

Klondike SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The year in review

KSA STILL GOING STRONG AFTER 36 YEARS



Mark Daniels
KSA President

The KSA is well into our 36th year of operation. It's but a faint memory when I darkened the door at my first KSA meeting back in 1999. My wife and I had just moved back to Whitehorse after living three years in Ross River where she launched her elementary school teaching career.

We bought a house in Porter Creek and we were talking about starting a family of our own. Born and raised in Yukon, I had snowmobiled most of my life except for some time away at university. I heard that there were some local political forces opposed to snowmobiling so I went to the meeting to find out more about the problem.

Well, 18 years later, here we are. I've been a member, director, vice-president and, since 2005, president. We've struggled against political, financial and personal challenges and they have all made the KSA a stronger organization. We held our AGM on December 5 when I had the pleasure to yet again report on our progress over the past year to the membership. I'll summarize it

here for the folks who couldn't make the meeting.

I'm happy to report that our financial position remains strong. We don't borrow money and we don't buy things we can't afford. We have either sold or are in the process of selling anything we don't use to keep our operating

expenses low and our storage needs reasonable. Our storage facilities are begged and borrowed and come at no cost to the membership. Our office is in donated space in Jim's house, and we leverage our membership at Sport Yukon to take advantage of its fully staffed storefront presence.

Memberships are at record levels—partly because people appreciate the services we provide and partly because we maintain an excellent member benefits package. A \$20 annual membership can easily save hundreds of dollars on things every Yukoner needs like food, clothing and fuel.

Our trail maintenance equipment is aging but reliable, thanks to conscientious operators and ongoing support from the snow-



Photo courtesy Birch Howard/Parks Canada

The Chilkoot Trail National Historical Site

mobile dealers and other local businesses. The community values our trail work and they're willing to walk the talk. We did apply for a new grooming unit through the Community Development Fund last year and just heard the great news that they would provide the majority of funding required this spring. Our new grooming unit should be ready to work when the snow flies next winter. Among other benefits, the new Kubota RTV 1100 groomer will have an enclosed and heated cab to keep old Harris out of the weather and firmly planted in his seat.

We didn't initiate any major construction projects this past year but we did close out the South Whitehorse Connectors project from the year prior and we celebrated the upgrade of the Hamilton Boulevard Extension Trail from Falcon

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YG photo

Caribou share their home with you. Be a respectful guest.

At the end of a great day of sledding in the backcountry, you get to return home. Caribou don't—the wilderness is their home. As a guest, you should be on your best behaviour. Stay on designated trails when travelling through caribou country.

Before you head out into the backcountry, pick up your free **MULTI-USE TRAIL GUIDE**. It will help you see wildlife while minimizing disturbance. Available from the Klondike Snowmobile Association, Environment Yukon, and snowmobile service businesses.



► YEAR IN REVIEW *cont'd. from page 1*

Drive to the underpass with the City of Whitehorse. Rather than building, we spent an enormous amount of time in trail planning processes for Whistlebend, Porter Creek, North Whitehorse and South Whitehorse.

Relationships drive communities and we continued to build on our relationships with the City of Whitehorse, Contagious Mountain Bike Club, Government of Yukon, Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations, Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club, Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous, Yukon Avalanche Association, Yucan Consulting and the Trans Canada Trail, where we raised our public profile with the trail connection celebration event during Rendezvous.

We were the third jurisdiction in Canada to reach connection status—having identified a continuous route through the territory from the border with British Columbia south of Watson Lake to the border with the Northwest Territories on the Dempster Highway. Much of the route is highway right-of-way and is subject to an agreement we have with the Yukon government that is currently up for renegotiation. Work continues to develop new sections of trail and upgrade existing sections.

These are amazing accomplishments for a small group of volunteers. Speaking of volunteers, we held elections at the December AGM and here's your volunteer board of directors for 2016/17: president, Mark Daniels; vice-president, Jim Connor; secretary/treasurer, James Connor; directors, Harris Cox, Jeff Marynowski and Brad Milligan. I'm looking forward to another great year with this great group. ■



Photo courtesy Birch Howard/Parks Canada

Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site

by BIRCH HOWARD

Help us keep sharing the Chilkoot Trail with the world.

It's hard to travel the Chilkoot without experiencing some element of its wild past. Whether it's the story of the Tlingit and Athapaskan First Nations traders and travelers, or the stampede of prospectors making their way to the gold fields in Dawson City, the living history of the Chilkoot Trail has been delighting visitors for decades.

While many of our visitors hike the Chilkoot Trail in the summer, experiencing the area in the winter is a unique privilege that Parks Canada is proud to facilitate for snowmobilers, skiers and snowshoers. With your help, we can keep protecting and sharing this treasure with the world by considering the following:

Reducing conflicts

On any given winter day in the Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site, you might encounter someone skiing, snowshoeing or walking. Snowmobiling is permitted within the site, with the exception of the dates

below and the winter-long restricted activity areas at Lindeman and Bennett (see map on facing page). Please slow down and yield when travelling through terrain with limited visibility to reduce the chance of a surprise encounter.

Snowmobiling within the national historic site boundary, including staging, loading and unloading of machines in the Log Cabin parking lot, is prohibited on the following weekends:

- February 17 to 19;
- March 10 to 12 and 24 to 26;
- April 21 to 23.

Protecting the natural environment

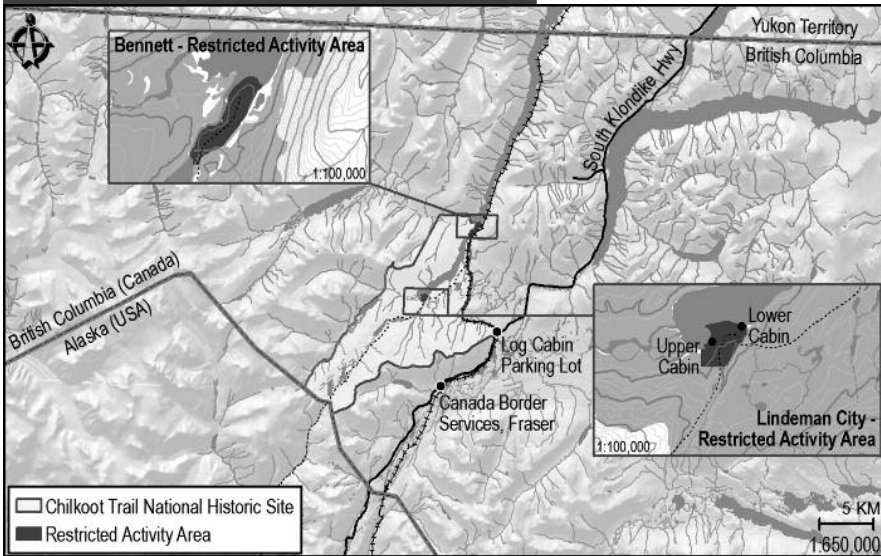
Campfires are an enjoyable winter tradition but also a threat to the treasured natural and cultural resources of the Chilkoot Trail. They leave unsightly scars on the ground that can remain visible for years. Camping is permitted in the Log Cabin parking lot between December 1st and May 15th. Campers are required to bring their own wood and keep fires within pans. Open fires are otherwise prohibited within the national historic site.

Protecting artifacts

Old bottles, cooking pots and broken ►



Chilkoot Winter Restrictions Map



► equipment tell the story of the thousands of prospectors that tried their luck in the gold rush. Please leave these things in place, exactly as they've been for over 100 years, so those that come after you on the trail can have the same unique and surprising experiences in finding them.

Respecting traditional Indigenous lifestyles

There's an unbroken connection between the modern Indigenous peoples in this area and their ancestors who trapped and travelled here thousands of years ago. One of these families maintains a trapline between

Bennett and Log Cabin, as well as a cabin at Bennett. We ask that you respect this lifestyle by not disturbing this family or their property during your travels. For this same reason, fishing anywhere on the Chilkoot Trail is prohibited to anyone who is not a local First Nations citizen.

Report issues

Winter users, particularly snowmobilers, are our eyes and ears on the land. Please help us ensure the Chilkoot Trail remains world-class by reporting anything unusual, including illegal activity or damage to trails

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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

Membership Form

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

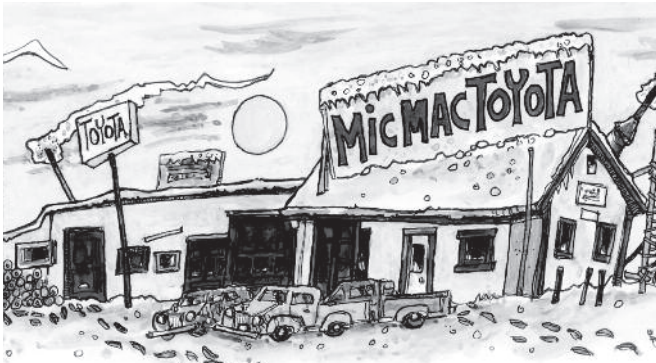
Email _____

Membership dues for the 2016/2017 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
- 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 for details. Member code is "CCSO"
- 10% off at Mt. Lorne Bed and Breakfast - www.klondikerv.com
- Special rates at Choice Hotels - see 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



6111 - 6th Ave., Whitehorse, YT • www.micmactoyota.com
 867.667.7202 • 877.667.7202



SNOWMOBILE OPERATOR COURSES AND ATV & UTV RIDER COURSES

- 3 certified instructors
- Nationally recognized by the Canada Safety Council
- All courses WCB approved

MAIN STREET DRIVING SCHOOL

7213 - 7th Ave., Whitehorse, YT
 867-633-2355 • ravens@klondiker.com

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.

- 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 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

► CHILKOOT TRAIL *cont'd. from page 3*

and buildings by contacting Parks Canada.

Other things to remember

- Dogs must be on leash at all times.
- Do not approach, disturb, feed or entice wildlife.
- Leave no trace, and take nothing but pictures.
- Hunting and possession of firearms are strictly prohibited.
- Bring your own firewood. All standing and dead wood on site is protected.
- Cabins at Lindeman are for day use only.
- Do not snowmobile on groomed ski trails adjacent to Log Cabin.

More information, including a full list of regulations, is available at 1-800-661-0486 or 867-667-3910 or visit pc.gc.ca/chilkoot. ■

Do your part: Spread the word

by JAMES CONNOR

More education, more events and outings, more promotion of our sport and more access to it. These were some of the most common themes in members' responses to the "What would you like to see the K.S.A. do this year?" section of our membership form. Thanks to modern technology, you can help us with all of the above from the comfort of your home or the convenience of your mobile device. How? Over the past few years our K.S.A. volunteers have put many hours into updating and expanding our website and increasing our presence on social media (Facebook and Twitter). Every time you retweet one of our tweets or share one of our Facebook posts, our views go up and you have successfully promoted snowmobiling!

In response to requests for more events

and outings, this year we scheduled some new ones and revived a couple classics. We actively promoted them through the tried-and-trusted methods, but in an effort to engage new crowds we also promoted them through our social media presence. Here is where we need your help and, once again, you can do it in seconds without leaving your couch! By sharing our Facebook events and clicking on "Interested" or "Going," you are supporting and promoting our events by spreading the word and engaging audiences far beyond what we can do ourselves.

Snowmobiling and the world around it are evolving. With this, snowmobiling in Yukon can go two ways. We can quietly become less relevant to the community around us or we can engage ourselves and become more relevant. We've seen the results of apathy: areas and/or trails closed to snowmobiling. If we want to live in sled-friendly communities, we all need to engage ourselves and we all need to get involved.

The snowmobiling community has a long and proud history of doing great things for ourselves and the people around us like charity fundraising, trail stewardship, promoting safety and advocating for land access rights. Staying engaged with the community around us is a key step in continuing to do great things. Engaging all snowmobilers and getting involved with the snowmobile community benefit us all. It allows us to quickly and easily spread the word about current conditions, promote upcoming events, advertise snowmobiles for sale, find new riding buddies, share fresh ideas and engage new audiences.

Events, volunteering, current trail conditions and snowmobiling news are all topics that you can read about and help promote. Get involved today at www.ksa.yk.ca. ■



WANTED:

Your Yukon sledding photos and videos

Submit your sledding shots from this season to SnoRiders and **WIN PRIZES!** Visit www.snoriderswest.com/hotshots for details.

SNORIDERS