

# Klondike SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Welcome back

KSA membership supports the Trans Canada Trail



**Mark Daniels**  
KSA President

It's been a crazy summer and I'm not just talking about the weather. Hurricanes, record rain and wildfires have hit across North America. Whitehorse, on the other hand, had another non-summer leading those who have the free time and resources to head "outside" to Alberta and B.C. to get some sun—as smoky as it was from time to time.

It was also a crazy summer in the local trail planning world with some controversial behaviour and decisions by city council leading to the near-mass resignation of the Whitehorse Trails and Greenways Committee and subsequent disbanding of the committee by the City. The current lack of a standing citizen-based unit to advise the City on trail matters is leaving several interested groups and individuals wondering how the City intends to proceed with the implementation of years' worth of planning recommendations and incoming private trail development applications. As always, the KSA will advocate for a seat at the table

whenever the powers-that-be meet to discuss trails, snowmobiles and land access issues.

This summer marked Canada 150 celebrations and the official connection of the Trans Canada Trail (TCT). The TCT and their agents organized over 200 local events across the country on

August 26. The KSA hosted a trailside event in front of the TCT pavilion in Rotary Park. Despite the rainy, blustery weather, the KSA executive and volunteer members handed out cake, drinks and TCT bling to about 200 people, including a couple of Aussie tourists.

We used the event to promote support of the TCT through membership with the KSA. We signed up 130 new and renewing members in just a couple of hours. If you haven't renewed yet, you can expect to get a notice in the mail. Remember that, at only \$20, KSA memberships make great gifts. A small investment by you results in tons of savings on food, fuel, clothing, hotels and more for the recipient. And it's environmentally friendly. KSA cards are compostable so the City ►



Nita Daniels photo

Trail check on a nice summer day

► won't charge you tipping fees to dispose of them like they would on that piece of plastic produced in China that you were going to buy instead.

The big news of the summer is the arrival of our new grooming unit comprised of the Kubota RTV1100 Turbo UTV and the Mogul Master ULMBP8-06ST drag. I've been gently breaking in the RTV on wheels this summer before we kit it out with the tracks and snowplow for winter work. The little pumpkin-orange RTV is a head-turner. I get smiles, waves and thumbs-up every time I take it out. People stop me on the trails to ask about it and they're especially curious about the distinctive whine coming from the little turbo diesel engine when it slows to an

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Nita Daniels photo

“Summer sledding” Yukon-style

► **WELCOME BACK**  
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idle. I’m really looking forward to seeing how this thing performs on snow. I’m also looking forward to grooming in a T-shirt from the heated cab instead of from the frozen seat of a utility sled.

Most jurisdictions in North America are begging for public funding to buy trail groomers. The KSA is extremely fortunate for the financial support provided by the Community Development Fund of the Yukon Government. We appreciate their generosity as well as their professional and friendly staff.

While the government has funded the lion’s share of the cost, the KSA is still on the hook for several thousand dollars for this new grooming package. We’re asking for assistance from everyone who enjoys the local trails. Donations can be made by mail (see our address at [ksa.yk.ca](mailto:ksa.yk.ca)), in person at Sport Yukon and online at [www.goFundMe.com/ksagroomer](http://www.goFundMe.com/ksagroomer). A video clip of a similar groomer in action can be found at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBUtqCLQy6g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBUtqCLQy6g). ■

## Shop locally—support your local dealer

by MARK DANIELS

The legalization of marijuana has “clouded” the issue so let me be clear: I’m talking specifically about snowmobile dealers here. Snowmobiling generates \$8 billion worth of economic activity annually in Canada. The average Canadian snowmobiler spends about \$4,000 annually on snowmobiles and related products and services. Where you spend your hard-earned cash has a real influence on the health of the community and the viability of snowmobiling in it.

We all shop online and the reasons can vary greatly. It could be that the product we’re looking for isn’t available locally. Maybe the online price is so much cheaper than at the local retailer that we’re compelled to order it. And maybe we like the novelty or convenience of having our goodies shipped right to our door. While online shopping has its merits, I’d like you to consider the benefits of shopping locally, particularly when it comes to snowmobiling.

We all know that feeling that comes when you need a part now only to find that the local dealer doesn’t stock it or has run out. This can kill a planned ride or, worse, a weekend. Many people use that experience, even if it was someone else’s experience, to justify always shopping online. I can tell you that I’ve experienced it more than once in my 40 years of running recreational vehicles but I can say that it’s been rare compared to the number of times that my local dealer has the part I need in stock or has even stripped it off a unit in the yard to get me back in the saddle ASAP. I’ve even been offered a loaner machine for the weekend if mine couldn’t

be repaired in time. When Murphy’s Law reigns, it doesn’t matter how quick something can be shipped from an online order, it will never arrive here in time to save your weekend ride.

Local dealers stand by what they sell so they tend to sell only decent quality products that they get through reputable supply chains. Internet sales? Not so much. Your local dealer knows you’ll bring it back if it breaks and they’ll have to deal with it. If that happens, you don’t have to pay return shipping and you get to talk to a real person face-to-face about the issue. In most cases, you’ll get a replacement immediately. And that gets you right back in the saddle where you want to be. I encourage you to visit all the local dealerships and not just the one that carries the brand you ride. Despite being a regular patron of all the dealerships, even I’m surprised sometimes at the range of products they sell and the prices are often comparable to those online.

The dealers tend to be experts in their product lines. Now, this may not be so important to those of us with decades of experience and a deep knowledge of motorsports. We generally know what will work for us, we’re loyal to a few brands of products and we have strong networks of like-minded folks whose opinions we trust. We know how to fix our own stuff and which buddies will be that extra set of hands when needed. Anyone who is new to the sport or is short on mechanical ability lacks these same advantages. These people need an experienced dealer to service their machines and guide them toward the right products. Sure, there are online forums and product reviews. At best, these are opinions from decent people who ride elsewhere and under different conditions than we do. At worst, they spell ►

# SNORIDERS

## SPECIAL KLONDIKE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION REPORT

Mark Daniels photo



Picking up the new groomer

► disaster for anyone too naive to know they're getting advice from some armchair buffoon who's never actually been on a sled. Besides, it's hard to develop a good personal relationship with a YouTube video.

Money spent locally tends to circulate in the community. Much of what you spend at your local dealer gets put back into the economy to pay wages for employees and buy goods and services from other local retailers. The local dealers cumulatively employ dozens of people. Some of them are likely to be your friends and neighbors. Those people pay their taxes here and spend the majority of their wages locally on things like food and other basic necessities. Loss of local sales means local layoffs. Not only is that one less private sector job in the Yukon, it may result in an entire family moving south. Any loss of population here can reduce the transfer payments from Ottawa that are the true economic engine of the Yukon.

These same local dealers support organizations like the KSA who build and maintain

trails, organize events and advocate for access so we can all enjoy snowmobiling. Only a local company can fix our grooming and other trail maintenance equipment when it's needed. Local or regional economic stimulus is one of the prime criteria for funding from most government agencies. Project funds are granted on the condition that the funding will be spent locally, if possible, and that the result will have a carry-on effect to the local economy. The KSA gets grant money for trail projects partly because the provision of trails drives the sales of related products—be that skis, bikes, ATVs, snowmobiles, or any other products used on the trails. No local snowmobile dealer means one less reason for government agencies to fund our infrastructure. A similar dynamic works in the government policy realm. When we advocate for access rights, for example, decision-makers ask what the local economic implications are. We point to sales at the dealers and other local retailers as evidence that reasonable access policies contribute to the local economy by increasing sales of goods that are used for outdoor recreation.

We're lucky here in the Yukon to have dealerships for the "Big Four" snowmobile manufacturers. These same dealers carry other lines of products, whether that is clothing, boats, ATVs, motorcycles, cars or power tools. Every product line contributes to their balance sheet. You may be thinking that it's enough for you to buy your sled from the dealer but shop online for all ►

### Membership Form

Time to renew your KSA membership. Do you know someone who should become a member?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues for the 2017/2018 season:

- Single \$20  Family \$30  Corporate \$105
- Gold Corporate \$315 including GST

Please make cheques payable to:

**Klondike Snowmobile Association,  
4061 - 4th Ave., Whitehorse, YT Y1A 4H1**

### Membership Benefits

- KSA membership card
- KSA newsletters (four per year)
- KSA licence plate and decals
- Input into the development of KSA policy
- Assistance with problems, projects and trail development initiatives in your area
- A strong, unified voice with government and other agencies
- A guarantee that a team of volunteers are working year-round to enhance and promote multi-use trails throughout the Yukon Territory
- Four free issues of *SnoRiders* magazine
- 6% off gas at Tags 4th Ave. Whitehorse (not valid during gas wars)
- 10% off food at Trails North (excluding alcohol)
- 10% discount at McDonald's Restaurants Whitehorse (not valid with other offers)
- Access to Last Run Lounge at Mount Sima (please, no drinking and sledding)
- 10% off at Klondike RV Rentals - [www.klondikerv.com](http://www.klondikerv.com)
- 10% off at Mark's on regularly priced merchandise (separate card required, which is issued with membership)
- 20% off at Sandor's (Chilkoot Mall) on regularly priced goggles, gloves, toques, snowpants, jackets and snowboards
- Special prices on Haber Vision sunglasses and goggles - see [www.habervision.com](http://www.habervision.com) for details. Member code is "CCSO"
- 10% off at Mt. Lorne Bed and Breakfast - [www.klondikerv.com](http://www.klondikerv.com)
- Special rates at Choice Hotels - see [www.choicehotels.ca/ccso](http://www.choicehotels.ca/ccso) for details. Only available for online bookings.
- Special snowmobiler rates at the Atlin Inn
- Corporate Members get a link on our website
- Gold Corporate Members - 2 free ads in KSA newsletters
- 10% off snowmobile rentals at Yukon Wide Adventures



If you have comments, photos or story ideas for the Klondike Report, send them to:  
**Mark Daniels, Klondike Snowmobile Association**  
4061 - 4th Ave., Whitehorse, YT Y1A 4H1  
Phone: 867-667-7680 • Email: [klonsnow@yknnet.ca](mailto:klonsnow@yknnet.ca)

### KSA corporate members

A special thank you goes out to all the businesses that help support the Klondike Snowmobile Association via corporate memberships! For more info on becoming a corporate member, please see the Become a Member page on our website: [ksa.yk.ca](http://ksa.yk.ca).

- Alpine Aviation - Whitehorse
- Alsk Valley Contracting - Whitehorse
- Atlin Mountain Inn - Atlin, BC
- Bombardier Recreational Products - Sherbrooke, QC
- Braeburn Lodge - Braeburn
- Brewery Bay Chalet - Atlin, BC
- Canada Flooring - Whitehorse
- Capital Helicopters - Whitehorse
- Centennial Motors - Whitehorse
- Checked Flag Recreation - Whitehorse
- City of Whitehorse
- Fireweed Helicopters - Whitehorse
- Klondike Visitors Association - Dawson City
- Locksmith Services - Whitehorse
- Nomad Air - Whitehorse
- Quality Bearing - Whitehorse
- SnoRiders* magazine - Cranbrook, BC
- Territorial Contracting - Whitehorse
- Tourist Industry Association - Whitehorse
- Trails North Car & Truck Stop - Whitehorse
- U-Brew Yukon - Whitehorse
- Village of Mayo
- Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon
- Workforce Information & Networking Hub - Whitehorse
- Yukon Alpine Association
- Yukon Alpine Heliski
- Yukon Avalanche Association
- Yukon Meat and Sausage - Whitehorse
- Yukon Quest
- Yukon Trappers Association - Whitehorse
- Yukon Wide Adventures - Whitehorse
- Corporate Gold members:**
- Main Street Driving School - Whitehorse
- McDonald's Restaurants - Whitehorse
- Mic Mac Toyota - Whitehorse
- Safe Trails North Training Services - Whitehorse
- Triggs Family - Whitehorse
- Yukon Honda - Whitehorse
- Yukon Yamaha - Whitehorse



Mark Daniels photo

The new groomer is a head-turner.

► your parts, accessories and clothing. A dealer never goes out of business from one single catastrophic event. Rather, it's death from a thousand cuts—a slow erosion of market share often caused by a change in consumer spending habits. The loss of sales on a line or two is enough to close a dealership. And, once a dealer closes shop, a new one rarely replaces it. That would be a loss to our territory, our economy and our snowmobile community. ■

### Volunteers needed

by JAMES CONNOR

Volunteers are working for you, year-round! Just like pretty much any Yukon volunteer will tell you, at the KSA our volunteers have two seasons: the busy season, and then the really busy season.

Being a snowmobile association one would think summers would be easy, but they're definitely our busy season. Summer is trail maintenance time, and we maintain hundreds of kilometres of trails that require bushes trimmed and fallen trees removed to stay open, as well as the seemingly endless job of signage maintenance and updating along the way.

As all of our KSA-maintained trails are all-season multi-use; we also try to keep our

trails ready for summer and winter traffic. There are outhouses to clean, bridges to sweep, picnic tables to fix, membership form boxes to stock, and the list goes on.

In addition to trail maintenance there is also the unfortunate task of trail cleanup. Despite our best efforts to encourage people to keep the Yukon's backyard beautiful, there's always garbage to pick up. On just about every trail maintenance outing I've ever gone on we've hauled a surprising amount of garbage off the trails and surrounding wilderness. This summer alone we've hauled out just about everything you can think of, including jugs of used car oil, broken televisions, and even a kitchen sink! Definitely not items typically carried out there by snowmobile, but we cleaned it up anyway.

The most disappointing part of our summer trail work this season though, has been lack of volunteers. Several trail maintenance evenings were planned and advertised well ahead of time on our website (Volunteer page and Coming Events page), our monthly news emails, on Facebook and on Twitter. Despite having over 900 members this year, we were lucky if four or five people came out to help. A typical trail work group this summer has been about one-third of one per cent of our members, and each evening we went out was usually the same group of volunteers.

If you're interested in helping, we'd love to hear from you. We have a variety of opportunities for volunteers to come out and help winter or summer. To learn more you can come out to any one of our monthly board meetings (dates and details on our Events page at [www.ksa.yk.ca/coming-events](http://www.ksa.yk.ca/coming-events)), or check out the Volunteer page on our website at [www.ksa.yk.ca](http://www.ksa.yk.ca). ■

## like sledding? so do we.

More of what you love online. For snowmobilers in Western Canada. Sign up for a free email newsletter today. Log on and enjoy the ride.

[www.snoriderswest.com](http://www.snoriderswest.com)

Don't forget to check out the digital edition of your favourite snowmobiling magazine at [www.snoriderswest.com/emagazine](http://www.snoriderswest.com/emagazine)

