



www.RiversideSnowmobileClub.ca

March, 2010

Season Review

The 2009-2010 Snowmobile season will be remembered for a number of things, some good, some not so good. Our pre-season trail prep activities were hampered by one of the wettest fall seasons in history. Not only did this make for some cold and sloppy working conditions as we replaced bridges, brushed trail and installed trail signs, it also proved to be a problem we would fight all winter. November brought us colder temperatures and some early frost which started to freeze the standing water on the trail system. While western Canada suffered through one of the coldest cold snaps in history with temps down as low as -50°C, Ontario never did see any sustained cold weather which was desperately needed. The result was a very soft trail base which became severely rutted due to unauthorized use by off road vehicles and standing water on the trails with a marginal ice cover. An early December snowfall allowed for 2 weeks of good riding before Christmas and brought renewed hopes for a great season. The arrival of January and February brought a number of things, mostly warm weather and rain, it did not bring any significant snow accumulation. Our neighbours in the Maritimes and the Eastern US suffered through record snowfalls for their areas while Ontario basked in the winter that never was. Our groomer operators battled continuously to keep trails safe and smooth but with all the water, no frost and no snow, trail conditions began to deteriorate and we could not recover.

Despite the weather, we did have some highlights. October saw our volunteer work crews replace 2 bridges to allow for safer riding in our area. In November our volunteers again were out getting signage ready for the season. In December the Fun Night and Sunday Breakfasts were well attended and enjoyed by all. In February we held our inaugural Nascar Day to celebrate the annual running of the Daytona 500. Approx 20 racing fans gathered to watch the race on our new flat

screen TV and cheer on their favourite driver. Many thanks to Barb Rabideau and Les Johnson for all their work in bringing these events to life. Also in February, we saw the launch of our new website, www.RiversideSnowmobileClub.ca. Everyone is encouraged to visit the site and provide some feedback through the Contact Us page. If you would like to receive things like the newsletter or Event updates via email please send us your contact info.

BRP Million Dollar Club Program

Once again Bombardier Recreational Products sponsored their Million Dollar Club Program. Based on the success last season, BRP and its Ski-Doo dealers committed to providing up to \$1 million for trail improvements to local snowmobile clubs. Thank you to **BRP** and **Jim's performance Plus** for their support of the Riverside Club by way of a cash contribution of \$730.00

Trail Report

If nothing else, this past winter has reinforced the need for good trail prep in the off season. Trails that had solid, well prepared bases were open sooner, easier to maintain and stayed open longer than trails without. All the water and lack of frost created several severe wash out conditions on a number of trails. Of particular concern are a number of areas along RS-12 and A104. Our plan over the summer is to address these issues by installing culverts/drainage/bridges. The work schedule is being developed and if you would like to volunteer some time to help get ready for next year, please complete the volunteer form on the web page.

Trail Report (continued)

In reviewing our trail operations, it has become apparent that we have a serious need for a new groomer in our club. First, Riverside, has one of the highest kilometres per groomer in the District at 161km/groomer. What this means is that it takes Riverside longer to groom its entire network than virtually all other clubs in the District. Second, our current groomer is almost 10 years old. And while we have not suffered any serious mechanical breakdown, many components are approaching the end of their useful life. And finally, if we were to suffer a major breakdown for an extended period, given our geographic configuration we believe we would have difficulty obtaining grooming support from our neighbouring clubs. With all this in mind, the club has started to explore the acquisition of a new groomer for the club. While the cost of an industrial groomer is significant (approx \$170M-\$180M), the OFSC can provide financial assistance via a grant program to complete the purchase. The Club is currently completing that application for submission to the OFSC in September. Grant approvals are generally provided in January, so if we are successful in obtaining funding we should see our new groomer for the 2011-2012 season.

Permit Sales

Just like the weather, permit sales were a good news/bad news story for 2009-2010. As seen below full season permit sales fell significantly. While the conditions were partly to blame, we did have reports of sleds without trail permits or registration. The entire trail system in Ontario is based on the honour system of user pay. Every dollar of permit sales is put back into our trail system. When people choose to ride our network without permits, they are asking you to pay for their recreational activities. Not only is this not fair, it is not sustainable in the long run. If enough people were to take the same attitude, it would spell the end of a province wide trail system which rivals any system in north America. The Riverside Club fully endorses and supports the OFSC program of "Saying No to riding with anyone who does not have a 2010 permit". The good news in Permit Sales is the introduction this season of the Classic Permit for sleds at least 15 years old. Across

District 1, almost 1000 classic sleds were permitted, with 27 of those in Riverside. It is believed that many of those sleds would not have been permitted if the Classic designation did not exist.

To all those who purchased a trail permit, thank you for your support and we look forward to riding with you again next year.

Full Season Permits	2008-2009	2009-2010
Before Dec 1st	291	225
After Dec 1 st	41	25
Total Season Permits	332	250
Classic Permits	Nil	27
Total Sales	322	277

WWW.RIVERSIDESNOWMOBILECLUB.CA

If you have not visited our new website, please make a point of doing so soon. And while you are there make sure you bookmark the site in your Favorites. We also encourage everyone to send us their email address so we can send updates on club activities, trail bulletins and volunteer work schedules. We are also looking for great trail photos and photos of folks volunteering for inclusion in the photo gallery. If you can help, please send your pictures to info@riversidesnowmobileclub.ca.

Club Meetings

Club meetings are held the first Tuesday of each Month commencing in September and ending in April. Meetings are held at the Riverside Clubhouse and start at 7:00PM. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Our final meeting for this season is set for April 13th. Make sure you attend to find out about our plans for off season trail work and other club activities.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer