmobile Hall of Fame. Chris is president and CEO of the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association. It is through Chris's dedication that Saskatchewan is the only province in Canada with a provincial snowmobile association that tirelessly lobbied for trail permits to be included in the purchase of licence plates. Each year we look forward to the many events the association organizes for the clubs in the province, such as the Diamonds in the Snow Gala, the snowmobile show in November and, best of all, the yearly

trail fund payout that enables us to continue maintaining some of the best snowmobile trails in Canada. Thank you, Chris!

It was everyone's great pleasure to watch Chris and Jeannie Brewer being introduced along with Barry Bradshaw, John Popoff and the Prairie Women on Snowmobiles at the Provincial Legislative Chambers for their commitment to snowmobiling.

Our trail fund not only helps us maintain our trails but it also helps us maintain our warm-up shelters. Therefore, the decision to replace our aging Jubilee shelter with something newer and larger was made. The Jubilee warm-up shelter is a popular gathering place for snowmobilers especially on weekend afternoons. The old shelter will be skidded out on the frozen ground, refurbished and relocated somewhere along the trail. So keep your eyes open for its new location.

>> **CLUB NEWS**

► **ESKER BEAR**

Cont'd. from pg. 35 sidebar

One risk of going off the trail is swamping a big machine. We are in a remote area so it's wise to have snowmobiles checked ahead of time and carry a small saw, hatchet, shovel and small container of gas. Also, a zip-lock bag with pieces of a cardboard egg carton, some dryer fluff and matches will be handy if you need to start a fire. Dry socks and plastic bags big enough to fit your feet into are a big help when you have wet boots.

But most important of all—keep an eye on the gas tank. One can go a long way on a snowmobile, but it's a very long way to walk back. Also keep in mind there is no cell service in the area. It's wise to phone ahead for gas availability since there are no transports in winter and stores have to go for their own supplies.

The tentative date for the Esker Bear Tri-Lake Rally is February 17, 2013. The Lower Fishing Lake cabin owners Esker run is March 2, 2013.

Candle Lake Sno Drifters

BY CAREY PAINCHAUD

Greetings from the Sno Drifters and here's hoping that we receive a tremendous amount of snow this year. We would like to thank the SSA for its ongoing support and we appreciate its efforts—keep up the good work.

We have had several new members and families join the club this year—the enthusiasm and volunteer help is extraordinary. We are looking forward to the upcoming years with the youth movement in our club. In conjunction with our experienced leaders, we can see a continued commitment to the Candle Lake Sno Drifters.

Recently we have been planning to revitalize our warm-up shelters and we are well on our way to accomplishing this goal. We have replaced the Ice House Creek shelter along the Rachelle Trail with a beautiful new facility. If you haven't had a chance to see this new shelter, make it part of your tour this year as it is very impressive. Thanks to Terry and Marianne Kostyna and volunteers for all the effort they put in to make this a huge success and a welcome addition to our trails. We have also remodelled the Bay Lake

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