

## Peace Valley Snow Riders Snowmobile Club

The Peace Valley Snow Riders organizational meeting was held on October 15, 2009 with the Club incorporated under the Alberta Societies Act on July 14, 2010. Since the initial organizational meeting the Club has worked diligently to promote responsible snowmobiling in the area and in particular, to develop trails which are intended to form a network on both the east and west side of the Peace River. In addition to providing another recreational venue for current residents that focuses on the positive aspects of our abundant winters, it is anticipated these trails will assist in retaining and enticing residents and businesses to the Peace Country. The Club's efforts have been recognized by the Alberta Snowmobile Association who has awarded the Peace Valley Snow Riders with the Mighty Peace Region – Club of the Year Award on three occasions (2010, 2013 & 2014).

### Part of the Solution

Northwest Alberta and the Peace Country in particular have a high ratio of off highway vehicles compared to other areas of the province. Those that live in the region often consider outdoor activities, including motorized sports, in the sparsely populated area as one of the benefits to residing in the area. A couple of the downsides have been environmental damage and trespass of private land. The Club is seeking to be "Part of the Solution" by:

- Promoting a motorized sport that leaves a minimal foot print as a result of accessing frozen snow covered ground.
- Promoting the development of a trail network which directs snowmobile traffic to areas of acceptable use on trails that are cleared, signed, and groomed.
- Promoting the use of shared footprints and other existing disturbances for trail routes to minimize environmental impact and the impact to other stakeholders.
- Promoting safe responsible operation of snowmobiles.

In a report titled "The Economic Impact of Snowmobiles in Alberta in 2009" prepared for Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation, the opening statement provides clear indication that the direction of our Club is in step with the direction of the sport: **"The popularity of snowmobiling as a recreational activity has increased dramatically over the past three decades in Alberta. Sight-seeing close to home on a managed trail is quickly becoming the preferred pastime of thousands of environmentally conscious snowmobile enthusiasts across Alberta."**

## Trail Information

### **Developed Trails**

The following are common to trails developed by our Club:

- Direction signs are located on local area highways and municipal roads to assist in locating staging areas.
- Each trail has a minimum of one staging area at a trail head which provides space for vehicle parking and off loading of snowmobiles.
- Each staging area has a large sign showing a map of the trail along with conditions of use and a Day Pass Registration Box allowing for self registration by those that choose not to purchase an Alberta Snowmobile Association Annual Trail Pass.
- Most trails have signed Community Access points known to provide snowmobile access for local resident. No vehicle parking is provided at these locations.
- Trails are generally cleared to a width of 5 metres although reduced widths to 3 metres may be encountered in select areas.
- On trail signs and markers are provided to assist sledders with route and hazard identification.
- Trails are groomed, as volunteer resources allow, using the Club's Arctic Cat drag type groomer acquired in November 2012.

### **Osmond/Castaway Cabins Leddy Lake Trail (PNT100284)**

#### **Operations sponsor - R. Osmond Tree Services Ltd./Castaway Cabins**

- Officially opened March 19, 2011.
- Located north of Peace River.
- Runs 40 km north from the Leddy Lake Recreation Area to the area of Driftwood Lake near Deadwood. The trail also includes a small loop near the Leddy Lake Recreation Area.
- Staging area is located in the Leddy Lake Recreation Area.
- A warm up shelter is also located at Leddy Lake Recreation Area and has been operational since November 2013.
- A short trail extension to allow for local community access was added in 2014.

### **Wesley Creek Trail (PNT140001)**

#### **Operations sponsorship available**

- Officially opened March 5, 2016 in conjunction with the Club's first Poker Rally.
- This 30 km trail runs in a loop to the east and north of St. Isidore.
- The staging area can be accessed from Township Road 842 north of St. Isidore.
- A rest area has been in place since November 2015 providing a picnic table and fire pit.
- This trail is primarily flat and with the rest area is ideal for a family outing.
- Two Community Access points are provided for local residents. One of the access points was relocated to the Hamlet of St. Isidore during the summer of 2017, in conjunction with the recently developed St. Isidore Connector which provides access from the Hamlet to the trail.

## **Smith Mills Trail (CNT120007)**

### **Operations sponsorship available**

- Officially opened March 11, 2017.
- The East End Staging Area is located to the north of Grimshaw and the West End Staging Area is located to the north of Hines Creek.
- Runs 60 kilometers from north of Figure Eight Lake to just east of Stony Lake. This trail includes a loop near the west end of the trail that has a magnificent view of the area.
- A rest area, located near the midpoint of the trail, was developed in March 2017 providing a picnic table and fire pit. An outhouse is to be added this winter.
- No Community Access points are currently provided on this trail.

### **Future Trails**

**Hines Creek Trail** – Work on this trail was formally initiated in the spring of 2015 and is currently in the final approval process. Final approval is expected to be in place shortly, hence if funding can be identified this trail could be developed during the winter of 2017/18. This 50 km trail would link the Smith Mills Trail with the Village of Hines Creek and in doing so, would be the first trail in the area offering sledders direct access to fuel, food, lodging and repair services similar to trails in Eastern Canada.

**Cadotte River Trail** – As one of the original 3 trails identified by the Club and approved in principle in December of 2009 along with the Leddy Lake and Wesley Creek trails, further work has been delayed during the development of the Club's other trails. This proposed trail would be an extension to the Wesley Creek Trail and will potentially run north along the power line which is adjacent to the DMI east haul road. Work could proceed once the Hines Creek Trail is complete if a Trail Sponsor to lead the project is identified.

### **Additional Trail Plans**

As part of the long range goal to complete a network of trails on both the east and west sides of the Peace River, there is also commitment to link our local network to those of other member Clubs of the Alberta Snowmobile Association as part of an overall network of trails within the Province of Alberta. From a conceptual perspective the Club has identified the potential of the following trails becoming part of the local trail network:

- **Dixonville Connector** – Would connect the Leddy Lake trail to the Smith Mills Trail. The potential exists to connect this trail to the hamlet of Dixonville.
- **Talbot Lake Trail** – Would connect the Cadotte River Trail to Talbot Lake where the LaCrete Polar Cats trail from the north currently has a trail.

## Benefits Provided by the Club

- **Members**
  - Responsible snowmobiling on formal trails with minimal risk of prosecution due to trespass or unintended impact to other users such as forestry, oil & gas or trappers.
  - Reduced risk of personal injury and damage to snowmobiles as trails are generally cleared of vegetation, signed and groomed.
  - Access to viewpoints, warm up shelters or rest areas.
  - Social network of other snowmobilers provides the opportunity to meet and ride with others with similar skill levels and family involvement.
  - Given the pressure on the land base for other uses, the opportunity to work with the Club to leave a legacy of trails for future generations while the opportunity is available.
  
- **Landowners and other land based stakeholders**
  - Formal trails direct snowmobile traffic to areas of acceptable use minimizing inappropriate use of lands.
  - Eliminates risk as formal trails crossing private land are covered by formal agreements and include Alberta Snowmobile Association liability insurance coverage.
  - Provides a formal avenue to communicate with area snowmobilers.
  
- **To the local area in general**
  - Enhances the recreation opportunities in the area thereby retaining or enticing residents and businesses to the area.
  - Economic benefits from increased tourism in the area or at the very least, by reducing those in the area leaving for other destinations.
  - Minimizes improper activities associated with the sport and by working with all stakeholders, promotes acceptable and safe practices.

## Supporters of the Club:

Although the Club's day to day operations are primarily supported by volunteers and funded by the sale of Alberta Snowmobile Association Trail Pass Sales and other Club fund raising activities, additional funds for significant operating costs and capital projects are provided by Supporters of the Club who have provided numerous donations and/or gifts in kind. The Club is very appreciative and hence would like to recognize these Supporters:

### Development of the Leddy Lake Trail

Ace Machine & Welding (Peace River) Ltd.	Lorette Truck Services (2005) Ltd.	Signs by Wood 'N' Art
Alberta Snowmobile Association	Rick Serhan o/a 10300844 AB Ltd.	Weberville Community Club
Highland Helicopters Ltd.	Roadrunner Leasing and Sales Ltd.	

**Development of the Wesley Creek Trail including St. Isidore Connector**

Ace Machine & Welding (Peace River) Ltd.	Explore Surveys Inc	Shell Canada Limited
Amen Consulting Services Inc.	Lorette Truck Services (2005) Ltd.	Signs by Wood 'N' Art
Avenge Energy Services Inc.	MacMillan Construction Ltd.	Weaver Welding Ltd.
Baytex Energy Corp.	Northern Sunrise County	Western Canadian Mulching Ltd.
Can West Propane	Roadrunner Leasing and Sales Ltd.	

**Development of the Smith Mills Trail**

Ace Machine & Welding (Peace River) Ltd.	County of Northern Lights	MacMillan Construction Ltd.
Alberta Snowmobile Association	Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd.	Peace Fuel Distributors
Allard Logging Ltd.	Explore Surveys Inc.	Roadrunner Leasing and Sales Ltd.
Amen Consulting Services Inc.	Government of Alberta – Community Initiatives Program	Rosenberger Log Salvage
Armarillo Contractors Ltd.	Kirby Controls	Stealth Projects Ltd.
Baytex Energy Corp.	Longrun Exploration Ltd.	Weaver Welding Ltd.
Clear Hills County	Lorette Truck Services (2005) Ltd.	Western Canadian Mulching Ltd.

**Development of the Hines Creek Trail (Pre-approval phase)**

Amen Consulting Services Inc.	Explore Surveys Inc.	
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**Leddy Lake Trail Maintenance & Projects**

Alberta Snowmobile Association	Baytex Energy Corp.	R. Osmond Tree Services Ltd.
Amen Consulting Services Inc.	County of Northern Lights	Weaver Welding Ltd.

**Wesley Creek Trail Maintenance & Projects**

Bernard Fortin	Mike Kolebaba Water Transport	Northern Sunrise County
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**Smith Mills Trail Maintenance & Projects**

Alberta Snowmobile Association	Clear Hills County	Frank Armella
Amen Consulting Services Inc.	County of Northern Lights	H. Friesen Slashing Ltd.

**Purchase of Arctic Cat Groomer & Trailer**

Government of Alberta – Community Initiatives Program	Peace River Ford	Shell Canada Limited
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### **Operations & Administrative Support**

Ace Machine & Welding (Peace River) Ltd.	Northern Sunrise County	Roadrunner Leasing and Sales Ltd.
Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd.	Peace River Go RV & Marine	
Explore Surveys Inc.	Rentco Equipment Ltd.	

### **Related Associations:**

Peace Valley Snow Riders is a member of the **Alberta Snowmobile Association** (ASA) which supports the Club in many ways including liability coverage for trails, school operator training programs, avalanche training programs and by working to improve the sport in Alberta, Canada and internationally. Annual Trail Passes purchased as part of the cost of Club membership are valid on all ASA member trails in the Province of Alberta.

### **Contact Information:**

Annual ASA Trail Passes are available at local snowmobile dealerships in Peace River and Hines Creek, or by contacting one of the following Club members who are also available to provide additional information on the Club:

- Troy Lorencz (President) 780-618-6649 or [hammer@wispernet.ca](mailto:hammer@wispernet.ca)
- Dwayne Buchholtz (Director/Stakeholder Relations) 780-618-1504 or [amen@telus.net](mailto:amen@telus.net)

For maps and other Club information please go to <http://www.northernsunrise.net/recreation-and-leisure#>. You can also follow us on Facebook @PeaceValleySnowRiders.

**“Peace Valley Snow Riders – Part of the Solution”**

