

## 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). Furthermore in 2018 others associated with the Club received recognition; Francois Allard was awarded Groomer of the Year and Mighty Peace Powersports & RV was awarded Dealer of the Year.

### 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 Membership with Annual Trail Pass.
- Most trails have signed Community Access points known to provide snowmobile access for local residents. 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. In addition two of the Club's members, Francois & Pierre Allard who operate Allard Logging Ltd., purchased grooming equipment in late 2017 and also contributed significantly to the maintenance of the Club's trails.

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

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

- Officially opened March 19, 2011.
- Located north of Peace River.
- Runs 40 km north from the staging area shared with 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.
- An outhouse, warm up shelter and outdoor fire pit is available for use at Leddy Lake Recreation Area with the warm up shelter being operational since November 2013.
- A short trail extension to allow for local community access was added in 2014.
- Major upgrades spanning two winters were completed during the spring of 2018 which include the widening of the trail to the full 5 metre width, where allowed, and improved trail signage.

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

**Operations sponsor – Baytex Energy Ltd.**

- Officially opened March 5, 2016 in conjunction with the Club's first Poker Rally.
- This 35 km trail runs in a loop to the east and north of St. Isidore and as of 2017, includes a connector to St. Isidore where one of the two community access points is located.
- The staging area can be accessed from Highway 986 by travelling north of St. Isidore and turning east on Township Road 842.

- A rest area has been in place since November 2015 providing a picnic table and fire pit, and in December 2018 an outhouse was installed.
- This trail is primarily flat and with the rest area is ideal for a family outing.

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

#### **Operations sponsorship available**

- Officially opened March 11, 2017.
- 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.
- The East End Staging Area is located to the north of Grimshaw and can be accessed from Highway 737 in the area of Figure Eight Lake. The West End Staging Area is located to the north of Hines Creek and can be accessed from the Canfor P-100 road.
- A rest area, located near the midpoint of the trail, was developed in March 2017 providing a picnic table and fire pit, and in November 2017 the Club's first outhouse was installed.
- No community access points are currently provided on this trail.

### **Hines Creek Trail (CNT180005)**

#### **Operations sponsorship available**

- Development of this trail was recently completed but has not been opened for use as approvals are being sought for private land that has changed ownership. During this time, access is permitted from the community access point and to the north.
- Runs 50 kilometers from the Village of Hines Creek to a connection on the Smith Mills Trail approximately 6 kilometers south of the Smith Mill's Trail West End Staging Area.
- The staging area is located in the Village of Hines Creek where access to fuel, food, lodging and the services of a snowmobile dealership are available.
- A rest area with picnic table, fire pit and outhouse is available at a scenic viewpoint located near the midpoint of the trail.
- A community access point is located at the junction of Township road 850 and the Canfor P-100 road.

### **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:

- **Cadotte River Trail** – One of the original 3 trails identified by the Club and approved in principle in December of 2009. Would connect to the Wesley Creek Trail and potentially run north along the power line adjacent to the DMI east haul road.

- **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 terminates.

## **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 or dispositions 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:**

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, however additional funds for significant operating costs and capital projects are provided by Supporters of the Club. The Club is very appreciative and hence would like to recognize all of 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.	Can West Propane	Roadrunner Leasing and Sales Ltd.
Allard Logging 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.

**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 (To date)**

Ace Machining & Welding (Peace River) Ltd.	H. Friesen Slashing Ltd	Scanalta Power Sales Ltd.
Avenge Energy Services Inc.	Hines Creek & District Recreation Board	Signs by Wood 'N' Art
Alberta Environment and Parks	Jamey Bettenson	Troy Lorencz
Amen Consulting Services Inc.	Peace River Correctional Center/Northern Lakes College	Weaver Group
Canadian Forest Products Ltd.	Peace Country Ventures Ltd.	Zavisha Sawmills Ltd.
Clear Hills County	Hines Creek Recreation Board	
Explore Surveys Inc.	Roadrunner Leasing and Sales Ltd.	

### **Leddy Lake Trail Maintenance & Projects**

Alberta Snowmobile Association	County of Northern Lights	Signs by Wood 'N' Art
Allard Logging Ltd.	Lorette Truck Services (2005) Ltd.	Weaver Welding Ltd.
Amen Consulting Services Inc.	MDP Oilfield Services Ltd.	
Baytex Energy Corp.	<b>R. Osmond Tree Services Ltd.</b>	

### **Wesley Creek Trail Maintenance & Projects**

Allard Logging Ltd.	Bernard Fortin	Northern Sunrise County
<b>Baytex Energy Ltd.</b>	Mike Kolebaba Water Transport	

### **Smith Mills Trail Maintenance & Projects**

Alberta Snowmobile Association	County of Northern Lights	Roadrunner Leasing and Sales Ltd.
Allard Logging Ltd.	Frank Armella	Signs by Wood 'N' Art
Amen Consulting Services Inc.	H. Friesen Slashing Ltd.	
Clear Hills County	Peace Country Ventures	

### **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.	Grimshaw Business Centre	Scanalta Power Sales Ltd.
Buchholtz Financial Services Inc.	Maximum Powersports Ltd.	Stat Energy Services Inc.
Avenge Energy Services Inc.	Mighty Peace Powersports & RV	Tim Lagace
Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd.	Northern Sunrise County	Thomas Homes & RV Center
Explore Surveys Inc.	Peace River Go RV & Marine	Travis Schmidt
Freson Markets	Rentco Equipment Ltd.	
GB Truck & Diesel Ltd.	Roadrunner Leasing and Sales 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. Club membership requires the purchase of an ASA Membership that provides an Annual Trail Pass which is valid on all ASA member trails in the Province of Alberta.

## Contact Information:

ASA memberships are available on line at <http://albertasnowmobile.ca/> by selecting the Join Now button in the top right hand corner of the screen or at local snowmobile dealerships in Peace River and Hines Creek. The following can be contacted for additional information on the Club:

- Francois Allard (Director/Publicity) 780-618-7773 or [fallard@outlook.com](mailto:fallard@outlook.com)
- Dwayne Buchholtz (Director/Stakeholder Relations) 780-618-1504 or [amen@telus.net](mailto:amen@telus.net)

For maps, the status of trails and other Club information please refer to the Club's website at <https://peacevalleysnowriders.com/>. You can also follow us on Facebook @PeaceValleySnowRiders.

**"Peace Valley Snow Riders – Part of the Solution"**

