

RICE LAKE SNOWDRIFTERS ANNUAL NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER, 2019

Hello Everyone,

Once again it is time to turn our thoughts to snowmobiling and the hope for snow. Our Board of Directors and volunteers are beginning work on the trails to provide you with the opportunity to ride the best trails in our area. Trail maintenance, brushing, signage etc. must occur before snowfall so we are ready. As always more volunteers mean we can open trails more quickly. We need volunteers. Even if you can only spare a few hours we could use you. Please contact any member of the Board of Directors (listed below) to find out how you can help. We are looking forward to seeing you on the trails this season.

Please read further for more details about what the OFSC, District 3 and the Rice Lake Snow Drifters are up to.



**GO
SNOWMOBILING
ONTARIO!**

The Rice Lake Snow Drifters are a member of the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs and District 3.

Information about us and our trails can be found at ricelakesnowdrifters.com, district3ofsc.ca or ofsc.on.ca

Permits are available for sale on Tuesday, October 1st online at ofsc.on.ca.

Seasonal Permits:

Until November 1st - \$190 plus \$7.50 processing fee

November 2nd – December 1st - \$220 plus processing fee

December 2nd on - \$270 plus processing fee

Classic Permits (1999 and older):

Until December 1st - \$150 plus \$7.50 processing fee

December 2nd on - \$180 plus \$7.50 processing fee

Multi Day Permits (2 consecutive days minimum)

\$35 per day

Please choose RICE LAKE SNOW DRIFTERS as your club to support. A portion of your permit dollars comes back to our District to support trails in this area.

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL NOT BE A
TRY OUR TRAILS FOR FREE THIS SEASON.**

It is imperative that if you ride the trails **you have a permit. The OPP and Trail Patrol will be out on the trails ensuring that this occurs. So much of our ability to work on the trails, groom the trails and provide safe and rideable trails depends on permits being bought. Without permits there is no revenue to complete this**

work which means trails will close. Thank you in advance for buying your permit.

Landowners

Without them we have very few trails. Your cooperation is essential if you enjoy riding a variety of trails in any area of Ontario especially ours.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE:

Stay on the trail – driving over a farmer’s field may damage crops that have been planted already (yes this happens) or damage a field that is ready for spring planting. It looks like fun to you to whip around the field but to the farmer it could mean they withdraw their permission to ride through their property

Leave gates and fences alone. If a gate is closed or a fence is up it is for a reason

Leave tracks not trash

Avoid farm animals and pets that may be along the trail

Do not four wheel, ATV or dirt bike on trails. You have no permission to do this. Our land use agreements with landowners are for snowmobiling only. Plus four wheelers, ATV’s and dirt bikes wreck the trail. If you are seen on the trail the OPP will be alerted.

Check the Interactive Trail Guide at ofsc.on.ca to ensure the trail is open. Just because there is snow does not mean a trail is ready or a landowner has allowed us to open the trail yet.

We are very thankful for our 120 + landowners.



Please show RESPECT for their land.

THANKS TO OUR
LANDOWNERS

Throughout our trail system, generous landowners allow the winter use of their property for the enjoyment of snowmobiling. This land use privilege is crucial to the existence of the snowmobile trail which provide many social, recreational and economic benefits to our entire community. Without the continuing cooperation of these unselfish friends of snowmobiling, the quality of winter life throughout our area would be significantly diminished.

We ask everyone in our community, but especially snowmobilers and those who benefit most directly from snowmobile trails, to say a special thanks to our landowners for the use of their property again this season.

Thank you from
All the
OFSC Clubs and
Volunteers in Ontario

*Thank
you!*

*SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ELIMINATION
DRAW*

The Elimination Draw is our annual fundraiser. It will be held on **Saturday, October 26th, 2019 at Elmhirst Resort.** Social hour begins at 6 pm with a roast beef dinner beginning at 7 pm. Tickets are \$100 with only 200 being sold. There are many raffle prizes available from our snowmobile supporters as well. The money is used for trail development, maintenance, honoring our volunteers and landowners and promotion of our club (phone line, website etc.)

The winning ticket #200 drawn has a choice of \$7500 or a covered trailer from Trailers Plus.

The 1st, 50th, 100th and 150th ticket drawn win \$100 each

The 198th ticket drawn wins \$200

The 199th ticket drawn wins \$300

Tables of 8 can be reserved by calling Julie English at 705-639-2009

This is always a great evening and a highlight of our year. Tickets go fast so don't miss out.

Come join us by contacting one of the following people for a ticket:

Kevin or Julie English 705-639-2009

Mary or Elwood Ellis 905-926-0079

Nathan Jackson 705-872-1353

Donna Atkinson 705-295-4833

Jeannine Stillman 705-295-4538

Or call 705-295-SNOW (7669)

Or contact us a ricelakesnowdriftersd3@gmail.com



DRIVER TRAINING

Once again the Rice Lake Snow Drifters
under the leadership of

Rachel Stillman and Joe Steed will be
offering a

Snowmobile Driver Training Course

for students 12 and over, even adults.

This will take place on Saturday,
December 21st from 9 – 4.

Cost is \$40 per person which includes lunch.

Call Rachel at 705-931-1916

Meetings - Everyone welcome to attend

Our meetings are held at the Wild Blue Yonder at Elmhirst Resort beginning at 7:30 pm. We are always looking for new ideas and creative people to assist us.

Our regularly scheduled meetings are:

Monday, October 21st

Monday, November 11th - AGM

Monday, January 13th

Monday, February 12th

Monday, March 12th

Monday, April 9th

Monday, May 14th

Rice Lake Snow Drifters Board of Directors:

President – Kevin English (also groomer coordinator)

Vice President – Nathan Jackson (also groomer coordinator and our representative on the District 3 Board of Directors)

2nd Vice President – Larry Stewart

Treasurer- Doug Luff

Secretary – Sherri Luff

Executive Director – Julie English

Volunteer Coordinator – Mary Martin

Promotions – Donna Atkinson

Driver Training – Rachel Atkinson

Inspection of Trails Coordinator – Ken Edwards (southern trails), Dean Crowder (northern trails)

Additional Directors:

Mary and Elwood Ellis (Elimination Draw)

Michelle Atkinson (Permits)

Shelley and Aaron Palmer

Tom Irwin

All of these people can be contacted by calling 705-295-SNOW (7669)

Or email us at ricelakesnowdriftersd3@gmail.com

SAFETY

Safety is huge in our sport. If you see any issues on our trails that require our immediate attention please contact us. We would like to know if trail maintenance is required, signs are missing or if in general there is a problem. We would also like to hear of erratic drivers or if you see 4 wheelers, ATVs or dirt bikes on our trail. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure others safety. Please obey the speed limit of 50 km per hour and DO NOT CONSUME ALCOHOL OR DRUGS when DRIVING!!!!

Call us at 705-295-7669, email us at ricelakesnowdriftersd3@gmail.com or call Kevin English at 705-639-2009 or Nathan Jackson at 705-872-1353

Please visit our website at ricelakesnowdrifters.com or ofsc.on.ca for more information on Safety.

We are hiring groomer operators!

- Night-time grooming operations November to March 2019.

- Heavy equipment experience necessary, with training for snow grooming provided.

- Part-time hours, weather-dependent, in new and comfortable equipment.

Please call Nathan Jackson at 705 872 1353 to inquire.



DID YOU KNOW?

**We have a new to us groomer.
We promise to make the trails the
best they can be! HAPPY
SLEDDING EVERYONE!**

The OFSC, District 3 and Rice Lake
Snow Drifters believe WE ARE

ONE. This means that we are all in this together for the enjoyment and safety of our riders.

With common goals, practises, policies and procedures we can provide snowmobilers with a great experience.

OFSC trails and permit buyers generate 3.3 billion dollars in economic activity in the winter months.

The Go Snowmobiling APP will once again be available for \$3.99 from the Play Store. It is scheduled to launch the first week of December.

The OFSC website has over 1.5 million views per year.

The Interactive Trail Guide or ITG is your up to date resource for what trails are open (**green**), limited (**yellow or caution**) or closed (**red**). Riding on trails not open or **RED** is dangerous and you will not be covered by insurance. **Red** means the trail is not safe to be open.

There will be no Try Our Trails this year.

You can buy a special events permit for riding in an event that a local club is doing. These are available online only.

The Port Perry Snowmobile Club which is part of District 3 has been a part of organized snowmobiling for 45 years.

Trail Patrollers do have the right to stop you as they are the agent for the landowner who we have a land use agreement with. They can ask you for your information which can be reported to the police. If you are riding without a permit you are trespassing.

Last year 84 000 groomer hours were logged in the province of Ontario.