

RICE LAKE SNOWDRIFTERS ANNUAL NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER, 2024

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. Our goal is to roll out the white carpet early and to have a long and satisfying winter season on the trails.

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**

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

To our landowners, club volunteers, and fellow snowmobilers,

After a mild and rainy last season, we eagerly anticipate better trails for 2024/25. We and our volunteers will soon be brushing trails, placing field stakes, and affixing signage in preparation for busy trails when the snow arrives.

Our generous landowners are the foundation of our 130 km trail network. It is with their permission that we provide the best possible riding conditions with our grooming equipment and experienced operators. It is through the sale of trail permits that we fuel the groomers, maintain bridges, and keep signage to the high standard that earned us Ontario Club of the Year in 2017.

As a non-profit organization with finite volunteer time and resources, we are beholden to our over a hundred landowners as we cannot compensate them enough for their generosity.

Please honour the efforts of your club volunteers with safe and responsible riding this season. Be a great trail ambassador and deliver a wave and a thank you to our much-appreciated landowners.

Yours on the snow,

Your Rice Lake Snow Drifters team at 705-295-SNOW (7669)

October 26th, 2024 is Snowmobile Day.

**Celebrate by joining us at our Elimination Draw and buying a permit!!!!
WINTER IS MAKING A COMEBACK!!!**



The Elimination Draw is once again taking place.

We are so pleased to gather together and hope you will support this fundraiser again this year.

Elmhirst Resort – Saturday, October 26th, 2024

6–7 pm-Social Hour, 7 pm Roast Beef Dinner

Tickets \$125 each. You must have the stub to attend the dinner.

Prizes include: \$100 for the 1st, 50th, 100th and \$150th ticket drawn

\$200 for the 178th ticket drawn, \$500 for the 179th ticket drawn

\$5000 grand prize for the 180th ticket drawn

Many raffle prizes and/or 50 50 to win as well

You do not have to attend to win

but it's certainly more fun if you do.

You can get your ticket from any of the following people:

Nathan Jackson 705-872-1353

Kevin or Julie English 705-696-2009

Doug or Sherri Luff 705-295-4321

Donna Atkinson 705-295-4833

Jeannine or Fred Stillman 705-295-4538

If you are a business owner or snowmobile supporter and would like to donate a prize for the raffle please contact one of the above mentioned people.

GET YOUR PERMIT EARLY TO SAVE

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

Seasonal Permits:

Until November 1st - \$214 plus \$7.50 processing fee

November 2nd – December 1st - \$244 plus \$7.50 processing fee

December 2nd on - \$294 plus \$7.50 processing fee

Classic Permits (1999 and older):

Until December 1st - \$171.20 plus \$7.50 processing fee

December 2nd on - \$201.20 plus \$7.50 processing fee

Multi Day Permits (2 consecutive days minimum)

More details to follow

GIFT CARDS ARE AVAILABLE ON OCTOBER 1, 2024

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.

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 permit sales 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 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!*

SAVE OUR TRAILS!



OFSC Issues Urgent Appeal To Save Our Trails
Snowmobile Trails, A Unique Winter Asset Benefitting All Ontarians

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 Online Driver Training

Between the ages of 12 and 15? Over the age of 15 and do not possess a valid Ontario Driver's License?

Then you need to successfully complete an Ontario-approved Snowmobile Safety Course before riding on public lands. SNOWMOBILEcourse.com is a delegated provider for the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs. Visit ofsc.on.ca/drivertraining

ADVERTISING

This year on our trails you will notice map boards at all entrances to our trail and at all intersections. The map will reflect our trails and where you are on the trail.

Advertising on these map boards is available to purchase. If you would like to purchase a space or spaces please contact Nick Crowder at ncrowder@jdbarnes.com. A 12 inch square is \$35 and a 6 inch x 12 inch rectangle is \$20. All you need to provide is a business card with your information on it.

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 police if you see any concerns with snowmobile riders on the trails and especially if you see vehicles other than snowmobiles on the trail as they are **NOT ALLOWED ON OUR TRAILS!!** The more reporting the more the OPP will monitor trails so **REPORT, REPORT, and REPORT!!!!**

YOU MUST CHECK THE ITG at ofsc.ca for details on trails that are open and trails that are closed. **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO. RED means CLOSED, YELLOW means USE CAUTION, GREEN MEANS OPEN**

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 2024 to
March 2025.

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 6 billion dollars in economic activity in the winter months.

The OFSC has a fleet of 280 industrial groomers

There are 18 000 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.

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.

Hope to see you all out on the trails this season. Visit our website ricelakesnowdrifters.com for more information.

Meetings – Everyone Welcome to Attend

Our meetings are held at Glen Isle Business Offices,
15 McCallum Pt, Keene, Ontario 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 18th (AGM)
Monday, December 16th
Monday, January 20th
Monday, March 17th
Monday, April 21st

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) 705-639-2009

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 Coordinators – 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

