

Ganaraska Snowmobile Club Newsletter

Hey, did you see that snow falling yesterday (Oct 17, 2001)? No it didn't stay but it sure was a reminder of how close the snowmobile season is and how late we are with this newsletter. We want to begin by apologizing for the delay in getting this newsletter into your hands. With the implementation of Bill 101 there have been significant changes in our industry that have taken longer than anticipated to resolve. This has caused a delay in the availability of our trail permits for the coming season, but our distributors will have them for sale shortly.

President's Note – Bill Stapleton

As your new president for the 2001-2002 season I would like to extend a big Thank You to both our past president and secretary, Randy and Marlene Cunningham for a great job, well done. Unless you walk a mile in another's shoes you cannot begin to appreciate who they are or what they've done. In the case of Randy and Marlene their efforts and dedication to the snowmobile industry and in particular to the Ganaraska Snowmobile Club certainly have made a huge contribution. Once again thank you from all those you served.

As mentioned earlier, this snowmobile season brings the implementation of Bill 101 with its many challenges for the new executive. I'm sure there will be times when not everyone will be happy, but we will try our best to keep you informed. There are already a number of suggestions being brought forward for different club events (ie. pancake breakfast; regular club rides; poker rally etc) so watch the newsletter or the club website for more info.

We want to welcome and congratulate Lorne Thompson from the Long Sault Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club on his successful election as our District 3 Governor.

Randy Cunningham remains the Operations Director for District 3, and we look forward to strong leadership for both these avid snowmobilers.

How to Contact Us

NEW – Club Phone/fax **905-983-5099**

Website – [HTTP://GO.TO\GANARASKA](http://GO.TO\GANARASKA)

(This website address will be changing in the near future)

Email – [sstaple@idirect.com](mailto:ss Staple@idirect.com) (indicate GSC on subject line)

Snail mail – Ganaraska Snowmobile Club
c/o Bill Stapleton
4352 Concession Road 8
Kendal, Ontario L0A 1E0
905-983-8221

To Our Landowners – A Special THANKS!

The success of any snowmobile club is the relationship it maintains with its landowners. It is important that all snowmobilers respect the landowner's property because without access to their lands there would be no trail system. On behalf of the Ganaraska Snowmobile Club and our members we thank our landowners for the continued use of their property.

2001/02 Snowmobile Permit Info

Price:

\$120. + \$10. insurance surcharge on/before Dec 1, 2001 (total \$130.)

After Dec 1, 2001 **\$150.** plus **\$10** insurance surcharge (total \$160)

Replacement permit **\$10.00** (require damaged permit and pink copy of original permit purchased).

Lost or stolen permits will be replaced at a cost of \$10.00 but requires a police report and pink copy of original permit purchased.

New this year: When purchasing your trail permit you will need your snowmobile Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) from your ownership.

Early Bird Draw:

Due to the late availability of this year's trail permits the deadline date for the 1st draw has been extended to Dec 1, 2001.

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What's Bill 101?

In cooperation with the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC), the provincial government has passed Bill 101 making it law under the Motorized Snow Vehicles Act that all snowmobiles using OFSC prescribed trails must purchase and properly display a valid snowmobile trail permit. A prescribed trail is any snowmobile trail designated and maintained by an OFSC club. In addition to the OFSC logo, the new snowmobile trail permit will display the Government of Ontario logo, making it enforceable on all private, crown and municipal land by police agencies, conservation officers and S.T.O.P. officers. The penalty for failure to have a valid snowmobile trail permit is a minimum fine of \$200. to a maximum of \$1000. The fine for failing to display a valid trail permit in the identified location on the sled is \$90. This will help to ensure that all snowmobilers are paying their fair share to ride on groomed trails.

How will Bill 101 Effect You?

The new snowmobile trail permit application is a two part form. One half is for the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and the other for the OFSC. In order for you to receive OFSC benefits and OFSC/club material both parts of the application form should be completed and signed when you buy your trail permit. If this form is not completed, the MTO cannot release your name to the OFSC for OFSC benefits and you will not receive Ontario Snowmobiler Magazine, the OSM Trail Map Atlas or the OFSC Top Trail Guide or any other OFSC materials. So please make sure your complete both parts of the form.

It's Your Choice – by Warren Thaxter

Did you know that this is the year of the volunteer? It is! Do you realize also that the entire snowmobile sport, as we know it, rides on the backs of volunteers?

Most readers can identify with the obvious volunteer jobs. Jobs such as signage, trail preparation, and sometimes even trail grooming, although trail grooming is rapidly becoming a hired/paid position. There are dozens of other jobs which require unpaid people to do them. Once or twice a year our club has a work day. On workdays groups of volunteer people come out and a lot of work is done in a short time, but what about the day after? What about the week after, or the month after? Twenty jobs still have to be done.

Did you ever go for a ride very early in the season and wonder why the new signage wasn't up yet? Or maybe, after spending \$130 on a trail permit and seeing sleds go by without permits, you have wondered where the Trail Wardens were? Did you ever question the condition of the trails?

Well the reason just might be that the small group of volunteers, who are diligently working every weekend, just haven't made their way to this side of the forest yet. Or maybe that same group of workers are still collecting sold permits from the many vendors. Some of them might still be out selling advertisements so that a trail map can be produced. Then again maybe that small group of volunteers are installing new tracks on the club groomer or building a bridge somewhere.

What I am getting at is that there are many more jobs than there seem to be workers. The people who do the work, do so passionately, but they are few. You know what's coming now, don't you?

What are you going to do about it? If the answer is, nothing, so be it. However if the answer is that you have no time or no inclination to get involved and volunteer to help the snowmobile sport, you will pay. The work will of course, be done. It may not be done in a timely fashion, and it may not be done by that same group of volunteers, because overworked volunteers burn-out after a time. The work will be done by paid staff. The snowmobile sporting industry is too big to die if people quit working for free but when people demand to be paid to do the work, you will pay.

The point of this article is to get you thinking about an approaching problem. Please get involved. An act as simple as attending a club meeting is a contribution to the sport. If you do nothing more this winter, attend one club meeting. Just that one contribution might just keep the volunteers working a little longer. Oh yeah, and if the occasion arises, tell them thanks, it's usually all the consideration they get.

Warren Thaxter, Newtonville

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Note from Vice President – Les Lancaster Stay on Trail OR Permission Revoke:

One of the many jobs volunteers do in preparing the trail for the upcoming snowmobile season is pounding in the many stakes that mark the farm fields we cross during the winter. This being a job I have done for several years, it still amazes me the number of people that sled outside of the stakes. I know when trail conditions are poor it looks inviting outside the stakes, however you are damaging the crops that are planted beneath the snow. The property owner has given us permission to cross the land only on the staked trail, he did not give permission to snowmobile all over his fields. For those who do, you are trespassing. It is simple, show courtesy and respect when using all snowmobile trails. Remember folks, snowmobiling down the side of the road is not much fun and that is where we will be if we lose our permission to cross private property. Please Stay on Trail – OR – Permission Revoked. Thank You – Les Lancaster

Trail Status

It may seem a little early to think about snowmobiling but work is well under way on preparing the trails for winter. The club has made a donation to assist the Ganaraska Conservation Authority with major bulldozing of portions of the main trail (E108). You will especially notice improvements (wider & smoother) in the south west area of the trail system.

Millbrook Trail (4th Line) – The installation of a new culvert and some bulldozing work was required to reroute the trail on the Winslow property.

Important Request for our Landowners –

The landowners have given permission for snowmobiles only to use their lands and have requested that we take whatever measures possible to prevent/restrict other motorized vehicles from utilizing their property. Special mention was made with regard to ATVs. Please, in order to have continued use of landowners private property, if you see anybody with an unauthorized vehicle on these lands request that they leave.

Why is there a surcharge on this years permit price?

There has been a whopping **833%** increase in the cost of buying liability insurance coverage for OFSC snowmobile trails. The major cause of this

startling premium increase is a minority of snowmobilers who ride irresponsibly and then expect OFSC liability insurance to pay when their negligence or carelessness results in injury, death or property damage. With Ontario's 268 snowmobile clubs already incurring a \$7 million annual operating deficit to maintain and groom snowmobile trails, there is no room within the established permit fee structure to accommodate such an unprecedented insurance increase. Yet liability insurance is crucial for the protection of volunteers, clubs, landowners and the OFSC. Thus there was no way to avoid the surcharge. Irresponsible and careless snowmobilers cost us all!!

Driver Training

Course requirements:

- 12 years old at time of registration
- minimum 6 hours of classroom instruction
- cost \$23.00 plus \$2.00 for lunch (includes course materials)
- after successful completion of written exam a Snow Vehicle Operator's License will be issued
- Date: Sunday Nov 25, 2001
- Registration: call Marlene Cunningham 905-797-2011

Financial Report

An audit was completed of last years financial records by Michael Sullivan, Chartered Accountant in Bowmanville. Copies of the financial report will be available at the Nov 4, 2001 annual general meeting or if you cannot attend the meeting and would like a copy please call 905-983-8221.

Recipe

Vicki Lancaster submitted a recipe which I managed to loose before compiling this newsletter. I looked hi and low, but it was no where to be found. Perhaps she could give me another copy and we will make sure it gets in the next edition. Sorry Vicki!!!



Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP)

As an incentive to encourage more members to participate in the operation and functioning of the Ganaraska Snowmobile Club the implementation of the Volunteer Incentive Program was approved

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by the membership at our spring 2001 annual general meeting. Its purpose is to recognize and reward the volunteers for their time and efforts; and replaces the current Ganny Point incentive program. The feasibility will be reviewed each year at the spring annual general meeting.

Under the new Volunteer Incentive program each hour of volunteer work, previously approved by the club executive, is equivalent to \$4.00. Each volunteer could use a maximum of 50 hours or \$200. per year towards club merchandise, cash remuneration or a combination thereof. Volunteer hours worked in excess of the 50 hour limit can be banked for future years or donated back to the club. When there are two or more individuals in the same household doing volunteer work they may combine their hours (ie. husband works 50 hour, wife works 10 hours = 60 hours @ \$4.00 = \$240.00) to a household maximum of 100 hours per year or \$400.00. This limitation would ensure the club doesn't become financially over extended in any given year.

Earned hours including dates, hours and description of work completed must be submitted to the Volunteer Incentive Program Co-ordinator, Stan King by Mar 1st each year for approval by the club executive.

Persons who have accumulated points under the present Ganny Point program can cash them in at the present value of \$1.00 per point (to the individual yearly limitation of \$200.) with any remaining points converted to the new program on a 4 for 1 basis or donate them back to the club.

Individuals with banked hours who cease to be a member of the Ganaraska Snowmobile Club will forfeit any unclaimed accumulated hours.

When the financial records were audited in June 2001 the accountant recommended that we implement a cap on the amount of hours any individual can accumulate, thus preventing a large liability (debt) accumulating for the club to pay. At a subsequent executive meeting it was passed that a 50 hour cap per person be established. Individuals wanting to take part in the Volunteer Incentive program should contact Stan King, the program coordinator.

SALE:

There will be a half price sale of our club merchandise at our Annual General Meeting on Nov 4, 2001 at the Lion's Hall in Campbellcroft at 7:00 p.m.

Articles Available:

- **14 green hats** regular 10 points- sale 5 pts
- **2 XL sweat shirts with collars** regular 30 points – sale 15 points
- **2 XXL sweat shirts with collars** regular 30 points – sale 15 points
- **2 LG coats** regular 80 pts – sale 40 pts
- **2 XL coats** regular 80 pts – sale 40 pts
- **3 XXL coats** regular 80 pts – sale 40 pts

Get there early as it will be on a first come first serve basis. See Stan King to trade in your ganny points for your club merchandise. If you want to know how many points you currently have give Stan a call at 905-753-2345.

Suggestion Corner:

Would you like to see a "What do you think column" in this newsletter. For example what do you think of sending this newsletter by email to those that have a computer with an internet account? Members could submit questions that they want addressed or articles they would like published. See the How to Contact Us List on page 1 to reply.

Coming Events	
Sunday Nov 4, 2001	Annual General Meeting
	Location: Lions Hall, Campbellcroft
	Time: 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Nov 11, 2001	Trail Preparation Party
	Meet at: Lions Hall, Campbellcroft
	Time: 9:00 a.m.
	NOTE: Please bring pruning sheers
Sunday Nov 18, 2001	Peterborough Snowmobile Show
	Location: Morrow Building,
	Peterborough
Sunday Nov 25, 2001	Driver Training
	To register call Marlene Cunningham
	Phone: 905-797-2011
To be announced	Warden Training

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2001/2002 Club Executive		
President	Bill Stapleton	905-983-8221
Vice President	Les Lancaster	905-885-8504
Secretary	Gerry Ouellette	905-436-5062
Treasurer	Shirley Stapleton	905-983-8221
Trail Permits	Warren Thaxter	905-786-2836
Sign Chairman	Mike Miller	905-342-5651
Grooming Co-Ord	Don Reed	905-797-2562
Equip Mgr	Jack Draper	705-932-2166
Volunteer Program	Stan King	905-753-2345
Head Warden	Chris Perron	905-983-5186
Driver Training	Marlene Cunningham	905-797-2011
Warden Training	Marlene Cunningham	905-797-2011
Newsletter Editor	Pat Kehoe	905-987-5724
Webmaster	Kevin Malley	kmalley@idirect.com

How to buy my permit(s):

1. Visit one of our permit distributors
2. Return the mail order form with your cheque or visa information
3. Phone the club 905-983-5099 or 905-983-8221

Please remember to add the \$10. surcharge. Thank you for your continued support.

Distributor	Phone #	Town
Note: Some distributors sell for more than one club - In order to support the Ganaraska Snowmobile Club please specify which club's permit you wish to purchase		
Britt's Bar & Grill	905-797-2771	Bewdley
Bruce Larmer Automotive	705-745-4032	Peterborough
Cliff Shore Small Eng	905-373-0812	Cobourg
Cycle World East	416-291-9858	Toronto
Draper, Jack	705-932-2166	Millbrook
Eastman Steeves	905-987-1657	Newcastle
Evergreen John Deere	905-983-9119	Orono
Fleming, Nick	705-277-1806	Bethany
Ganaraska Snowmobile Club	905-983-5099	Kendal
Garden Hill Store	905-797-2614	Garden Hill
Harris, Rob	705-932-3363	Garden Hill
Hill, Ken	905-983-9736	Pontypool
Jones Gas Bar & Variety	705-944-8837	Cavan
King's Wreckers	905-728-0533	Oshawa
Lancaster, Les	905-885-8504	Port Hope
License Office -P.Hope	905-885-7400	Port Hope
Matthews Automotive	905-885-4585	Port Hope
Moore, Howard	905-797-2989	Garden Hill
Noone's Restaurant	905-983-9290	Hwy 115, Orono
Off Road Salvage	905-885-7278	Port Hope
Olco	905-987-5174	Hwy 115, Newcastle
Olco (Bewdley)	905-797-9623	Bewdley
Peterborough Salvage	705-642-6120	Peterborough
Roaster	905-983-1081	Kendal
Roka Lumber	705-277-3381	Hwy 35, Pontypool
Spoiled Sports	905-436-6487	Baseline Rd, Courtice
Stapleton, Bill	905-983-8221	Kendal
Thaxter, Warren	905-786-2836	Newcastle
Todd's Equipment	705-932-2182	King St E, Millbrook
Gary Woodbeck	905-983-6475	Orono