



Buckhorn District Snowmobile Club



*Our Club is celebrating 41 Years
of serving the regions snowmobilers.*



2017/2018 President's Message

As I write this, the days are getting shorter, the nights are getting cooler, and the trees are beginning to turn, thoughts of last season's rides and the rides to come start swirling through our heads. Memories of the last two season's rather dismal performances are pushed away by the anticipation of a possibly epic winter to come. That's the thing about snowmobilers, we are a resolutely optimistic bunch and it shows in the dedication of permit purchasers and club volunteers who continue to support our sport year after year through the good, the bad and the downright ugly seasons Mother Nature can throw at us.

This year the OFSC celebrates 50 years of organised snowmobiling, fifty years! That means we have had a provincial network of interconnected snowmobile trails almost as long as I have been on this planet and I am proud to say I have been involved in the sport since an early age with my first memories being of my parents loading us kids into an old trappers sleigh towed behind a 1967 Snow Cruiser and heading out for a day of riding with our grandparents. We didn't go that far but we had a blast and those early days cemented my love for the sport. Fast forward forty plus years and a lot things have changed, Sleds are way more reliable, a day's ride takes you much further, the trail network is vastly improved, our lives have gotten a whole lot busier but we still find time to get out and ride whenever we can.

The glue that holds the sport of organised snowmobiling together is the volunteers, whether at the club, district or provincial level a small group of like minded people dedicate an extraordinary amount of their time ensuring we all have the best trails to ride.

Provincially there are roughly 108,000 permits sold annually with 212 clubs maintaining 32,000km of trails. Those clubs for the most part are made up of a small group of volunteers, 6-10 board members and maybe a few core volunteers. Think about this, 212 clubs X average of 10 volunteers = 2,120 people out of 108,000 permit purchasers, that's barely 2% of the ridership! Consider this; in our club the average age of a volunteer is 66 yrs old with me being the youngest at 52. Yes the argument is there that retirees have more time to devote to volunteering, and obviously they do but we can't expect an older volunteer base to do all the heavy lifting so to speak with trail maintenance, bridge work , groomer repairs, etc. We need younger people to pitch in.

The bulk of our maintenance work takes place in the fall and early winter. This is the time when the boats and watercraft get put away, cottages are closed up, bikes are parked and you find yourself with some extra time on your hands. Put it to good use, contact your local club, we will gladly accept any help whatever skill set you possess. You may not be comfortable with trail work or servicing equipment, maybe you know the trail system and could help with signage or possibly grooming, consider joining the board etc. We will never refuse any offer of help so come out if even for a half day and help to make your trails the best they can be.

Last season we completed the final leg of improvements to E 108, from the E 108/506 south junction up to the E 108/506 north junction where we meet up with The Paudash Trail Blazers. This involved grading the trail base, brushing and gravelling of numerous hills that had eroded badly over the years due in part to increasing summer traffic and the severity of weather over the past few years. This allowed us to get out on the snow earlier with less impact on the equipment and get a base down much earlier, resulting in pretty decent trails up to the meltdown on Family Day weekend. As well, last season we implemented a district wide grooming program which, for our club, meant shared grooming of trails with Twin Mountains and Paudash Trailblazers. Although the season was short all clubs involved agree this was a very successful arrangement for all and we will continue to work together to expand our grooming approach.

Spring brought us unprecedented rainfall which resulted in numerous washouts that will need to be repaired before the season starts. (The life of a club volunteer is never dull!), we have repairs to complete on a couple of bridges and the inescapable yearly brushing to attend to so once again if you were considering volunteering we would gladly put you to work.

You can contact us through Facebook, email bdscinfo@gmail.com , or telephone 705-657-1296 . We look forward to an awesome season for 2018 with lots of snow, plenty of grooming hours and thousands of km of trails available to ride. Remember as you head out riding this winter the land you are crossing is most likely private property. Stay on the trail, respect the property and above all if you happen to meet up with a landowner thank them for the privilege of using their property. Without the landowners there would be no trails.

Think Snow, ride safe and volunteer if you can!
Your President,

Scott Boon



2018 Trail Permit Sales:

This year again permits are being sold exclusively on-line. Last year was the first year for the revised permit process and from all accounts it was straightforward and without significant issues. While the process has some hurdles for the non-electronic crowd, the amount of challenges were well below expectations so the revised process will continue!

Any questions can be directed via email to permits@ofsc.on.ca or visit www.ofsc.on.ca

Permit Buying Made Easy!

SIMPLE, CONVENIENT, SECURE, AND EASY AS...

1. Go online at www.ofsc.on.ca
2. Ensure you have A) a valid email address, and B) Vehicle Ownership info
3. Make sure you choose "**Buckhorn District Snowmobile Club**", place your order and pay by credit card (not American Express), VISA Debit card or Visa gift card
4. Receive your permit(s) in the mail.

Trail Permit Pricing 2017/2018 Season			
Permit Type	On or Before November 1/17	On or Before December 1/17	Dec 2/17 Onwards>>
Regular Seasonal Permit	\$190.00 (+\$7.50 processing fee)	\$220.00 (+\$7.50 processing fee)	\$270.00 (+\$7.50 processing fee)
Classic Permit Sled Year 1999 Or older	\$150.00 (+\$7.50 processing fee)	\$150.00 (+\$7.50 processing fee)	\$180.00 (+\$7.50 processing fee)
Multi Day Permit (2 Consecutive Day minimum)	N/A	N/A	\$35.00/day

Ministry Of Transport Guidelines you should know!

Driver requirements

Everyone who drives a snowmobile in Ontario must:

- be at least 12 years old
- have a valid driver's licence or motorized snow vehicle operator's licence (below)
- register the snowmobile with the Ministry of Transportation
- have insurance

Where you can drive a snowmobile depends on your age and the licence you hold.

Licensing & document requirements

Drivers must carry the following documents with them at all times:

- your driver's licence, a valid motorized snow vehicle operator's licence (MSVOL) or a snowmobile driver's licence from another jurisdiction
- snowmobile registration permit
- insurance card

If you don't have a driver's licence and you're 12 years of age or older, a valid MSVOL will allow you to drive a snowmobile on trails. Contact your local snowmobile club to get more information about the MSVOL program or visit the [Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs website](#).

Failing to produce any of these documents to a police officer or conservation officer when asked could result in a fine of up to \$1,000.

Where snowmobile riders can drive, depending on their age and type of driver's licence.

Your age and licence	Where you can drive
Age 16 and over WITH a valid Ontario driver's licence, MSVOL or snowmobile licence from another jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Snowmobile trails• Across a road, where permitted• On roadways, where permitted
Age 12 years or older WITH a valid MSVOL or a licence from another jurisdiction	Snowmobile trails only
Any age with no valid Ontario driver's licence, MSVOL or snowmobile licence from another jurisdiction	Private property only
Under age 12	Private property only

Where to ride

You CAN ride:

- on your own property
- on private trails belonging to organizations of which you are a member
- on private property, with the owner's permission
- alongside public roads, between the shoulder and fence line (unless prohibited by the municipality)

You CAN'T ride:

- on certain high-speed roads (400-series highways, Queen Elizabeth Way, Ottawa Queensway, Kitchener-Waterloo Expressway)
- on the pavement of public roads where vehicles drive
- on the ploughed portion of the shoulder

Check with each municipality on snowmobile by-laws for roads within its boundaries.

Snowmobile trails

Ontario's snowmobile trail system is maintained by many local snowmobile clubs.

Trails are Patrolled by:

- the Ontario Provincial Police
- municipal police services
- conservation officers
- Snowmobile Trail Officer Patrol (STOP) officers

Most trails may require a trail permit. Check with the local snowmobile club to find out if you need one.

****For trails maintained by the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, you must have and display a valid trail permit affixed to the windshield or engine cowling of your snowmobile. This includes trails on private property, municipal property and land owned by the government.**

Rules of the road

Speed limits

Snowmobiles may not be operated at a greater rate of speed than:

- 50 km/h - on snowmobile trails
- 50 km/h - on roads where the speed limit is over 50 km/h
- 20 km/h - on roads where the speed limit is 50 km/h or less
- 20 km/h - in any public park or exhibition grounds

Helmets

Drivers and passengers must always wear a snowmobile helmet that meets the [standards approved](#) for motorcycle helmets, with the chin strap securely fastened. Everyone who rides on a cutter, sled or similar device towed by a snowmobile must also wear a helmet.

Towing

You must use a rigid tow-bar when towing a sled or similar device behind a snowmobile.

Driving while impaired

Never drive impaired by alcohol or drugs. It is against the law.

Alcohol, illegal drugs, even prescription and some over-the-counter drugs can slow your reaction time and affect your ability to make good decisions.

Penalties

If your BAC is 0.05 to 0.08 or you are impaired by a drug or a combination of a drug and alcohol (based on the results of a Standard Field Sobriety Test), your license could be suspended on the spot for up to 30 days.

If you are impaired with a BAC over 0.08, or if you fail or refuse to comply with alcohol or drug testing or you are impaired by a drug or a combination of a drug and alcohol (based on a Drug Recognition Expert evaluation), your license could be suspended on the spot for up to 90 days. You may also be charged with impaired driving under the Criminal Code of Canada.

If you are convicted of impaired driving on a snowmobile, you will lose your driving privileges for ALL TYPES of vehicles for at least one year. This includes cars, trucks motorcycles and commercial vehicles.

Remember: Exposure to extreme cold can lead to frostbite and hypothermia. Your risk goes up as the temperature goes down

Trails and Grooming:

Last newsletter we talked about the existence, development and maintenance of our systems trails. Nothing has changed so we thought some photos might be more appropriate to share the good, the sad, and the ugly nature of the trails..... **THE GOOD!**





The Sad.....

(early end of season, driving home),



and.....The Ugly!
Last season had far too much Ugly!

OFSC Assumptions for Trail Use

As an off-road experience...

Snowmobiling is an inherently risky activity. The OFSC assumes every rider using an OFSC Prescribed Trail understands and accepts that:

- All snowmobiles will be operated under a lawful trail use permit
- All operators and passengers willingly use the trails at their own risk
- Operators and passengers know and will obey the law, including The Occupiers' Liability Act, The Motorized Snow Vehicles Act and the Trespass to Property Act
- It is recognized and accepted that snowmobiling is essentially an off-road activity taking place in an unpredictable natural environment
- The OFSC is a volunteer-based organization with finite resources and manpower
- It is not practical, possible or desirable to maintain all trails uniformly or to remove all potential hazards
- The OFSC is providing the privilege of trail access without any guarantee of service or quality
- Operators and passengers will not consume alcohol prior to or while using the trails
- Operators and passengers will be prudent and responsible and shall ensure that snowmobiles are operated with appropriate care and control at all times
- Operators and passengers know how to snowmobile competently and understand that the operation of snowmobiles requires full cognitive abilities
- Weather conditions affect trails and snowmobile operation and they may change without warning
- The maximum speed on trails is 50 km/hr unless reduced by law or conditions
- There may be permitted users on the trail other than snowmobilers
- Operators will stay to the right of the trail, notwithstanding that there are no centre lines
- Operators know that there may be grooming or other maintenance activities under way at any time of the day or night which may take up the whole or any part of the trail and have the right of way
- Operators and passengers know that snowmobile trails are not engineered highways
- All operators and passengers know and will adhere to the principles published as the Safe Riders Pledge by the International Snowmobile Manufacturers' Association
- Operators and passengers are aware that emergency and cell phone service may not be available
- Operators and passengers are aware that there are generally no legal requirements for signage on trails and, when provided, it is only for assistance and convenience
- Operators and passengers know that snowmobiling on OFSC trails is regarded as a family-oriented activity
- Operators and passengers know the unique and particular dangers of ice crossing
- The grooming and maintenance of trails, when provided, is meant solely to enhance the comfort and enjoyment of the safe and prudent operators and passengers
- Operators and passengers will dress appropriately for all conditions and will have appropriate safety and emergency equipment at all times.

Events and Club Activities:

- Regular Club Meetings are held at 7PM on the 3rd Thursday of each calendar month, August thru May at the clubhouse located just east of Buckhorn on Hwy #36. Plan to attend, learn about our club and our activities and get involved in our great pastime.



or Follow us any time



- Each fall, just before the start of the snowmobiling season, Sledarama is held in Peterborough at the Memorial Center. This year it is the 20th Anniversary and will be held on Sunday November 19th. Plan to attend as this is one of the largest Snowmobiling Trade Shows in Ontario. Stop by our regions booth and say hello to some of our volunteers and pick up some great information.



- Family Day Weekend Trail BBQ. Each year on the Saturday on the Family Day Long Weekend, our club hosts a family friendly BBQ at the junction of Trail #509 and E108, known as the Goodpen Corner. Our 2017 had great weather, great turnout, but unfortunately marked the end of the snowmobiling season as the hot weather just wouldn't leave.



Check in regularly on our website, to stay current on the clubs activities and events,

www.bdsc.ca or



Our Board or Directors and their Roles:

President.....	Scott Boon
Vice President.....	Don Groves
Secretary.....	Gord Rance
Treasurer.....	Wayne Eastabrook
Equipment and maintenance.....	Scott Boon
Risk Management.....	Jim Wade
Grooming Operations.....	Scott Boon & Don Groves
Incidence Response.....	Scott Boon
Landowners Relations.....	Don Groves
Newsletter.....	Grant Sumler
Volunteer Co-ordinator.....	Charley Gall
Trails.....	Scott Boon & Don Groves
Clubhouse/Grounds.....	Doug Black
Critical Path.....	Crystal Groves
Communications/Website.....	Jim Wade
Health and Safety.....	Vern Kurz
Signage (Regulatory & Destination).....	Gord Rance
Special Events / Shows.....	Charley Gall
Office Manager.....	Marilyn Hinds

Along with the board of directors, the club is fortunate to have a group of volunteers who are critical to the success of the local trail maintenance programs and ongoing operations.



Directors can be contacted via the Club e-mail bdscinfo@gmail.com or phone (705) 657-1296

BUCKHORN DISTRICT SNOWMOBILE CLUB
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OFSC DISTRICT 2 CONTACTS: District Office e-mail dist2@snowbase.ca