

Welcome to our 2nd Season of the **NLSF NEWS**

By Donnie O'Keefe, Executive Director-NLSF

IN THIS EDITION:

TRAIL WORK & INFRASTRUCTURE
READY FOR THE SNOW
WHERE DID MY TRAIL PASS MONEY GO?
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES



If you are an avid snowmobiler like me, you're hoping and praying we never see another winter like 09-10. I know a few people who thought it was awesome, but the fact remains that economically, we need snow. Newfoundland and Labrador needs snow and so does most of Canada. We depend on it and as our chairperson has said on many occasions, we put "Bums in Beds" and snow generates a lot of money for businesses in Newfoundland and Labrador, including the tourism industry.

Trail Work & Infrastructure:

Over the summer we have been busy inspecting our infrastructure, meeting with our counterparts both provincially and nationally and working on our long term stability. We have a large amount of trail out there and keeping it up to par takes a lot of time, effort and money. It is difficult for us to prioritize what needs to get done first, but ultimately the goal is the "East to West" and "South to North" trail.

That being said we have some major issues that are in need of immediate work:

- 1) In Western, the new hospital planned for Corner Brook will interrupt our primary trail. Stay tuned for the new route.**
- 2) The bridge over Steady Brook (behind Marble Mountain) is in need of replacement.**
- 3) Further east, we hit the Baie Verte Junction area where the bridge over Black Brook is due to come out. The bridge is the property of Corner Brook Pulp & Paper (you may have heard about this on the news over the summer).**
- 4) Moving east, we have kilometres of trail in need of alder removal and we have yet to complete the trail connecting all the way to St. John's.**

All of this takes money and a lot of it. We operate solely on trail pass sales, so this will take time and we need your support. I have been saying since I took over this position that trail pass monies are not only about groomed trails. There's so much more under the snow. For those supporting the system, we thank you, and for those who still sit on the fence, it's time to come on over. We will continue to work with our enforcement bodies to keep the free loaders off the trails. Expect greater enforcement this year. Operating on a registered snowmobile trail without a proper trail pass is illegal and wrong.

Ready for the Snow:

However, we are ready for the new season. With only one or two of our units requiring repairs, we will be ready to put our fleet to work once the snow hits. Last year we had some of the groomer fleet work their normal operating hours, while others either did not turn the key or operated very few (3,500 hrs).

I'm amazed as I talk with people who never turned the key or pulled the cord last year. There's no doubt, it was far from a normal year, but if you had a way to get to the snow, you certainly had a great season of riding. We invested a lot of money last year, preparing for a season that truly did not come. However, we are in excellent shape for the beginning of 2010-2011. A final note concerning the 2010-2011 trail pass - if all goes as planned, you will be able to purchase your 2010-2011 early bird season's pass starting October 15th until November 30th. Keep checking our website for updates - www.nlsf.org.

Where did my Trail Pass Money go?

Many trail pass holders have a belief that trail pass monies are used solely to fund trail grooming. We want our trail pass purchasers to fully understand what your trail pass monies are spent on. There is so much more to the NLSF and where your trail pass monies are spent, outside of grooming.

An outside independent chartered accounting firm has conducted an internal audit of our books and affairs for the 2009/2010 season. Below you will find a summary of all our operational expenses for last year's operating season. This outlines where your trail pass money goes and what it pays for, even if we do not have snow or have a short snowmobile riding season, there are many fixed costs to this organization that must be paid in order to operate.

Total Revenue:

\$731,313

General Admin Expenses:

\$326,089

Groomer & Trail Operations:

\$500,130

Insurance:

\$46,338

Professional Fees:

\$17,095

Interest/long-term debt, bank:

\$17,247

Pass Rev returned fr clubs:

(\$97,150)

Monies owed by clubs (write-off):

\$35,508

Total Operating Expenses:

\$845,257

Net Income (deficiency):

(\$113,944)

Last year was a very challenging year within the NLSF, as the lack of snow had a dramatic impact in the reduction of trail pass sales. On an average year we sell approximately 16,000 passes across the province. In the 2009/2010 season, our trail pass sales were approximately 9,600. We want to educate you and make you aware of how important it is to support "Groomed Trail" operations, even when there is very little snow and a short riding season. We are providing a service for you the trail rider. Please support us by purchasing your seasonal trail pass.

Capital Expenditures:

The Federal Government launched a stimulus program in 2009, identified as the National Trails Coalition (NTC). This funding package allowed provinces to avail of funding for trail upgrades and trail development by means of a 50% contribution under this project. The NLSF, along with other funding partners, availed of this funding for six major trail projects across the island. The projects included bridge replacement, new trail development and trail upgrades. In addition, the NLSF used capital funds for the purchase of two groomers, fuel tanks, development of the On-Line Trail Pass purchase system and building renovations. Through these projects, the NLSF had total capital expenditures of \$843,731, with the NLSF contributing \$252,461.

Now you can see from the above information, there is so much more going on with monies generated from trail passes. There is a lot more that still needs to be done on our provincial trail system, but it all comes with a cost. So when we have the type of winter that doesn't allow for us to be out riding the trails as much as we would like to, we are ensuring that your investment into our organization is spent on YOUR TRAILS.

Until next time, get your sled serviced, purchase your trail pass and get ready for an awesome winter.

Donnie O'Keefe

Executive Director-NLSF

"Many Hands Make Light Work"

NLSF NEWS PRESENTS: PLACES TO EXPLORE

Donnie O'Keefe, Executive Director-NLSF



Sometimes the best places are right under your nose. Or in this case, all you have to do is look up.

As I drive through the Humber Valley/Corner Brook area, in the distance is what my son calls a big, white...soccer ball?

Truth be known, this is the radar tower located on the top of Marble Mountain. The view from that soccer ball is what some would call a "Million Dollar View", but yet, many never get to see it, or simply don't know how easy it is to see.

After five minutes on the groomed trail you can see something that most would die for - a view

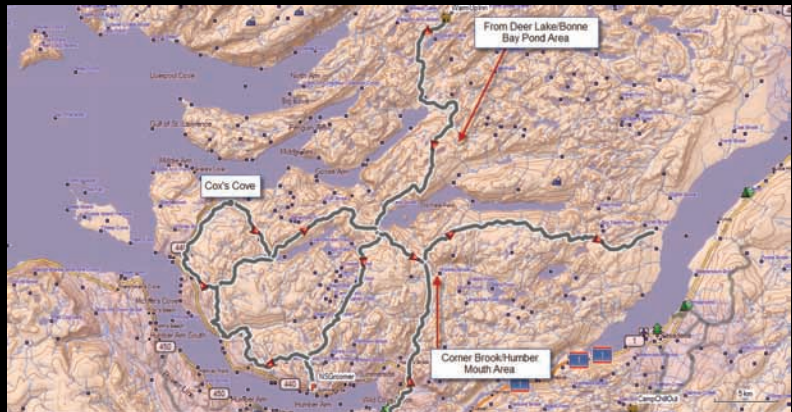
that stretches from the [Bay of Islands](#) right to the ocean. Coming from the west, you circle around the city of Corner Brook, through Massey Drive and begin the climb on the Western slope of Marble Mountain. Just as you plateau at the top, the tower is to your left. From here, it's just a short jaunt through the trees and around the edge of a pond and you will hit the access road to the tower.

Make sure you head up, as heading down will lead you to the top of one of Marble's ski lifts. Marble prefers that you do not do this, as there isn't a lot of room for skiers and snowmobilers once you

meet. From the east you either come up from Steady Brook or from Pasadena via the groomed trail. The route is usually well beaten as it's becoming a more visited location. I advise caution, and advise you to wait on the plateau for someone to come by. I can pretty much assure you that eventually you will meet someone who can take you out there. You will not be disappointed. On a clear day you can see all the way to the ocean, 30-plus miles - what a view!

If I had to suggest a scenic trail with low traffic, I'd have to say such a trail exists

"If I had to suggest a scenic trail with low traffic, I'd have to say such a trail exists on the north shore of the Bay of Islands."



on the north shore of the Bay of Islands. This winding trail has very little traffic and anytime I have ever used it, it has been awesome. You can connect to this great section of trail via Corner Brook & the Humber mouth area, or you may choose to come from the north side of Deer Lake/Bonne Bay Pond and make a full day of the trip. The trail will take you down through the communities of Irishtown, Summerside, Meadows and onward to Cox's Cove. The view once again is awesome with the snow covered Blow Me Down mountains across the way. Ell Pond is a rider's

treat with some intense drops and always plenty of snow to keep your track buried.

As the winter sets in, I will continue to share "Places to Explore" with you. If you have a great spot that you think others would enjoy, drop me a line. As I travel throughout the province, I'm amazed by the amounts of trails that we have, and how many I have yet to explore.

Donnie O'Keefe

