

# *RICE LAKE SNOWDRIFTERS ANNUAL NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER, 2021*

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. We are only a small group of people and in order to provide the best trails we can we need people to step forth and help. 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](http://ricelakesnowdrifters.com),  
[district3ofsc.ca](http://district3ofsc.ca) or [ofsc.on.ca](http://ofsc.on.ca)**

**A message from the Board of Directors of the Rice Lake Snow Drifters.**

**To our landowners, club volunteers, and fellow snowmobilers,**

**With our 2021/22 season fast approaching, our volunteers will soon be brushing trails, placing field stakes, and affixing signage on our 130 km of local trails. We wish to thank our hard-working volunteers and our landowners for a successful last season. Provincial permit sales were the highest in recent memory, and this revenue fuels our grooming fleet, maintains bridges, and trail signage.**

**A few points that describe how our local efforts scale up provincially:**

- **In Ontario, volunteers and non-profit clubs maintain a snowmobile trail network of 30,000 km.**
- **The trail network provides access to rural communities and services, connections to neighbouring regions, and up to \$3.3 billion in economic activity each year.**
- **Thanks to 18,000 generous landowners, the vast majority of snowmobile trails cross private property in southern Ontario.**
- **Snowmobile trails on private property are a privilege that volunteers and clubs work hard to maintain:**
  - **Snowmobile clubs and landowners enter into a land-use agreement and are covered by comprehensive liability insurance.**
  - **Ontario law requires snowmobilers to purchase permits. The funds are used to build and maintain the trails.**
  - **Snowmobile clubs maintain a sophisticated trail status system to close trails if poor conditions will cause damage to property.**
  - **Snowmobile clubs pay farmers for crop damage beneath trails.**
  - **Snowmobilers are asked to comply with a rider code of conduct which emphasizes staying on marked trails and obeying signage.**

**As a non-profit organization with finite volunteer time and resources, we are beholden to our over one hundred landowners as we cannot compensate them enough for their generosity. This year, instead of the annual landowner appreciation dinner held at Elmhirst's Resort, we will instead distribute gift cards purchased with monies from our fundraising account.**

**Please honour the efforts of your club volunteers by riding the trails responsibly and respectfully this year. Be a good trail ambassador and deliver a wave and a thank you to our much-appreciated landowners.**

**Yours on the Snow,  
The Rice Lake Snow Drifters team at 705-295-SNOW (7669)**

**GET YOUR PERMIT EARLY TO SAVE**

**Permits are available for sale on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> online at [ofsc.on.ca](http://ofsc.on.ca).**

**Seasonal Permits:**

Until November 1<sup>st</sup> - \$195 plus \$7.50 processing fee

November 2<sup>nd</sup> – December 1<sup>st</sup> - \$225 plus processing fee

December 2<sup>nd</sup> on - \$275 plus processing fee

**Classic Permits (1999 and older):**

Until December 1<sup>st</sup> - \$155 plus \$7.50 processing fee

December 2<sup>nd</sup> on - \$185 plus \$7.50 processing fee

**Multi Day Permits (2 consecutive days minimum)**

\$45 per day

GIFT CARDS ARE AVAILABLE ON OCTOBER 1, 2021

**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](http://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 100 + 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!*

## VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED BADLY

We are a dedicated group of snowmobile enthusiasts but our number of volunteers are dwindling. Please know that we will do the best we can but the trails can only be as good and ready as the number of volunteers we have. We could use people who would be able to put in signs along the trails, help with maintenance such as brushing back of trails, etc. It is important that you understand unless a trail is ready and has proper signage we cannot open it. So if you have any time that you could spare we would really appreciate your help. The more help we have the faster we can open trails for everyone's enjoyment. As well we could use more people on our Board of Directors that make the decisions on the permit holders' behalf. Please consider attending one of our meetings.

Please contact Nathan Jackson 705-872-1353 or Kevin English 705-696-2009 if you can help

ARE YOUR **KIDS TRAINED?**



GET YOUR MOTORIZED SNOW VEHICLE LICENCE TODAY!

## **DRIVER TRAINING**

*Registration Available Now For Students 12 Years and Older*

**(Barrie, ON: September 27, 2021)** – The Ontario

Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) is announcing that

for the 2021-22 season, its popular Driver Training Program will continue to teach young riders the skills and habits necessary to be safe and courteous snowmobile operators entirely online.

With the 4<sup>th</sup> wave of the pandemic here, [Online Driver Training](#) continues to be the safest and most accessible virtual alternative to classroom instruction, which is not being offered to protect

both instructors and their students during the pandemic. To continue the program without

interruption, [OFSC Driver Training](#) course registration is now available online. Working with

the [Ministry of Transportation of Ontario \(MTO\)](#), [OFSC Driver Training](#) has made a major

contribution to snowmobile safety since 1976 by educating students age 12 and older and

providing qualifying graduates with a Motorized Snow Vehicle Operator's License from

MTO. [Online Driver Training](#) continues to be a reliable, standardized platform for teaching

young riders, with more than 6300 students successfully completing online driver training last year. Parents will enjoy many convenient benefits from Online Driver Training. The course is available year-round, so as soon as a child turns 12 years old, she or he can register for and take the course at any time in the convenience of their home. Online will better accommodate today's busy family schedules and is now offered in both English and French. Additionally, qualifying graduates can obtain their Motorized Snow Vehicle Operator's License online. Students must be at least 12 years of age to receive a Motorized Snow Vehicle Operator's License. A young, licensed operator must be accompanied by a legally licensed adult, who also must drive the youth's sled when riding on or crossing a roadway.

**Meetings - Everyone welcome to attend**

**Our meetings are held at Elmhirst Resort beginning at 7 pm. We are always looking for new ideas and creative people to assist us.**

**Our regularly scheduled meetings are:**

**Monday, October 25th**

**Monday, November 22nd**

**Monday, January 24th**

**Monday, February 21st**

**Monday, March 28th**

**Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> AGM**

**Monday, May 30th**

**Rice Lake Snow Drifters Board of Directors:**

**President – Nathan Jackson (also groomer coordinator and our representative on the District 3 Board of Directors) 705 872 1353**

**Vice President – Kevin English (also groomer coordinator) 705-696-2009**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Larry Stewart**

**Treasurer- Doug Luff 705-295-4321**

**Secretary – Sherri Luff 705-295-4321**

**Executive Director – Julie English**

**Director – Nick Crowder**

**Promotions – Donna Atkinson**

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

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

**Or email us at [ricelakesnowdriftersd3@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://ricelakesnowdrifters.com) or [ofsc.on.ca](http://ofsc.on.ca) for more information on Safety.**

**We are hiring groomer operators!**

**- Night-time grooming operations  
November 2021 to March 2022.**

**- 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?

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 OFSC has a fleet of 300 industrial groomers

There are 18000 private landowners that allow snowmobilers across their property.

There are 30 000 kilometres of trail in Ontario

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.

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.

**ENJOY**

Hope to see you all out on the trails this season. Visit our website [ricelakesnowdrifters.com](http://ricelakesnowdrifters.com) for more information.