

OFSC Launches New and Improved Trail Smart Insurance Program

(Barrie, ON. Oct 31, 2003): Ontario snowmobilers who have purchased a 2004 Snowmobile Trail Permit have a new choice for obtaining personal sled insurance this winter. Effective November 1, 2003, the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) is pleased to reintroduce its Trail Smart Insurance program with a new carrier, the Jevco Insurance Company. Specialists in snowmobile insurance, Jevco brings a new approach to buying sled insurance. Their philosophy with respect to snowmobiles is not to restrict them but rather rate the risk based on the type of sled, driver experience and record.

“Thanks to our consultants, Dion Durrell Associates, and to Jevco, this new outlook means an end to the blacklist that negatively impacted so many OFSC snowmobilers last winter,” stated Dennis Burns, OFSC President. “Trail Smart Insurance will be competitively priced. While it may not always be the least expensive, Jevco has guaranteed us that insurance will be available for 99% of snowmobiles.”

With automobile insurance, which includes snowmobiles, suffering higher premiums and market uncertainty last winter, many snowmobilers were unable to obtain quotes on their sleds. Some insurance companies refused to cover snowmobiles at all, while others would only insure certain models. Still others would only insure sleds along with other property.

Trail Smart will not blacklist sleds and will provide stand-alone snowmobile insurance exclusively for OFSC members. This means that Trail Smart does not require a rider to add a home and/or car to be able to receive a quote or be insured for a sled, unlike the majority of other insurance companies. While the OFSC Trail Smart Insurance Program does not solve the current insurance crisis, it brings the benefits of group insurance to snowmobilers at a time when many are looking for a good alternative.

“This is a very good news story because the availability of Trail Smart Insurance will have several positive effects this winter,” concluded Burns. “More riders will be able to obtain coverage, so sleds that sat uninsurable in a garage last season can be on the trail again this year. More sleds means more tourism business and that will provide increased economic benefits to many snowbelt communities.”

The OFSC continues to work with insurers and the government to motivate the changes necessary to make sled insurance more affordable. It is also the first snowmobile association in North America’s to develop and implement a comprehensive snowmobiling risk management program to help reduce insurance claims. For the upcoming season, the OFSC is also stepping up its award winning SledSmart Public Education Safety Campaign to reduce snowmobiling injuries and fatalities.

The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs is dedicated to providing strong leadership and support to member clubs and volunteers, to establishing and maintaining quality

snowmobile trails which are used in a safe and environmentally responsible manner, and to furthering the enjoyment of organized snowmobiling.

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