

## 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 enticing residents to the Peace Country which has a shortage of workers. 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 including safety training for operators.
- Working with local municipalities to develop By-Laws for off highway vehicles that are reasonable and enforceable.

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 staging 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 Community Access points with signage at 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.
- On trail signs and markers are provided to assist sledders with route and hazard identification.
- Trails are groomed, as volunteer resources allow, by the Club's Arctic Cat drag type groomer acquired in November 2012.

### **Leddy Lake Trail (PNT100284)**

- Officially opened in March 2011.
- Located north of Peace River.
- Runs 40 km north from the Leddy Lake Recreation Area to 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 located at Leddy Lake and has been operational since November 2013.
- A short trail extension to allow for local community access was added in 2014.

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

- This trail has been available for use since December 2015 but not been officially opened. The official opening is to be expected this coming winter as the last of the development work on the East End Staging Area is to be completed by 01JUN16.
- 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 the Figure Eight Lake to just north of Stoney Lake. This trail includes a loop near the west end of the trail that has a magnificent view of the area.
- A rest area providing a picnic table and fire pit at approximately the midpoint of the trail will be installed this coming winter.
- No Community Access points are provided on this trail although one is currently under consideration.

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

- Officially opened in March 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.
- A rest area providing a picnic table and fire pit makes this trail ideal for a family winter picnic.
- Two Community Access points are provided for local residents.

### **Potential Future Trails:**

**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 Wesley Creek Trail, of which this trail is viewed as an extension. This proposed trail will potentially run north along the power line which is adjacent to the DMI east haul road. Now that development of the Wesley Creek Trail has been completed, the Club expects to resume work with stakeholders and routing in the near future.

**Misery Mountain Trail** – This trail is proposed to link the Town of Peace River to the Leddy Lake Trail. Public consultation took place in the fall of 2011 and approval in principle of the concept was provided in the spring of 2012. Due to the complexities associated with this trail, the process of route identification is expected to be a multi-year undertaking.

**Hines Creek Trail** – Work on this trail formally started in the spring of 2015 and since that time approval in principle of the concept has been provided. Current work is focusing on stakeholder consultations and route identification. This trail would potentially link the Smith Mills Trail with the Village of Hines Creek and if 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.

### **Future 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 a 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**

- **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 warm up shelters or rest areas to warm up and/or cook lunch.
  - 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 appropriate 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**
  - Enhances the recreation opportunities in the area thereby attracting or retaining employees and businesses.
  - 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 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**

Alberta Snowmobile Association	Roadrunner Leasing and Sales Ltd.
Highland Helicopters Ltd.	Signs by Wood ‘N’ Art
Lorette Truck Services (2005) Ltd.	Weberville Community Club
Rick Serhan o/a 10300844 AB Ltd.	

**Purchase of Arctic Cat Groomer & Trailer**

Government of Alberta – Community Initiatives Program	Shell Canada Limited
Peace River Ford	

**Development of the Smith Mills Trail**

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

**Development of the Wesley Creek Trail**

Avenge Energy Services Inc.	Roadrunner Leasing and Sales Ltd.
Baytex Energy Corp.	Weaver Welding Ltd.
MacMillan Construction Ltd.	Western Canadian Mulching Ltd.
Northern Sunrise County	

**2014 Re-Clearing of the Leddy Lake Trail**

Baytex Energy Corp.	Weaver Welding Ltd.
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**2016 Vegetation clean up on the Leddy Lake Trail**

County of Northern Lights	R. Osmond Tree Services
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**2016 Vegetation clean up on the Wesley Creek Trail**

Northern Sunrise County	Mike Kolebaba Water Transport
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**Operations Support**

Ace Machine & Welding (Peace River) Ltd.	Peace River Go RV & Marine
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**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/Trail Development & Operations Committee Chair) 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#>.

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