

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, others associated with the Club have also been recognized; Francois Allard was awarded Groomer of the Year 2018, Mighty Peace Powersports & RV was awarded Dealer of the Year 2018 and Dwayne Buchholtz was awarded Outstanding Snowmobiler of the Year 2019.

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 all of the Club's existing trails:

- 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.
- All trails have a rest area including fire pit, picnic table, outhouse and wood shed.
- Trails are groomed, as volunteer resources allow. Currently grooming equipment and services is provided by Club member Francois Allard.

Osmond/Getaway Cabins Leddy Lake Trail (PNT100284)

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

- Officially opened March 19, 2011.
- The staging area is located north of Peace River and can be accessed using Weberville Road (Highway 743) and the Leddy Lake road.
- 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.
- In addition to the rest area developed in 2019 located on the south side of the Whitemud River valley, an outhouse, warm up shelter and outdoor fire pit is available for use at Leddy Lake Recreation Area.
- A community access point is located at the intersection of RR221 and TR864.
- 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.
- **Getaway Cabins** continues to be under renovation but has been available for rental since the winter of 2019 and can be accessed from the Club's trail via a short private trail. For more information contact Roger Osmond (cell 780-625-6560).
- Current regulations for those from the local area accessing the trail via snowmobile are:
 - County of Northern Lights – Currently does not have an Off Highway Vehicle bylaw in place. Obey all current provincial bylaws, restrictions/bans and do not trespass on private property.

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 an extension was completed to allow access from St. Isidore.
- The staging area can be accessed from Highway 688 by travelling north of St. Isidore and turning east on Township Road 842.
- Community access points are located in St. Isidore and at the intersection of RR200 and TR832.
- This trail is preferred by many families as it is primarily flat with a short ride to the rest area.
- Current regulations for those from the local area accessing the trail via snowmobile are:
 - Northern Sunrise County – See Bylaw B306/17
<https://northernsunrise.civicweb.net/filepro/documents?expanded=108>

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.
- 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.
- Although no Community Access points are currently provided on this trail, the Club is at the final approval stage for a project that would potentially add a loop with a community access point for the Brownvale area. If developed, the **Last Lake Guest House** (<http://lastlakeguesthouse.com/>) would be in close proximity and have access via a County road.
- This trail includes a loop near the west end of the trail that has a magnificent view of the area.
- Current regulations for those from the local area accessing the trail via snowmobile are:
 - County of Northern Lights – Applicable to the east end of the trail, currently does not have an Off Highway Vehicle bylaw in place. Obey all current provincial bylaws, restrictions/bans and do not trespass on private property.
 - Clear Hills County – Applicable to the west end of the trail, see Bylaw No. 212-16
<https://clearhillscounty.ab.ca/county/bylaws/page/2/?document-categories=8>

Canfor Hines Creek Trail (CNT180005)

Operations sponsor – Canadian Forest Products Ltd.

- Development of this trail was completed and the trail partially opened in December 2018. Due to denial of access by a new landowner an alternate route was developed on the private land portion of the trail allowing for the entire trail to be available for use in early 2020. The event to officially open this trail has yet to be scheduled.
- Runs 50 kilometers from the Village of Hines Creek to a connection on the Smith Mills Trail approximately 6 kilometers south of the Smith Mills 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 community access point is located at the junction of TR850 and the Canfor P-100 road.
- A scenic viewpoint is located near the midpoint of the trail in conjunction with the rest area.
- The **Cornerstones Bed'n Breakfast** (<http://www.cornerstonesbednbreakfast.com/>) is located approximately 7 kilometres north of the Village of Hines Creek and the trail can be accessed from this location by snowmobile travel on 2 kilometres of County road.
- Current regulations for those from the local area accessing the trail via snowmobile are:
 - Clear Hills County - Clear Hills County – See Bylaw No. 212-16
<https://clearhillscounty.ab.ca/county/bylaws/page/2/?document-categories=8>
 - Village of Hines Creek – See Bylaw No. 573-17 <http://hinescreek.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Bylaw-573-17.pdf>.

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 Mercer east haul road.
- **Dixonville Connector** – Would connect the Leddy Lake trail to the Smith Mills Trail. The potential also 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.
- **East Wesley Creek Trail** – Would be to the east of and connecting to the existing Wesley Creek 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 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 funded by the Trail Sponsors, Alberta Snowmobile Association Membership sales, which include Trail Passes, and Club fund raising activities which currently includes an annual Poker Rally. Supporters of the Club have generously funded major and capital projects when fund raising has been required. The contribution of donations in kind by Supporters of the Club and Club volunteers has assisted in minimizing the cash required for both operations and projects. Following are those who are acknowledged as Supporters of the Club:

Development of the Osmond/Getaway Cabins 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 Baytex 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.
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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 Canfor Hines Creek Trail

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

Osmond/Getaway Cabins Leddy Lake Trail Maintenance & Projects

Ace Machining & Welding (Peace River) Ltd.	Baytex Energy Ltd.	MDP Oilfield Services Ltd.
Alberta Snowmobile Association	County of Northern Lights	R. Osmond Tree Services Ltd.
Allard Logging Ltd.	Fehr and Square Construction Ltd.	Signs by Wood 'N' Art
Amen Consulting Services Inc.	Fehr Building Materials Ltd.	Weaver Welding Ltd.
Attack Oilfield Services Inc.	Lorette Truck Services (2005) Ltd.	

Baytex Wesley Creek Trail Maintenance & Projects

Ace Machining & Welding (Peace River) Ltd.	Bernard Fortin	Northern Sunrise County
Allard Logging Ltd.	Explore Surveys Inc.	St. Isidore Coop
Baytex Energy Ltd.	Mike Kolebaba Water Transport	Versatile Builders Inc.

Smith Mills Trail Maintenance & Projects

Alberta Snowmobile Association	County of Northern Lights	Scanalta Power Sales Ltd.
Allard Logging Ltd.	Frank Armella	Signs by Wood 'N' Art
Amen Consulting Services Inc.	H. Friesen Slashing Ltd.	Zavisha Sawmills Ltd.
B&E Hardware (Hines Creek) Ltd.	Peace Country Ventures	
Clear Hills County	Roadrunner Leasing and Sales Ltd.	

Canfor Hines Creek Trail Maintenance & Projects

Allard Logging Ltd.	Canadian Forest Products Ltd.	Zavisha Sawmills Ltd.
B&E Hardware (Hines Creek) Ltd	Scanalta Power Sales Ltd.	

Purchase of Arctic Cat Groomer (sold in 2020) & Trailer

Government of Alberta – Community Initiatives Program	Peace River Ford	Shell Canada Limited
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Operations & Administrative Support (including Poker Rally)

Ace Machine & Welding (Peace River) Ltd.	Freson Markets	RT Grading and Road Building
Allard Logging Ltd.	GB Truck & Diesel Ltd.	Rentco Equipment Ltd.
Avenge Energy Services Inc.	Grimshaw Business Centre	Roadrunner Leasing and Sales Ltd.
Baytex Energy Ltd.	MacMillan Construction Ltd.	Ruel Concrete Ltd.
Buchholtz Financial Services Inc.	Maximum Powersports Ltd.	Scanalta Power Sales Ltd.
Can West Propane	Mighty Peace Powersports & RV	Stat Energy Services Inc.
Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd.	Mercer Peace River Pulp Ltd.	Tim Lagace
Diverse Truck and Equipment Inc.	Northern Arc Fabrication Ltd.	Thomas Homes & RV Center
Dwayne Thomas	Northern Sunrise County	Travis Schmidt
Explore Surveys Inc.	Peace River Go RV & Marine	

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, 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:

- Chrissie Davis (Director/Publicity) 780-618-0101 or chrissiedavis@telus.net
- Megan Morey (Director/Stakeholder Relations) 780-219-3881 or megan@mightypeacegm.ca

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"

