

NLSF NEWS

WINTER 2010

By Donnie O'Keefe, Executive Director

Here we go, into our third edition of "NLSF News." Thanks again for your kind feedback to our previous editions. We hope to give our trail pass members the inside edge to everything that is the NLSF. I sit here, this time, the end of January as I write, and I can't help but wonder what happened to winter. We are not alone, all of the Atlantic provinces, including Quebec & New Brunswick are experiencing weird snow falls. It would seem that the only areas getting snow are the ones higher up. We are currently grooming west of Corner Brook in what is known as the Logger School Road/Cold Brook Road/Lewis Hills area, Taylor's Brook Road, and White River Road, both of these areas will take you into the Gros Morne National Park. We have also been out in the areas of Hawkes Bay and St. Anthony. Visit www.nlsf.org and see the main page for what and where we are grooming.

Even the west coast communities of Corner Brook and Deer Lake are bare, but ten minutes west and you can

ride like there's no tomorrow, thus this area and the few others with snow are experiencing heavy traffic. We are only able to groom during certain hours, and conditions, it's been difficult to keep the few trails we have open up to par shall we say, but we are trying. One groomer or ten would not make a difference at this point in time, so please be patient, safe on the trails and do the best snow dance that you can. Hopefully by the time this edition reaches your mailbox, we will all be riding groomed trails.

GROOMERS

I had informed you in our last edition that the NLSF had purchased a groomer for the first time in years. Well, we have once again purchased another groomer. The unit, which we purchased at an auction late last year, will have to be outfitted for the snow. Through our contacts and one of our suppliers, we discovered a groomer which was being used by their operation as





**NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR
SNOWMOBILE FEDERATION**

7 Wellon Drive Deer Lake, NL A8A 2G6

www.nlsf.org **709-635-4395**

a loaner. Included in the deal, a drag which we would also need for the auction unit. Just last week, delivered to our door in Deer Lake was another BR160 and Mogul Master Drag. We will put this unit on the snow, use it this winter and at the end of the season, begin the process of moving over the hydraulics, and other needed parts, so our auction unit will be 100% ready for the following season. Great news for sure... more groomers available for the snow!

TRAIL PASS

Early bird sales have gone well. Our new online system was very successful, although we did fall behind in getting the passes out to you, eventually we did catch up and we thank you for your patience and understanding. Some tweaking is needed but overall the results were awesome with about 40% of our sales coming from the online system. Please note, you can continue to use this online system and receive a 5% discount on your first pass only, as well as purchase your daily passes, something that has never been offered before. Although we are not doing a lot of grooming right now, we have invested quite a bit of our trail pass monies into both trails and our groomer fleet. This fall over \$200,000 was invested into our fleet for both repair,

maintenance and parts. Add to that the purchase of two groomers and a drag. We have invested over half a million dollars into our trail network with more happening every day. Please keep in mind, trail pass revenue is used for more than just the grooming of trails and the fuelling of our groomers.

VOLUNTEERS

Trail work never stops. There is always something else out there to get done. I want to say thank you to everyone that stops to pick up that fallen sign, cut the overhanging branch or simply pick up the phone to say, "I want to help." We need more of this and for those that have already signed up, thank you. We recently completed the re-decking of 160'x16' bridge on the Northern Peninsula. We should all give a huge thank-you to the volunteers who offered up the help to make this happen. Trail pass monies paid for the decking, the volunteers did the rest. Saving all of us thousands of dollars which will result in more grooming hours for all to enjoy!

Until next edition, enjoy the trails, safe and happy riding.



PLACES ^{TO} EXPLORE EAST RIVER FALLS

By Andrew Goldsworthy

During a trip to the Northern Peninsula, our group enjoyed an excursion to Great Harbour Deep and took in some of the mountains around the Hawkes Bay area. However, our final day in the area delivered us a real treat. Local guides John Smallwood and Vince Atkins brought us to see the East River Falls, which we accessed through the route between Hawkes Bay and Cloud River. The East River Falls is another excellent example of the natural assets that the province of Newfoundland and Labrador has tucked away, just waiting to be discovered.

The Hawkes Bay area has tons of exploring options and is possibly one of the best kept secrets within the province. Not that well known by many, because most folks haven't ridden the region. Doing so means you're committed to the two and a half hour drive north from Deer Lake on the Viking Trail, which is a treat as you pass through Gros Morne National Park and travel the coast line. The drive isn't that bad and the scenery makes the time fly.

Our base for this trip was at the Torrent River Inn in Hawkes Bay, where we enjoyed the efficiency units



which allowed us to cook many of our own meals. Torrent River Inn has a Pizza Delight restaurant and bar on site, which make for great post-ride activities. We were able to leave right from town to access all riding routes. At the main staging area, you'll find gas and supplies easily accessible at Wilf Mouland's store. The locals are friendly and they'll take the time to chat with complete strangers like they knew you for years - but that's what makes this province unique and known for its hospitality.

Day one of our trip to the region saw us do a cross-peninsula tour into Great Harbour Deep. That was a trip of a lifetime and a must do for every sledder out there. However, day two in the region saw us stay closer to Hawkes Bay and visit some of the local attractions. The visit to East River Falls really made a positive impression on me. The roar of the water flowing out from underneath the river ice and hitting at the bottom with such power was just intense. The falls is about 80 feet high and in the depths of winter, the entire thing will freeze over. While there, I took some video footage and some of the boys were giving their commentary. When we got back to the inn, I fired up the computer to watch the footage. It was amazing, the roar of the falls drowned out everything and you couldn't hear a word.

If you're planning a trip up the Northern Peninsula, I recommend Hawkes Bay as a great staging area. You have easy access to Great Harbour Deep, great mountains and tons of natural assets like East River Falls. For the snowmobile enthusiast that wants to explore further, see new things and meet tons of great people, I'd highly recommend you travel up the Northern Peninsula and make the Hawkes Bay region one of your stops.

This tour was made possible by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Tourism, Torrent River Inn and our fabulous guides, John Smallwood and Vince Atikins.



PLEASE DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS TO OUR CORPORATE OFFICE

Mailing address: 7 Wellon Dr., Deer Lake, NL A8A 2G6

Phone: 709-635-4395 Fax: 709-635-4396 E-mail: Info@NLSF.org

TEACHING THE GENERATION OF TOMORROW... ASK US ABOUT OUR YOUTH SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM