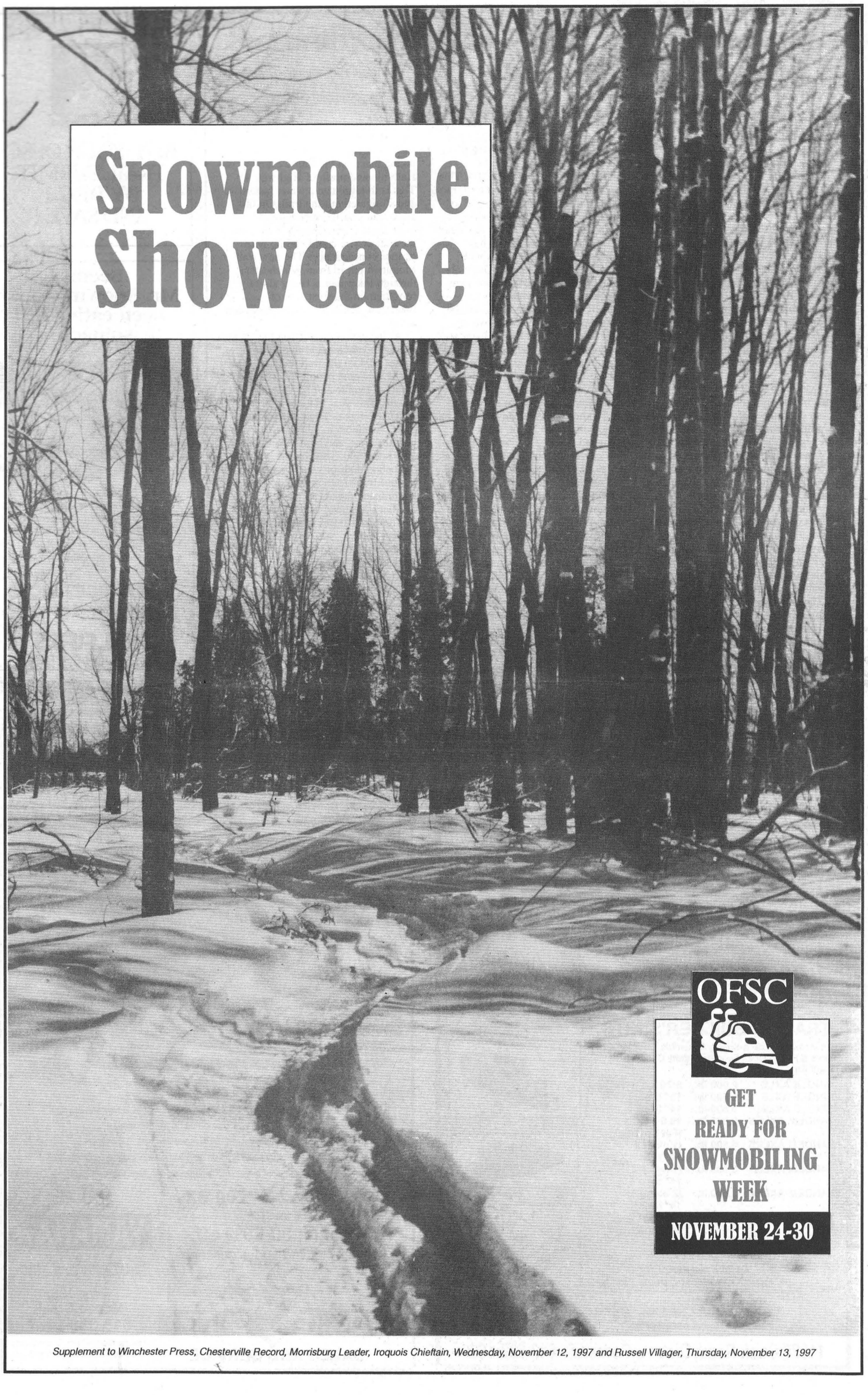
Snowmobile Showcase



Supplement to Winchester Press, Chesterville Record, Morrisburg Leader, Iroquois Chieftain, Wednesday, November 12, 1997 and Russell Villager, Thursday, November 13, 1997

Message from NVSA trail co-ordinator

by Greg Erwin

It's still not December and we've already had two decent snowfalls. If I could only find where the wife hid my keys, I'd give that new toy a little test run before she gets home from work.

One more thing is needed, however, and that's the permission of my neighbor to run on his property. Without permission you are trespassing. If the trails aren't fully ready to be used, once again you are trespassing if you use them.

Every fall a handful of volunteers work long hours for no pay to prepare the trails for grooming. Not until all the signs and stakes are up, the brushing complete and any bridges or gates prepared does the groomer smooth out the trails.

And not until the grooming is complete can the trails be considered open.

Even then, early season snowmobiling has its hazards. A stone or stump just under the surface, swampy areas, water holes and ditches are far from being completely frozen. By adhering to the speed limit of 50 km/hr and staying alert you should be off to an early and safe season.

As usual there are hundreds of delays or problems in preparing the system again this year. Due to hay shortages farmers are taking off the final cut later than ever and leaving cattle in the pasture for as long as possible.

The snow we just received is also going to slow down the corn harvest.

Thanks to some excess funding from last year's budget, some club contributions and monies collected from the OFSC, well over $6,000 in signs and stakes will be going into our trails this year.

Also thanks to sponsorship from Shane Signs and Shane Farms and VandenBosch Farms, we'll be receiving some new club signs to install at all points of entry to our trail system.

South Dundas Snowmobiling Club has re-routed several of its trails in the south-east corner of the system to better accommodate 24-hour food and fuel and access to Riverside and Seaway trails. It should be noted that we've redesignated this trail along with the Williamsburg portion that crosses Highway 31 north of Williamsburg as top trail E104. This turns the old Pigeon Island trail into a local trail. The move was made to better access services for touring sledders travelling through the area.

On that note, the OFSC has redesigned and supplied us with some new top trail signs. These are longer and more visible signs than the old ones, and when they are delivered and installed they will be seen approximately every two or three kilometres on the trail and at every intersection. This is an Ontario-wide initiative to help all of us when touring unfamiliar areas.

Also on the top trail subject, Winchester is hoping to re-route its portion north of Winchester to try and avoid some of the open areas and ploughed fields. They've installed a new culvert behind the hydro office and hope to re-route their local trail just south of Winchester Springs to hopefully eliminate some of the road running and possibly straighten the route. Winchester also has a new trail to Ormond eliminating the Morewood Road trail.

Finch has been able to reopen the trail from Newington to Finch (not the railway bed). I've no word yet if Seaway will be able to meet us there.

The Crysler club is looking into a way to bypass Crysler village but that may have to wait until next year.

Williamsburg hopes to improve the trail west of their clubhouse to Highway 31 and still has more work to do on Pigeon Island. If you've got some spare time they'd appreciate some help.

Pittston-Mainsville members are working on cleaning up some of the new trails they put in last year with a few possible changes around Brinston and Dixons Corners.

Mountain is re-routing E104 at Armstrong Road where the trail leaves the swamp to eliminate a kilometre or two of road running. A similar change is being made east of their clubhouse on the Van Camp road. A new culvert and re-route is taking place on the trail west of Hallville and north of Highway 43. This is to eliminate a water hazard and straighten out the trail. On this same trail you'll notice a lot of excavation in the gravel pit. Stay on the trail or you could end up with serious consequences.The new trail Mountain put in from Winchester through Inkerman is being slightly re-routed on the west side of Inkerman. The trail is one concession south.

At its annual convention the OFSC passed an amendment that all trail passes sold on the trail must be sold for $150. Some people have been taking a gamble and not buying until caught. This year that could be an expensive move. There are plenty of places available to purchase before you head out, and before Dec. 1 it only costs $90. This, by the way, is only about half of what we need to run our trails for a season. Fundraising makes up the rest.

That's all the changes I have at this time but in this business things change daily.

Once again take it easy out there, especially in early season.

If you see a problem, take a minute, stop and move or repair. If you're unable to move or repair the problem call your trail boss or any local rep. Remember, we're all volunteers and are thus all responsible for the condition of our trails. I've told you of our sign purchases. If you see an area that needs more signs call your trail boss. He'll be more than happy to give you some signs and instructions on how to install them. He may even go out and give you a hand.

Well if I ever find my keys I hope to see you out there. Take it easy and enjoy.

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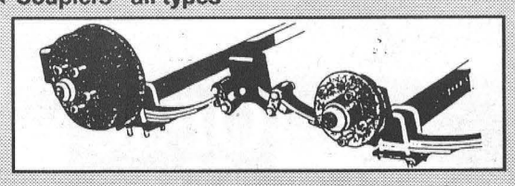

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TANDEM AXLES	3,500 lb.	(2 hyd.) 14" tires**

*JACK not included in single axle kits
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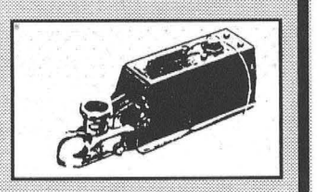

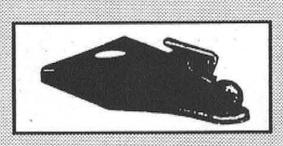

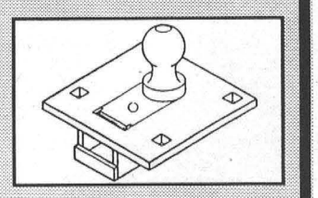

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Nation Valley Snowmobile Association

Message from club president

by Jeff Whitteker

Hello fellow snowmobilers! In June I was elected president of the Nation Valley Snowmobile Association (NVSA). I am honored to serve the 700 members who belong to the clubs of the NVSA for the next year.

Since the beginning my personal goal was to help to contribute to better snowmobiling in this area by having smoother, better-marked, safe trails. We have come a long way in a few short years.

We now have two operating groomers and 600 km of trails in this part of Eastern Ontario. None of this would have been possible without the hard work of the volunteers within the member clubs that make up the NVSA.

One common question asked is, "What is the NVSA and how does it work?" I'll try to explain this briefly. It all began when six snowmobile clubs (Winchester, South Dundas, Mountain, Williamsburg, Mainsville Pittston and Finch) decided to join together to pool funds to buy grooming equipment.

The funds I'm talking about is the money raised from trail permits sold by each club. The money from each trail permit sold goes to the NVSA and the person buying the permit becomes a member of the selling club.

This process is very important because the members of each club have the responsibility to maintain and manage their own trail system. This includes signs, bridging, signing up of landowner forms, staking trails, brushing, clubhouse work and holding events for members.

Over the past few years it was necessary to raise more funds for the NVSA (snowmobile raffles, dances, etc.) to pay off the grooming equipment. We are not there yet but we are very close to owning both groomers. This procedure has worked well over the past few years and is important in continuing our success.

To keep it simple, it's a team effort. The NVSA looks after grooming the trails and the clubs maintain and prepare the trails for grooming. Sometimes it is important that we don't try to draw lines because the people in each club are the volunteers running the NVSA.

Let me give some examples: clubs helping other clubs maintain their trails, clubs donating extra money toward the NVSA, fundraising together to buy grooming equipment, NVSA buying signs and stakes for the clubs and so on.

It is quite pleasing to be part of an organization that works together toward a common goal.

One problem we continue to face is the lack of volunteers. I am not sure what the answer to this problem is, but my feeling is that it is up to the snowmobilers themselves. If they want better trails or even to keep the standards we have now, snowmobilers are going to have to get off their butts and help the clubs out.

If everyone could do just a little bit, it would make it so much easier. We need to see new faces, new ideas and people replacing the volunteers who have contributed over the years. Surely there must be a few of the 700 members who want to help out. Contact your local club if you would like to help.

At this time I would like to welcome a new club that joined the NVSA this year. This now makes seven clubs that are part of the NVSA. Welcome Crysler Fun Riders!

I would like to congratulate all the dedicated volunteers in the clubs and the NVSA who have made snowmobiling the success it is today in this area. Job well done!

I look forward to seeing all of you on the trails this winter and would be glad to listen to your ideas. Oh yeah — you better have a trail permit!

Bring on the snow! Don't forget the Bring on the Snow dance at Matilda Hall on Nov. 22.

1997 Ontario snowmobiling by the numbers

The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs is dedicated to providing strong leadership and support to member clubs to establish and maintain quality snowmobile trails which are used in a safe and environmentally responsible manner to further the enjoyment of organized snowmobiling.

50,000	Total kilometres of OFSC snowmobile trails - over twice the length of the provincial highway network
110,649	Number of trail permits sold
200,000 +	Number of OFSC family snowmobilers
724,000,000	Annual snowmobile-related dollars spent by OFSC members
175,000	Best 'guesstimate' of the number of active snowmobiles in Ontario
63%	Per cent of active sleds with OFSC trail permits
10,000,000	Total dollars raised by snowmobile clubs from trail permit sales
20,000,000	Estimated dollars spent by snowmobile clubs on trail operations and grooming
120	Regular price of a 1997/98 trail permit, good anywhere, anytime
90	Early bird permit price if purchased by December 1, 1997
36	Total of snowmobile-related fatalities
7	Deaths that actually occurred on OFSC trails (19%)
1,600,000,000	Number of media impressions/exposures for OFSC messages
110,649	Dollars dedicated to OFSC Environment Fund based on one dollar per trail permit
575,000	Dollar donation to 1997 OFSC Charity of Choice, The Easter Seal Society of Ontario
13,575,000	Total dollars raised by OFSC for Easter Seals since 1975, making the OFSC their number one individual North American contributor
31	Years the OFSC has been the voice of organized snowmobiling in Ontario

Riverside Snowmobile Club

Trail permits available at: Jim's Performance Plus, Iroquois; Thompson's Snowmobile Sales, Brinston; Fred Hill Insurance, Morrisburg; The Co-operators Insurance, Morrisburg; Becker's Milk, Morrisburg; Irwin Supply, Cornwall; Evan's Outboard Motors, Cornwall and Ingleside Esso.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sun., Dec. 14, 1997	Breakfast and Children's Christmas Party
Wed., Dec. 31, 1997	New Year's Eve Party
Fri., Jan. 2, 1998	Wing Night
Sun., Jan. 18, 1998	Radar Run for CHEO *(weather permitting)*
Fri., Feb. 6, 1998	Wing Night
Sat., Feb. 21, 1998	Snowmobile/Car Rally
Fri., March 6, 1998	Wing Night
Sat., April 18, 1998	Canoe/Bike Rally & Steak Supper

** Sunday breakfast served from 9:00 am-12:00 noon starting Jan. 4, 1998 - *weather permitting.* Contact Barb Rabideau, Club Co-ordinator, at 613-543-3114.

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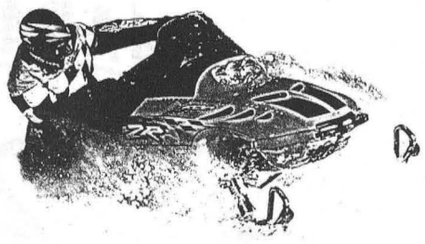

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1	1992	550 EFI EXT	$3,650
1	1992	Wild Cat (Private)	$3,500
1	1991	530 EXT	$3,150
1	1989	530 EXT	$2,550
1	1989	Cougar 500	$2,350
1	1988	Cougar 2 Up 500 cc	$2,500
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The construction of two new trails was completed this summer. The trails provide greater accessibility to food and fuel.

Press photo–Cooke-Erwin

South Dundas Snowmobiling Club

Special events, new trails highlight busy summer

The South Dundas Snowmobiling Club has had another busy summer in the south end of NVSA.

The annual Watercraft Rally was well attended and the crowd was well-satisfied when the snowmobiler made that long trek from the boat dock to the beach down the St. Lawrence. They say Cats are afraid of water but don't believe it!

The Haddo Recreation and SDSC would like to thank the public for another successful Haddo Jamboree that was held in August. This has proven to be one of the finest local talent events.

SDSC would also like to acknowledge the fine efforts of Carl and Ruby Van Allen for another successful Volley for Cancer. SDSC hosted the refreshment tent and was proud to give a large donation to the cause.

A new trail is being opened from SDSC east to Highway 31 to make food and gas accessible by trail. Another trail is being opened into Iroquois and the Iroquois Golf Club.

Please attend your November SDSC meeting for all the exciting news.

Postscript: The door's always open and the woodbox is always full at SDSC.

Nation Valley Snowmobile Association

Fundraising committee report

Since the formation of Nation Valley Snowmobile Association (NVSA), snowmobilers have had the fortune to receive some OFSC funding towards the purchase of grooming equipment and signage. However the operation of equipment and other expenses far exceed the funding received. A fundraising committee was established to help offset that difference.

The first annual NVSA golf tournament was a great success. It was held on June 20 at Cedar Glen with 62 golfers playing a four-person scramble format. Thanks to all the local businesses for their donations and a special thank you to Kathy and Denny at Cedar Glen. Next year's tournament is scheduled for a Saturday in late June or early July and it promises to be bigger and better. All NVSA members and the general public are welcome to attend.

NVSA's largest fundraiser is the snowmobile raffle. This year's prize is a 1998 Yamaha VX500XT with the draw being held at the "Bring on the Snow" dance. Tickets and money can be dropped off to your club rep or the drop-off points. Each member was asked to sell one book and if you need more just call.

Please remember the annual ritual is fast approaching, best described as an evening where snowmobilers gather, dance to one of the best bands around and socialize, hoping to be blessed by the Queen of the North that she will reward us for all of those long meetings with one of the best treasures — tons of long-lasting snow! Yes, that ritual is the "Bring on the Snow" dance.

The fundraising committee is always looking for new volunteers. If interested please call your club president.

Winchester Club looking for new executive

The Winchester Township Snowmobile Club started back up about six years ago and the same people have been on the executive since then. It's time for a change!

We need a new group of people to take over and get the club up and going stronger.

A new executive will bring in new ideas so if you are willing to step up and take over, or if you are willing to help, please attend the next meeting on Tues., Nov. 25 at 8 pm. The meeting will be held at the Country Kitchen Restaurant in Winchester.

For more information call Brent at 774-0887.

We hope to see you at the meeting!

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Fundraising Pledge Levels:

$75	Snowarama Coffee Mug
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$1,000	Snowarama Coffee Mug ***and*** Snowarama Sweatshirt, 1998 Edition, ***and*** entry into draw for trip ***and*** entry into draw for sled

Here's how it works: To be eligible for a particular prize level, ALL pledge money must be handed in on the day of the event. The Snowarama Coffee Mug will be handed out on the day. All other prizes will be mailed after the event. No substitution requests, please! The Easter Seal Society reserves the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value.

Co-sponsored by the Chesterville Rotary Club & Nation Valley Snowmobile Association

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(Rotary motto 1998)

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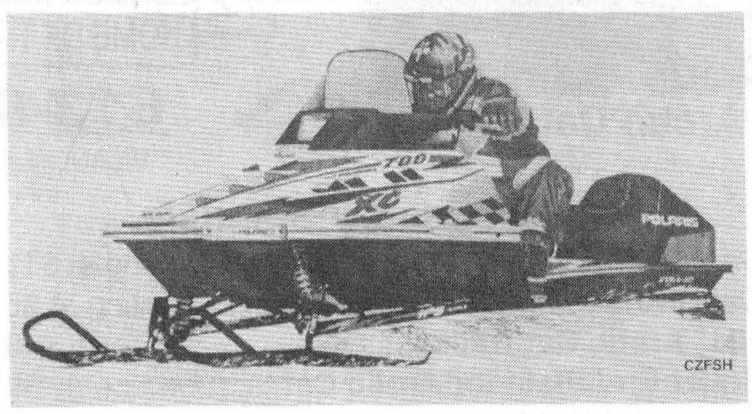

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Motorized snow vehicle license

by Ray Godard

Another snowmobiling season is on our doorstep and club instructors for the Snowmobile Operator Course are getting geared up for another busy season. Most courses are offered in different areas during the months of October, November and December. Some will be offered in January and February depending on demand.

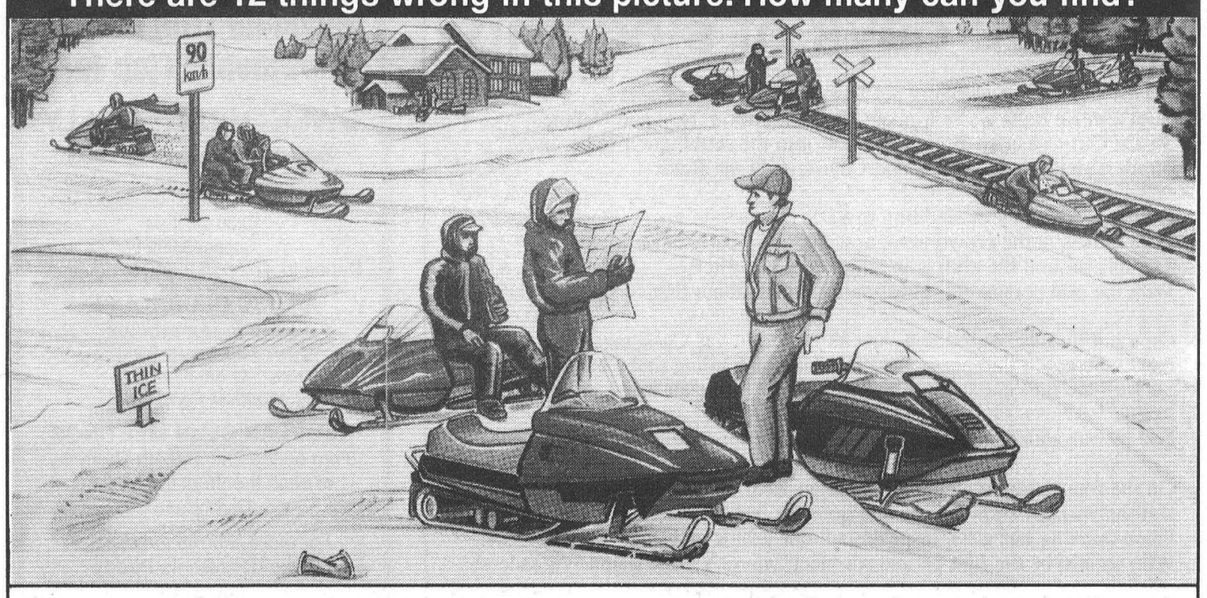
Participants much be 12 years of age when they register for the course. A copy of your birth certificate or other proof of age must be provided when you register. The cost of the course this year is $20.50 — some of the instructors will provide a lunch for a small fee.

The course length is six hours. It is recommended that you register early so that participants can have a chance to study the course material before the course date.

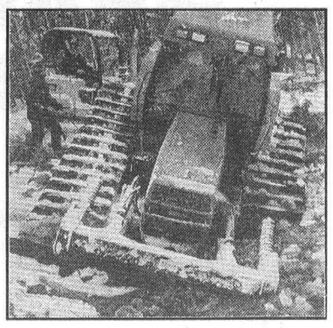
The following snowmobile clubs have instructors who offer this course: Eastern Snowmobile Club, Hawkesbury, Casselman; Carleton Regional Snowmobile Club, Sarsfield; Glengarry Snowmobile Club, Green Valley; Seaway Valley Snowmobile Association, Monkland; Riverside Snowmobile Club, Morrisburg; South Dundas Snowmobile Club, Iroquois; Mountain Trail Blazers, Mountain; Osgoode-Carleton Trail Building Club, Vernon, Metcalfe; and Finch North Star Snowmobile Club, Finch.

Should you wish to find a course date in your area, you can call Ray Godard at 613-989-3157. And remember, if your present driver's license is under suspension you cannot receive a Motorized Snow Vehicle License.

There are 12 things wrong in this picture. How many can you find?



ANSWERS: 1) Three people on one machine 2) Dangerously long scarf on rider 3) Sign showing incorrect speed limit of 90km/h 4) Someone rode on thin ice (tracks) 5) Rider following railway tracks 6) Rider following too closely (upper right) 7) Same riders on wrong side of trail 8) Littering (pop can) 9) Improper clothing (denims) 10) Rider (child) not wearing proper helmet 11) Riders stopped on tracks 12) Rider drinking alcohol (foreground)



Does this look like a fun way to spend a Saturday in December? Early grooming often comes with heavy consequences. Lend your club a hand in the early season and help them avoid scenes like this one.

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North Star Club welcomes visitors

by Derryl McLean

Finch North Star Snowmobile Club first opened in the late 1950s.

This club would like to invite snowmobilers to stop in on their way by to get warmed up and visit with snowmobilers from other places. Our club is open for families to come in. Our members will help with directions or help you get back on the trail again.

We're located on the southeast side of NVSA trail system. Our club will be giving young driving training courses. For more information contact 613-984-2593. We hope all snowmobilers have a safe, fun winter.

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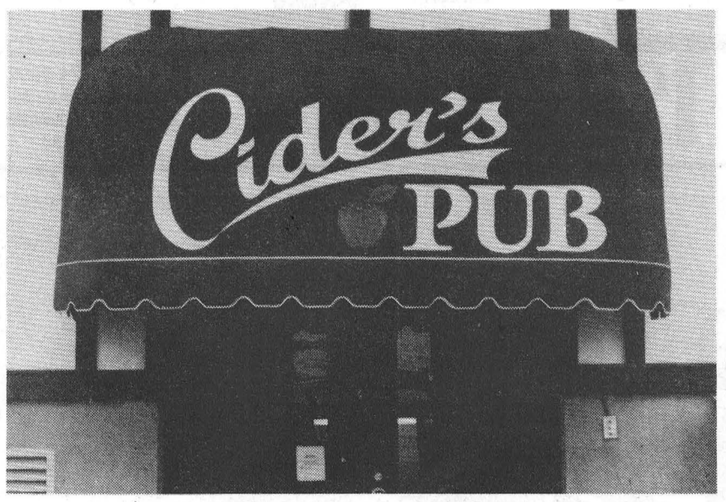

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The 12 days of sledding

On the first day of sledding my true love said to me
"Get a move on if we're to meet Charles, Laurie, Neil and Debbie."
So the Out-to-Lunch-Bunch went off into the snow like a wave,
Straders' with their Yamy's and Charlie with the Rave.

On the second day of sledding to SDSC we would go,
Wow! Look at the crowd here, now that we finally have snow.
The talk around the club is in a high anxious pitch
With the odd person still questioning Janice about that certain ditch.

On the third day of sledding, just happened it was Christmas eve.
Now who could that pot-bellied reindeer be, hauling that Christmas tree?
So with the familiar scent of exhaust fumes in the air and everyone ready to ride
Led by our antler-driving Christmas tree we made our way to Riverside.

On the fourth day of sledding I thought we'd take a break
But the way the snow comes and goes we had too much at stake.
Upon opening our gifts, inspected all our jewels and furs,
Who should be the first people we meet, why it's those damn Wiggaders!

On the fifth day of sledding, Boxing Day this would be,
Out we went again, just to see what we could see.
Following a trail of broken parts and pieces and a handlebar that looked flat
Could only mean one thing — Niger must be out with that darn Cat.

On the sixth day of sledding, wing night was its store
But of course not without stopping at Shooters' door.
Down east we would travel like the sound of rolling thunder,
And upon inspection of that tree I think someone had a big blunder.

On the seventh day of sledding we opted for a clubhouse day.
The fire was all stoked for tonight with huge bales of hay.
With Cat in one corner and Semi-Santa in the other
We threw a log on the fire and kept them warm with a Bombardier cover.

On the eighth day of sledding looking more and more like rain,
We were entertained all day with Luc and his Choo-Choo train.
But as much as the day was overcast, dark and grim
Round the corner came the "Over the Hill Gang" led by Slim-Skin.

On the ninth day of sledding, Cedar Glen Golf Course was the plan.
The roar was deafening, big sleds/small sleds, liquid and fan
With our tail lights bobbing through the snow we made our way home.
Bellies full of wings, rum and such, some began to groan.

On the tenth day of sledding on the eve of a New Year,
To Dunbar Club we would travel if we could see our way clear.
Forty, maybe 50 sleds, yes it really was quite a sight,
One by one our tail lights disappeared as we made way into the night.

On the eleventh day of sledding still no rest to behold
For this day would surely bring out only the brave and the bold
With temperatures of nearly 40 below the only sound our teeth made was brrrrrr...
Yet there were Polaris, Yamahas and Skidoo, I guess those Cats just wouldn't purr.

Which brings us to the twelfth day of sledding we're all so thankful for
We made it through another holiday, still ready for much more.
So when you're out sledding and want to share a joke or hot cup of tea,
Drop by anytime, you're always welcome to our little club, SDSC!

Mountain Trail Blazers Snowmobile Club Inc.

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Saturday, Feb. 14, 1998
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Mountain Township Ag Hall Registration
10:30 am-1 pm
Supper $4.99
Dance to *Ambush* • $10 in advance

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For more information contact
President Denis Puddy
989-6148

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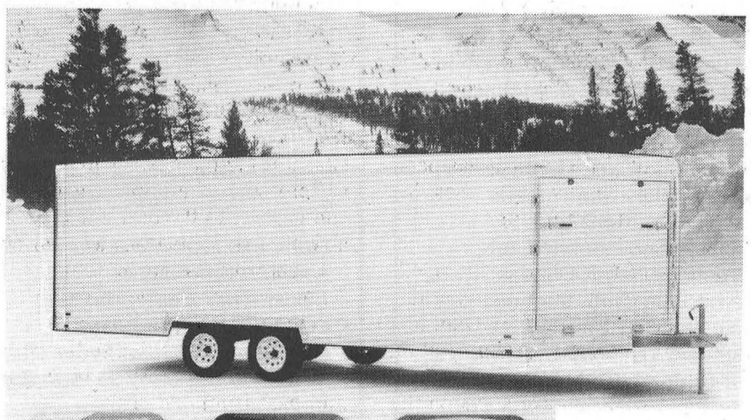
Coming Events:
DRIVER'S TRAINING COURSE
Saturday, November 29, 1997
Iroquois, 9 am-4 pm
Must pre-register
Contact Martin Habraken, 613-652-1693

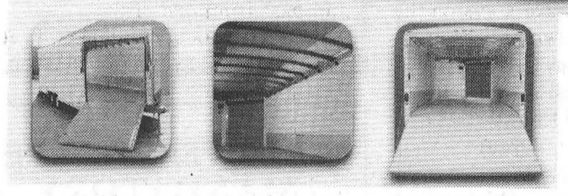
Meeting:
ELECTION OF OFFICERS
Tuesday, November 25, 1997
Haddo Recreation Centre, 8 pm
Must be member of SDSC

SOUTH DUNDAS SNOWMOBILE RALLY
February 21, 1998
at SDSC Clubhouse
Registration 10 am-12 noon
Cash and Prizes
SDSC meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month
Clubhouse open on weekends

Club Contact - **Jeff Whitteker**
613-774-0910 • 613-652-2467

HEAD FOR THE TRAILS





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Trail wardens given extra incentive

by Jeff Whitteker

Thinking of riding the trails without a permit this year? Well, think again.

The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs had its convention this past summer in London and 260 snowmobile clubs across the province were present. The clubs voted unanimously to give the volunteer trail wardens the power to charge a $150 permit fee to riders who failed to possess a valid trail permit while riding on the trails.

This year the Nation Valley Snowmobile Association will have a number of new trail wardens.

Without the money from the trail permits snowmobiling would not be what it is today. The money goes directly back into the trails for grooming, paying groomer operators, signs, fuel and administration of the association.

If you meet a warden on the trail give him a wave of support. After all they are volunteers and they are helping to protect the sport. If anyone would like to become a trained trail warden contact your local club.





Mountain Trail Blazers clubhouse is a welcomed sight for snowmobilers.

Mountain Trail Blazers Snowmobile Club

More that 'just another snowmobile club'

If you were asked to name the local service clubs in the area, would you include the Mountain Trail Blazers Snowmobile Club? When asked about local tourist attractions, do you think of the excellent snowmobile trails that bring people into the area? Since joining with five other clubs in the Nation Valley Snowmobile Association in 1994, the area trails have improved substantially.

Our trails are wider and better groomed than they were just a few years ago. As a result of this, snowmobilers from other areas who used to pass through now look upon the Mountain and Nation Valley trails as a destination. Of course this increase in traffic translates into increased sales at the local gas bars, restaurants and other businesses that cater to the snowmobiling community.

Local businesses are encouraged to consider advertising their services to snowmobilers. You may want to leave copies of your brochures at the Mountain Trail Blazers clubhouse or you might want to have signs on the trails that direct snowmobilers to your place of business.

As with any other non-profit organization, snowmobile clubs rely on the support of the community and the members who volunteer their time and talents. Over the years the Mountain Trail Blazers have received much appreciated support from local businesses and community members.

Important community support is seen in attendance at various club events such as the Grass Drags, the Annual Sweetheart Rally and Dance, pancake breakfasts and more. And of course we shouldn't forget that without the support of the landowners who allow the trails to cross their property, none of this would be possible.

Although the primary focus of the Mountain Trail Blazers is to improve local snowmobiling, the club is community services-minded. As a non-profit organization, the club hosts several fundraising activities each year. Occasionally the Trail Blazers find themselves in a position to help other charitable organizations and causes. In the past, the club was able to make donations to a variety of organizations including local schools, hospitals and other community groups.

If you are interested in becoming a member, it's as easy as buying a trail pass from one of the participating local merchants. If you don't own a snowmobile and would still like to participate, you can become a social member.

For more information contact Denis Puddy at 989-6148, Charlie Berends at 826-2414, Edwin Duncan at 989-2838 or Joyce McCann at 258-2697.

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Lannin's Garage, Chesterville
Derrick Merkley, Morewood
Lucky Dollar Store, Morewood
Dave Stewart, Morewood
417 Plein Air, Embrun
D&T Repair, Winchester
Deeks Auto Electric, Winchester
Jeff Whitteker, Winchester
Kelville's (MacEwen's Gas Bar), Chesterville
Mike's, Crysler
John Herfkens, Crysler
Brent VandenBosch, Chesterville
Kevin Mackler, Chesterville
Shane Signs, Crysler
Williamsburg Garage, Williamsburg
Cedar Glen Golf Course, Bouck's Hill
Verlin Gallinger, Ingleside
Allan Crowder, Bouck's Hill
Robert Barkley, Winchester Springs
Pap's Service, Glen Stewart
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Pittston General Store, Pittston
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Tommy's Automotive, Iroquois
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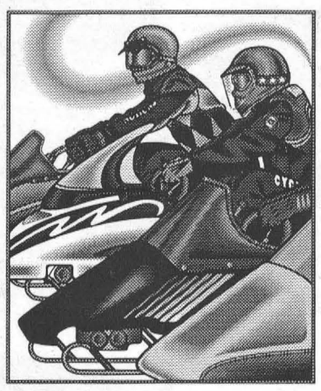

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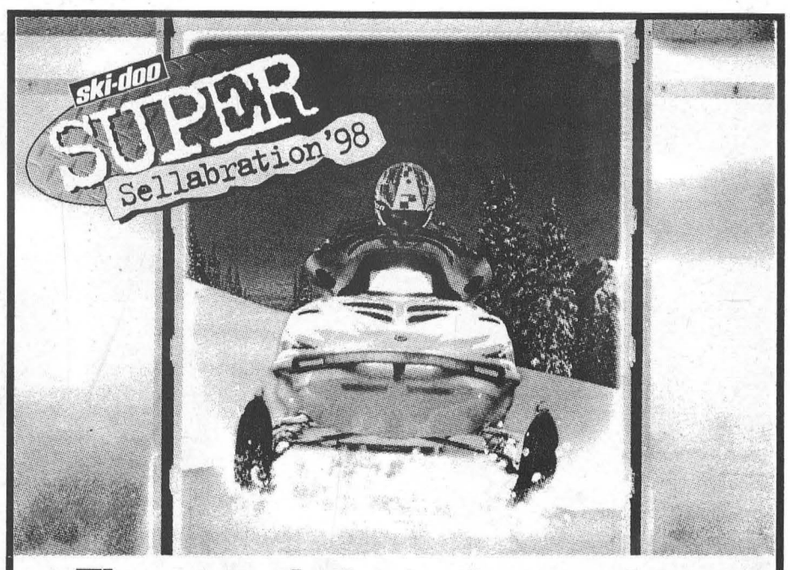

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Snowarama provides funds for child's computer

WINCHESTER — Blazing trails to raise cold cash has given a local boy the opportunity to learn about bites and bytes.

The pairing of the Nation Valley Snowmobile Association and the Chesterville Rotary Club in the annual Snowarama fundraising event helped Peter and Amy De Jong buy a computer for their son, Codie.

Codie, who has cerebral palsy, tires very quickly when printing with a pen and paper. But when he sits in front of the keyboard, he seems to have more stamina, says the mother of the Grade 5 student at Elma Public School.

"The computer helps him," adds Amy. "He's learning quite a bit."

The De Jong's purchase was made possible with funds raised from the 1996 Snowarama event. The Winchester-area couple sought financial help from the provincial government, but it offered them only enough money to purchase a small typewriter.

The Chesterville Rotary Club gladly dipped into reserves to the fill the void.

"It was very nice of them," says Amy. "This is not the first time they've helped us."

The fundraising team has helped at least four local families overcome financial obstacles using funds raised from last year's Snowarama.



Fourth installment

A cheque for $2,000 was presented to Kayleigh Boyd and the Camp Merrywood at Perth by the Chesterville Rotary Club — a fourth installment of a $10,000 pledge. Back row, left: Terry Boyd, Martin Derks (Rotary Snowarama Chairman), Ray Godard, Craig Campbell (Rotary Easter Seal Chairman), Brent VandenBosch (NVSA Snowarama Chairman), and Kayleigh Boyd. *Courtesy photo*

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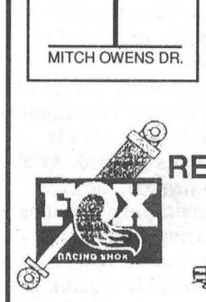

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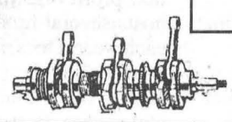

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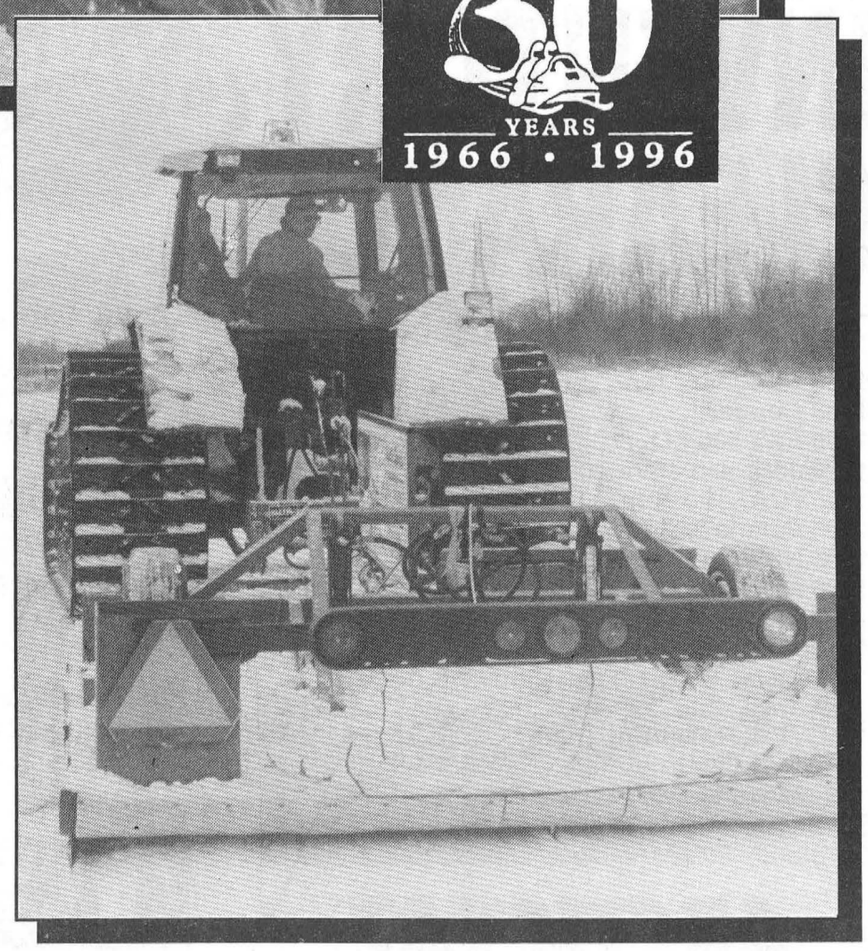
Above: Mike Schafer (far left) and Trapper Biggs (right) of "The Bear" joined Betty Vanden Bosch, Scott MacLellan "Timmy" and Kayleigh Boyd "Tammy", during Chesterville's Snowarama. Right: Nation Valley Snowmobile Association's trail groomer on duty. *Press photos – Fetterly & Wolfe*

OFSC
THE HEARTBEAT OF SNOWMOBILING
30
YEARS
1966 • 1996



Snowmobile Showcase

Ontario Snowmobile Safety Week

February 2-8, 1997

Supplement to Winchester Press, Chesterville Record, Morrisburg Leader, Iroquois Chieftain, Wednesday, February 5, 1997 and Russell Villager, Thursday, February 6, 1997

In 30th year

1996-97 marks the 30th anniversary of organized snowmobiling in Ontario.

The word 'organized' is highlighted because within this concept lies the success of snowmobiling in the province. Without an extensive local club network and the strong central voice of the OFSC, and without 30 years of planning, programs and policies, snowmobiling would likely be underdeveloped today as it remains in so many other provinces and states.

Prior to 1967, grassroots snowmobile clubs existed in some parts of Ontario, each working independently, primarily as social entities.

On February 4 of that Canadian Centennial Year, 10 founding clubs gathered in Midland to create *The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs* and changed the face of snowmobiling forever.

Club membership to the OFSC was set at a $10 registration fee as well as $1 per member in annual dues. The OFSC was not incorporated.

Today, the OFSC is Ontario's pre-eminent non- profit association and the largest snowmobiling organization in the world. Today, the federation operates the world's longest continuous trail network and the most successful user pay program in international recreation. Today, the OFSC is self-sustaining and controls its own destiny.

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Mountain Trail Blazers

Club donates over $14,000

MOUNTAIN — The Mountain Trail Blazers began in November, 1971 with 40 members and Harold Boyce as the president. This season there are 170 members. The Blazers became incorporated in 1975.

For the first year meetings were held in the Mountain United Church Hall (now the Mountain Community Hall). In 1972 the club's meetings were moved to the Mountain School House. When the school house finally closed, the members met at each other's homes.

The Trail Blazers held their first snowmobile draw in 1973. Williamsburg's Lorne Empey was the winner of a $750 Snow-Jet from Carl-Don Equipment in Mountain.

The first groomer, an Alpine, was also purchased in 1973.

In 1993 the club rented Don Erwin's cottage and used it for the following two seasons until they leased some land and purchased a building from John Havekes in the fall of 1995.

A lot of work has been done to the building which has resulted in a comfortable club house available to everyone.

The Mountain Trail Blazers joined the Nation Valley Snowmobile Association, along with five other clubs, in order to aid in the club's grooming.

The Mountain Trail Blazers sign and maintain about 150 km of trails.

Regular meetings are held every second and fourth Thursday of the month.

Throughout the year, the club holds many functions for the their members as well as their families.

Over the past year, the Trail Blazers have donated over $14,000 to local organizations.

Mountain Township Fire Department — $2,000

Mountain Township Agricultural Society — $500

Easter Seals — $500

Winchester District Memorial Hospital — $1,000

North Dundas Minor Hockey Association — $500

Mountain Station Park — $500

CHEO — $1,000

Township of Mountain Canada Day Activities — $400

CPR Course — $2,045

Seaway District High School — $1,000

Kemptville and District High School — $1,500

North Dundas District High School — $1,000

Mountain Community Hall — $500

House of Lazarus — $1,688.28

Hallville Recreation Association — $500



'74 Blazers

Members of the Mountain Trail Blazers Snowmobile Club pictured in front of the club house in 1974. Front, left, Heather Alexander, Valerie Madden, Verna Simzer, Susan Percival, Anita Simzer. Back, left, Bruce Spong, Lloyd Madden, Gerald Simzer, Andrew Percival, Larry Simms, Harold Boyce, Ewart Simms.

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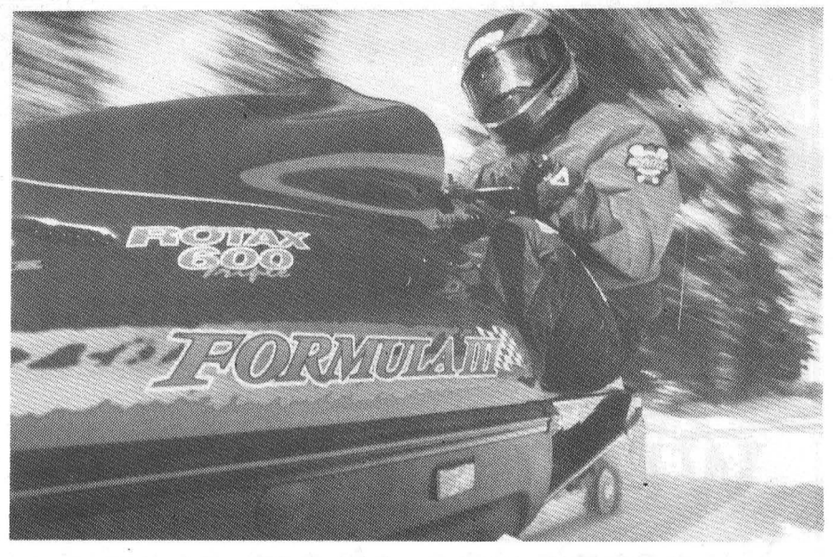

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Osgoode Carleton Snowmobile Club

Volunteers make season successful

by Ann Renwick

METCALFE — The Osgoode Carleton Snowmobile Club has been around for 20 years.

It has different names but for the last 10 years or so, it has had this name. The club has went from only a small number of people to the present number of 420 members.

How does one get involved with a snowmobile club you may ask? Well, it's very simple. When you buy a Trail Pass you automatically are a member of the club who is selling the pass. As well, you then join the thousands of snowmobilers throughout Ontario who make up the Ontario Federation of Snowmobilers (OFSC).

Most clubs hold meetings once a month. The Osgoode Carleton club holds their meetings on the first Thursday of each month at the Metcalfe fire hall.

The club is made up of volunteers who help everyone enjoy the snowmobile season. We have dances, rallies, cook-outs, young driver training, wardens as well as participate in local parades.

It takes a lot of time and volunteers to make the season successful. We start in the early fall with clearing and opening the trails, putting up signs to late spring when we close the trail.

We even continue throughout the summer to make improvements. We always welcome everyone out to our meetings so please come out and see what your club is all about.

If you have any questions contact the club's president Dave Dow at 821-2385 or public relations officer Ann Renwick at 821-3392.



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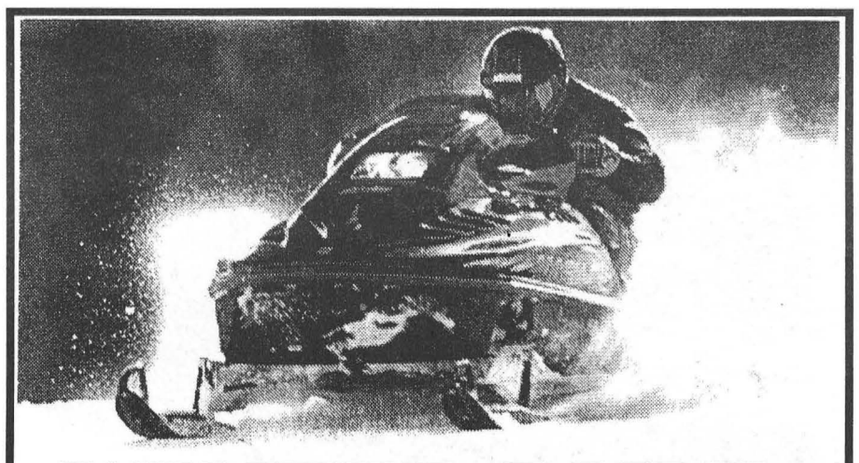

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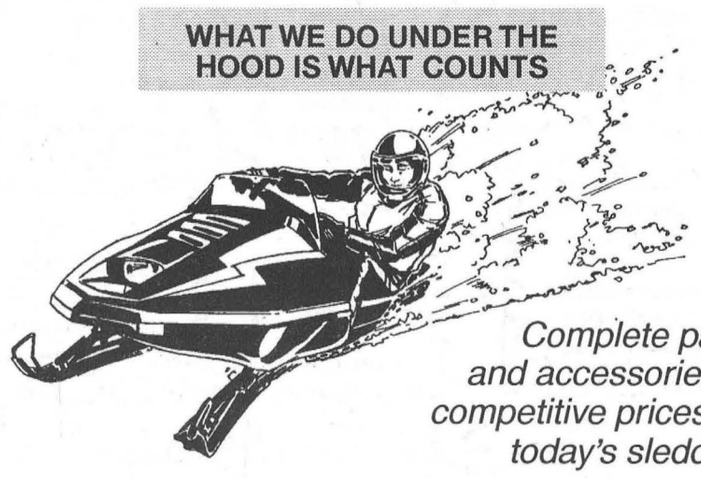

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More enthusiasts taking to the trails

Stephanie Wolfe
Press staff

IROQUOIS — Enthusiasm for the sport of snowmobiling is on the rise, say local authorities.

With more than 600 kilometres of trails from Crysler to Cardinal, the Nation Valley Snowmobile Association (NVSA) has approximately 650 members compared to 509 in December 1995.

Lise Godard, NVSA treasurer, believes more people are joining the club because the trails are in such good condition.

"The grooming is so good that the trails are great," she said. "I think everyone wants to see the association work."

"The overall enthusiasm for the sport is definitely at an all time high," added Dennis Casselman, co-owner of Cedar Glen Golf Course.

The golf course is often crowded with snowmobilers who take the opportunity to warm up and relax at the facilities, explained Casselman. "We've had a few weekends with much more traffic than last year," he added.

It's no surprise why more and more people are snowmobiling. The trails are well-maintained and driving through heavily-wooded bush is breathtaking, say local snowmobilers.



Groomers keep trails well-maintained in the area so snowmobilers can enjoy 600 kilometres of trails from Crysler to Cardinal. Press Photo — Wolfe

In addition, there are many rest areas for snowmobilers to stop along the trails. Most of the six area clubs — Winchester Township, Mountain Trail Blazers, South Dundas, Williamsburg, Finch North Star, and Mainville/Pittston — have their own club houses.

Although the weather has not been great this winter for snowmobiling, it's much better than last year.

"Last year, we had snow early and then it left us," NVSA vice-president Jeff Whitteker said. "But this winter has been pretty good."

PATROLLING THE TRAILS

Approximately 40 trail wardens patrol area trails and check for permits and can charge snowmobilers for trespassing on the spot.

"We're not the OPP but we do have a lot of power," explained Whitteker, who is also in charge of wardens. "There is great pressure among snowmobilers to get passes otherwise there will be (no money to ensure) smooth trails."

Whitteker added that wardens also act as a liaison between clubs, snowmobilers and landowners.

Landowners are often approached by wardens and members of snowmobile clubs for permission to put a trail on part of their property.

GROOMING THE TRAILS

The NVSA has two groomers who spend 70 consecutive hours clearing the trails. The organization recently received $32,000 from the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs which it used towards the cost of a new groomer.

The groomers are continually levelling the snow on the trails to ensure the best snowmobiling conditions, said Whitteker.

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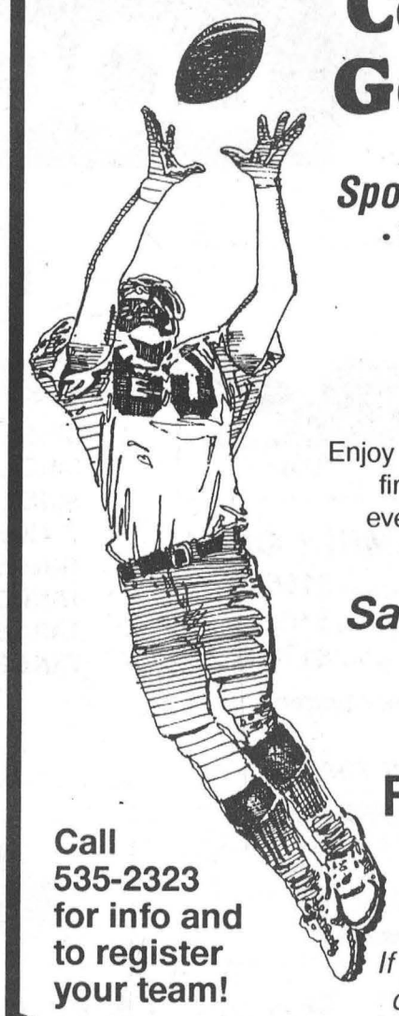

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South Dundas Snowmobile Club

Club busy all year long

by Debbie Strader

IROQUOIS — In 1971 a group of seven couples huddled outside around a campfire and decided they needed to build a hut to call home.

Each of these couples donated $100 and with lumber from Earl Barkley's sawmill and some remains of the Crysler Marina boathouse, the Cedar Grove Lodge was born.

Many years of snowmobiling, summer picnics, Christmas parties, rearing of children and good times with friends were had in that tiny building.

Cedar Grove Lodge was abandoned in the early 1980s after a few years of poor winter conditions and more responsibilities at work and home for those members.

In 1994 a new purpose arose for the clubhouse — a new home for South Dundas Snowmobile Club. We sure enjoy the stories of the 'good old days' of two of the original members, Freda and Ron Whitteker.

The SDSC, being the south end of the Nation Valley Snowmobile Association's trails, is responsible for trails from Iroquois to the Church Road, north to Williamsburg and to Brinston.

We now have over 100 OFSC permit holders and several social members.

As well as being snow-conscious, we are socially active throughout the year. Through organized events such as the Haddo Jamboree, being held on August 9 this year, along with the Haddo recreation association we are able to help clubs such as the Boy Scouts and the Haddo recreation hall.

The SDSC Water Craft Rally has also been a popular event and will be held again this year during the Iroquois Summer Fest. The rally is run similar to a snowmobile rally only travel is by boat. Come out to see if that snow machine will stay on top of the water this year.

On August 19, the SDSC will be helping with Volley for Cancer at Carl and Ruby Van Allen's farm. Last year, this event raised over $12,000 for cancer research.

Many hours of volunteer work have been given in trail forming and brushing, signing of trails and upkeep but we still find the time to enjoy the many excellent trails of the NVSA.

Thanks go out to all of those volunteers, club members and landowners for their support.

The SDSC's club house is open most weekends for the season and we invite all to stop by.

NATION VALLEY SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION
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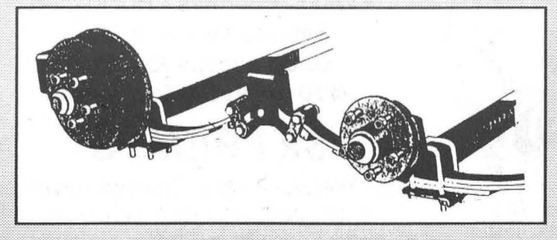

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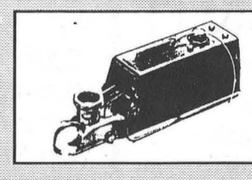
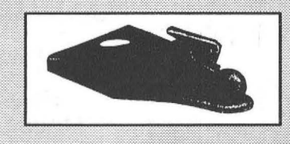
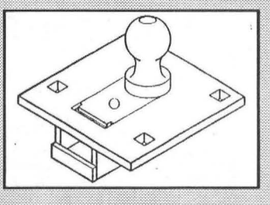

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Positive feedback on new trails

by Greg Erwin
Nation Valley Snowmobile Association

Last year, the winter ended in mid-January. Hopefully it begins there this year.

Grooming where we can has been slow due to poor snow conditions. Countless hours have been put in by hundreds of volunteers just to have Mother Nature start playing with the thermostat.

If you made it out, I'm sure you've noticed a lot of changes from last year's trail system. As always, take your time during the first few trips. Make sure you're not on a trail which no longer exists. Fences may now block it or bridges may have been removed.

Also, thanks to the unusual weather, some trails did not get opened until late, as some farmers left their cattle out until January delaying the opening of gates. Wet areas can't be brushed or signed until after the freeze-up. As well, the wet fall did not allow for the leveling of the plowed fields.

With the low snow levels, some obstructions, which are normally covered, are still exposed or worse yet, just under the surface.

If you come across any branches on the trail, please take a minute to remove them. If you are unable, contact your trail boss but remember, this is your trail system and it is as much your responsibility as anyone's.

Several changes of note to our system that do have some people confused.

The Riverside Trail from Brinston to Stampville got lost when we printed our maps. It is still there, however, groomed and being maintained by the Riverside Snowmobile Club.

Since the Pittston Mainsville maps were printed, we have been able to re-route the trail at Brinston for better access to fuel.

The trail that used to run through the community park on the west side of town, now runs on the east side of town right behind the Brinston General Store and continues south to Dixons Corners where fuel is also available. When trail the crosses County Road 18, between Dixons Corners and Dundela one spur goes south then west to Matilda Hall. The other trail heads east along the road for about a mile then heads south. This is a new trail that intercepts Riverside's trail just a little west of the South Dundas Snowmobile Club.

South Dundas put in this trail to help create a groomer loop and better access to their club from the north. This is a very nice trail with only a couple of plowed fields.

A lot of positive comments have also been received about the new trail north of the Mountain Club.

Winchester has a new trail loop around Chesterville allowing greater access to services. So please take your time. Respect our landowners by staying on the trail.

On a final note. Every year when we start preparing trails we come across sabotaged and/or stolen signs. These signs are there to improve the safety of the system.

The sign you steal could save a life.

If you helped raise funds or prepare the trails, thanks and enjoy. If you want to help, please contact your club rep or myself. We're all volunteers and we're all responsible.



Membership special winners

The winners of the Nation Valley Snowmobile Club's membership special are:

1st: Teresa Berends, Osgoode ($200 gift certificate); 2nd: Jack Berends, Osgoode ($100 gift certificate); 3rd: Arlene Bryan, Mountain ($50 gift certificate); 4th: Charles Bailey, Brinston ($50 gift certificate); 5th: John Vanderlaan, Winchester ($50 gift certificate); 6th: Scott Froats, Brinston ($50 gift certificate).

Snowmobile draw for a 1997 Arctic Cat Cougar snowmobile — Doris Riddell, Iroquois.

Weather hampers grooming activities

Again, Mother Nature is throwing some bad curves at us. The fall crop was late coming off, then the rain, our landowners were late getting the plowing down and then the frost.

This in turn did not give us the time required to disk or harrow the plowed ground the trail runs on. Because of this, the grooming process is very slow and very rough. Add to that the minimal amount of snow that we have received, it compounds the duties our trail grooming co-ordinators are faced with.

Due to the rough conditions, both our grooming units have had their share of breakdowns.

The co-ordinators are trying very hard to keep down time to a minimum so that the units are out there.

In closing, we want to mention that if Mother Nature gives us some favorable weather conditions, we will be out there getting those trails into shape.

Message from NVSA president Ray Godard

Fellow snowmobilers:
The Nation Valley Snowmobile Association is now in its third season.

We would not be where we are today without the help of the many, many volunteers who helped make it happen.

Our volunteers help in many ways. Some do trail work, make signs, put up signs, brush trails, get permission slips signed, go to fairs to sell tickets, go to meetings, fill out paper work, help serve food and man the door at our events, repair groomers and the list goes on.

Not only do they give their time, but they also provide their own equipment and repair that equipment at their own cost to provide us with the trail system that we have.

To all these volunteers, I say a big thank you for their efforts.

In closing, I hope that Mother Nature co-operates with us so that we can have a great season.



Trail wardens trained snowmobile ambassadors

MORRISBURG — They manage over 600 km of trails and training.

Hosted by the Nation Valley Snowmobile Association, the trail warden training course, held here on Jan. 22, attempts to keep snowmobiling safe and fun.

The wardens act as a liaison between the snowmobile clubs, snowmobilers and landowners. Because a large portion of the Nation Valley Snowmobile Association trails are located on private property, the onus is on the users to pay attention to signage and remain on the trails.

NVSA vice-president, Jeff Whitteker, explained that landowners allow snowmobilers to use portions of their property and hope all of the rules are followed in return.

Whitteker added that if an unhappy property owner chose to, they could close the portions of the trail crossing their land thereby shutting down 20 to 30 miles of trails.

The vice-president also pointed out wardens, who act as public relation officers, can lay charges against trespassers. He did, however, that noted that no charges were laid last year and no major problems were encountered.

In order to travel the trails in the NVSA district (as well as the Ontario Federation Of Snowmobile Club trails) snowmobilers must have a valid trail permit, which at this time of year is worth $110.

To insure the use of a permit, the NVSA sets up inspection stations throughout the season. Permits should be displayed on the machine's windshield or hood for easy identification.

Fast figures

46,000 — total kilometres of OFSC snowmobile trails. At over twice the length of the provincial highway network, they are the world's longest continuous recreational trail system.

190,000 — number of family snowmobilers belonging to the OFSC, the largest association in international snowmobiling.

$652 million — snowmobile-related dollars spent by OFSC members.

175,000 — best guesstimate of the number of active snowmobilers in Ontario.

60 per cent — per cent of active sleds with OFSC trail permits.

$8,200,000 — total dollars derived annually by snowmobile clubs from trail permit sales.

$12,000,000 — dollars spent by snowmobile clubs on trail operations and grooming.

$110 — regular price of a 1996/97 trail permit, good anywhere, anytime.

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