



Letter from the President

June 13, 2022

Good Day Wolf Pack Members!

I hope your summer has been going well and you have been thawing out in the sunshine. I'd like to take the opportunity to reflect on our past winter season. We were all wishing for snow when we had a work party to mark the Lake Trail at the end of December, and we sure did get what we wished for in abundance! This last year we had a record snowfall for the season with four to five feet reported off the lakes and two to three on the lakes. Along with that might I say, came a record amount of overflow which plagued us for nearly the entire season. I'm sure if you ask anyone, they will have a "stuck in the overflow or deep snow" story to tell.

Overall it was a very successful season, but also marked with memorable changes such as the tragic loss of The Point Lodge to fire and the sale of the Lake Louise Lodge. Thankfully the former and current owners of the Lake Louise Lodge worked together to ensure Wolf Pack Weekend was a huge success. At the last minute and despite it being their first weekend as new owners, the Egan family hosted our annual basket auction and remaining activities we had planned for the season and for that we thank them very much!

The middle of June, when the ice has just gone out a couple of weeks ago, doesn't seem like the time to be thinking about winter activities. But the truth is, this is the time when the club must begin preparing for the 2022-23 winter season. We will again be applying for SnoTRAC and Borough grooming grants when applications become available which is usually in mid-July. Last season we received a total of \$24,426.31 for grooming and spent \$33,297.51.

The club also applied for several other grants to fund improvements to the Cindy trail and help fund the purchase of another groomer. Unfortunately, neither of these grants were successfully funded. We will apply again for funds to improve the Cindy Trail and continue to research new grant opportunities to purchase a snowcat.

PROJECT WOLF TRACKS got off to a great start with a total of \$44,407.65 raised between generous individual donors and the raffle held last fall. Truthfully, I thought we would have more funds raised by now with the addition of some grant money and am disappointed that we have not been successful in obtaining any grant funding for the new groomer. We will be applying for another grant at the end of this month through the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation. Hopefully we are successful with this application request, and if anyone knows of any other grant opportunities that might fit, please send them my way.

In the meantime, and by popular demand, we are preparing to have another **\$10,000 raffle** this fall. Once again tickets will cost \$100 with only 325 tickets sold. There are many ways to win cash prizes, and the top prize is \$10,000. The drawing will be held at the Palmer Moose Lodge, November 19, with tickets going on sale this Fourth of July weekend at the Lake Louise Lodge during the boat races. Get

them early as they will sell out fast! If you would like to purchase or help sell raffle tickets, contact Eileen Probasco at (907) 354-3149, or at eileenprobasco@yahoo.com.

While we continue raising funds for a new groomer, a committee has been searching and studying several different new and used Piston Bully's. We have been evaluating them to determine whether they will fit our needs and have not made any decisions yet. It's hard to make a commitment when we are wanting to rely on grant money to partially fund one, but rest assured we are working hard to get another groomer and with everyone's continued support we will meet that goal.

Among other business during the Annual Membership meeting, three new board members and two new officers were elected. I'd like to welcome Garth Massey, Brian Wallow, and Earle Williams to the board, thanking them for volunteering to serve. The two new officers elected are Eric Carlson, Secretary and Garth Massey, Treasurer. Thank you all for your willingness to help and I look forward to your involvement. As a reminder Board and Annual Membership meeting minutes can be found under "about us" on our webpage.

Finally, THANK YOU to all our members for your continuing support of the Wolf Pack through your annual membership dues, donations, participation in our events, and volunteer work. Your support is what makes us a such a great club! Enjoy whatever you do this summer and please be safe.

Happy Trails and see you this winter,

Harry Holt, President
Lake Louise Snowmachine Club
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