

# Klondike SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### 'Tis the season for meetings

'SUMMIT OF TE PEOPLE' WAS A POSITIVE EVENT

Two very significant meetings took place in November. On November 3, I hosted the local snowmobile dealers for a lunch meeting. This was the inaugural meeting to what I hope becomes a semi-annual (pre-season and post-season) summit of the people who sell the sleds and the



**Mark Daniels**  
KSA President

people who work to maintain the privilege to ride the sleds. The meeting went very well and we saw eye-to-eye on many points. I won't get into the nitty-gritty but I trust you'll see the positive effects as we all work even closer together to provide the best possible snowmobile experience for Yukoners.

On November 7, we held our AGM. It was great to see a couple of the dealers attend the AGM. I thought they'd still be tired of listening to me speak so soon after the dealer meeting. As I have in the past, I took the opportunity before dissolving the board to review some of the accomplishments from the previous year. Here's a summary of the major points.

We've managed to keep a solid financial position. This is vitally important because granting agencies will not give money to an organization that is insolvent. It takes money to get money in this business so we always keep a healthy balance sheet to attract funding for our

major projects. We also keep money at hand to absorb operational costs such as insurance premiums and grooming expenses.

Membership levels are increasing slightly. Member benefits are an outstanding value. We have managed to make a great deal even better by partnering with the CCSO on national programs such as Mark's Work Warehouse and Choice Hotels. I don't have another card in my wallet that pays so well. We have also managed to attract non-snowmobilers to the KSA. This is partly because of the great membership benefits, but also because we continue to do excellent work for the public-at-large by maintaining trails for everyone. We do this work with only a

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James Connor photo

Deb Greenlaw cuts the ribbon on the official opening of the Peter Greenlaw Memorial Bridge. She is flanked by Mark Daniels, KSA president, Doug Hnatiuk, City of Whitehorse Parks and Recreation, and Whitehorse Mayor Bev Buckway.

### Wolf Creek bridge has grand opening

by MARK DANIELS

*Editor's Note: The following is a reprint of the speech delivered by KSA president Mark Daniels at the official opening of the Peter Greenlaw Memorial Bridge at Wolf Creek on October 5, 2011.*

Hello and welcome to the official opening of the Peter Greenlaw Memorial Bridge. I'm Mark Daniels, the president of the Klondike Snowmobile Association and head of the Trans Canada Trail in the Yukon. We've heard a lot of long speeches lately so I'll keep my comments brief.

This bridge is not about snowmobiling. This may sound funny coming from the president of the snowmobile association,

*Continued on page 2 ►*



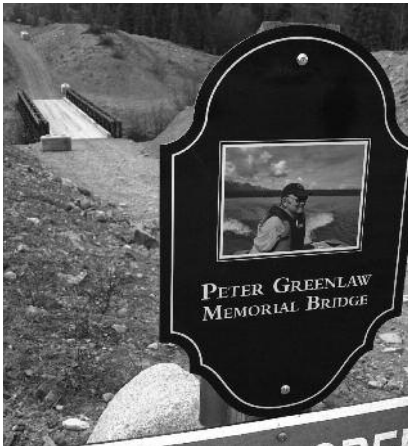
YG photo

## 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.





Douglas Hnatiuk photo

Peter Greenlaw Memorial Bridge: visionary.

► **WOLF CREEK** *Continued from page 1* but it's true. Sure we'll use it, but it was also built to accommodate an ambulance, a fire truck or search and rescue vehicle, if needed. This bridge is really about community service, partnerships and environmental stewardship.

The opening of the Peter Greenlaw Memorial Bridge marks the 30th anniversary of the Klondike Snowmobile Association. That's 30 years of community service to the Yukon—not just the snowmobile community, but the community-at-large. The KSA is recognized as the steward of the multi-use trail system in the Whitehorse region and we're the territorial agent for the Trans Canada Trail.

A recent random phone survey indicated that over 90 per cent of Whitehorse residents use the organized trail system. That would make the trail system the most widely used recreational facility in the city. The KSA is proud to help provide this facility to the public. The Klondike Snowmobile Association had this ►

► bridge built but we could not have done it without our partners. For their efforts on this project and the general operation of the association, I'd like to thank the KSA board of directors.

The City of Whitehorse provided engineering and logistical support for this project. Thanks particularly to Doug Hnatiuk for his help on this project and for the ongoing productive relationship between the city and the KSA.

The Yukon Government's Community Development Fund and the Trans Canada Trail are major financial supporters of this project and the KSA generally. We could not have built this bridge without them. I'd also like to thank the contractor, Don Dixon at Glacier Dredge, and the consultant, Toos Omtzigt at Yucan Environmental Planning. Lastly, thank you to the community groups and businesses that supported the KSA in this project and our ongoing service to the community.

Wolf Creek is a salmon-bearing stream. The main intent of this bridge is to reduce the environmental impacts to the streambed and banks caused by recreational traffic.

This project is part of a larger recreational bridge building program that the KSA and the city are working on together to reduce the environmental impacts of outdoor recreation, and includes the two bridges recently built over McIntyre Creek.

These values of community service, partnerships and environmental stewardship were very important to Peter Greenlaw, the former president of the KSA. This bridge was Peter's vision and it was one of the last things we spoke about prior to his untimely passing. It will stand in memory of his contributions. ■

► **'TIS THE SEASON**  
*Continued from page 1*

handful of volunteers backed by some very generous local businesses that assist with fuel and equipment maintenance.

In addition to the routine work of running the KSA, we took on several projects this past year. The most evident of these was the Wolf Creek Bridge, the largest single piece of infrastructure ever installed by the association. We continued with the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) planning and connection project with assistance from our consultant, Yucan Environmental Planning. We represented snowmobilers on the Bylaw Task Force and continue to work with the City to implement a reasonable set of rules. We are working with the Yukon Conservation Society, Yukon Fish and Game Management Board, Yukon Off-Road Riders and others to produce an educational program for safe and responsible use of off-highway vehicles. At the request of the City, we also installed the signs on the new Crestview connector trail and have agreed to maintain it in the winter months only.

On top of all that, we managed to organize a couple of events. We partnered with the Women's Directorate on the annual KSA Charity Poker Run. We helped raise awareness on the issue of violence against women and we made a KSA record \$3,250 charitable donation to Kaushee's Place. We also hosted the annual KSA Family Ice Fishing Day. With all the other responsibilities of running the KSA and the TCT in the Yukon, we struggle to organize events. This is one area we could really use some help. We started a Facebook page and hope people will use this tool to post rides and work together to plan events and strengthen the snowmobile network in the Yukon. ►

Self Promo

Yukon Honda

# SNORIDERS

## SPECIAL KLONDIKE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION REPORT

► Lastly, we continued to develop the positive working relationships with the dealers, the City, YTG, TCT, ATV groups, Parks Canada, the Yukon Quest, the CCSO and others that help us do the work that benefits you.

Following this look back, we then moved to elections. A couple of board members chose not to run again this year due to work commitments. I want to thank Lorne Whitaker and Armando Heredia for their service. I trust they'll stay active members. A couple of former board members decided to take another kick at the cat. The KSA welcomes back Phil Perrin and Terry Horsman. We did get the youth representation we asked for in the form of Jim's son, James Connor. So the KSA board for 2011/12 looks like this:

President - Mark Daniels

Vice-president - Jim Connor

Secretary/Treasurer - Phil Perrin

Directors: James Connor, Harris Cox, Rho Bedard and Terry Horsman.

I'm honoured to accept the position as president for another year. I'm looking forward to working with this great group of dedicated volunteers.

## Trek Over the Top is an epic event

by PAUL ROBITAILLE

Klondike Visitors Association

"This is the most fun I've ever had in winter!"

Hello KSA members! Winter is in full swing

here in Dawson City and we are getting ready for yet another Trek Over the Top. Hard to believe, but this will be the 19th Trek Over the Top.

Through the years, Trek Over the Top has become the Yukon's premier snowmobiling event and has welcomed thousands of trekkers (as we call them) to Dawson City.

The trek is a snowmobile get-together that combines an epic ride with a wicked party town. Trekkers travel 200 miles over the closed Top of the World Highway from Tok, Alaska, to Dawson City, Yukon, facing extreme arctic conditions to reach their destination. Here they spend three days soaking up Dawson's unique winter culture before making the return trip. Local runs are held, banquets are served, prizes are handed out and Diamond Tooth Gerties opens its doors with outrageous trek entertainment.

In 2012, there will be two trek weekends; the first is March 1 to 4 and the second, March 8 to 11. This event is open to anybody over the age of 19 and may possibly be the most fun you have this winter. Registration and information are available at [www.trekovertop.com](http://www.trekovertop.com) or by contacting us at [kva@dawson.net](mailto:kva@dawson.net).

The Klondike Visitors Association and the Alaska Trailblazers organize the Trek Over the Top with support from the Dawson City Sled Dawgs.

This is truly a winter event to brag about and we look forward to sharing our updates with you.

Happy riding.

## 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 2011/2012 season:

Single \$20  Family \$30

Corporate \$100  Gold Corporate \$300

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 volunteers are working on your behalf to enhance and promote trails in the Yukon Territory
- Five free issues of *SnoRiders* magazine
- 5% discount on Airport Chalet rooms
- 6% off gas at Tags 4th Ave. Whitehorse (not valid during gas wars)
- 10% off at Mark's Work Wearhouse on regularly priced merchandise; separate card required, which is issued with membership
- 10% off at Mt. Lorne Bed and Breakfast - [www.klondikeriv.com](http://www.klondikeriv.com)
- 10% off at Klondike RV Rentals - [www.klondikerv.com](http://www.klondikerv.com)
- 10% off snowmobile rentals at Kluanne Ridin' - Haines Junction
- 20% discount at McDonald's restaurants - Whitehorse (not valid with other offers)
- 20% off at Sandor's (Chilkoot Mall) on regularly priced goggles, gloves, toques, snowpants, jackets and snowboards
- NEW special rates at Choice Hotels - see [www.choicehotels.ca/ccso](http://www.choicehotels.ca/ccso) for details; only available for online bookings
- NEW special prices on Haber Vision sunglasses and goggles - see [www.habervision.com](http://www.habervision.com) for details; member code is "CCSO"
- Corporate Members can link to our website
- Gold Corporate Members get two free single-issue 1/8-page ads per year in our newsletters.



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

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 Fireweed Helicopters - Whitehorse  
 Heritage North Funeral Home - Whitehorse  
 Hurlburt Enterprises - Whitehorse  
 Icy Waters - Whitehorse  
 Kanoë People - Whitehorse  
 Keno Community Club  
 Klondike Visitors Association - Dawson City  
 Kluane Ridin' - Haines Junction  
 Lister's Motor Sports - Whitehorse  
 Locksmith Services - Whitehorse  
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 Nomad Air - Whitehorse  
 Philmar RV Centre - Whitehorse  
 Quality Bearing - Whitehorse  
 Quest Engineering Group - Whitehorse  
 SnoRiders Magazine - Cranbrook, BC  
 Tourist Industry Association - Whitehorse  
 U-Brew Yukon - Whitehorse  
 Up North Adventures - Whitehorse  
 Village of Mayo  
 Wilderness Tourism Association - Whitehorse  
 Yamaha Motor Canada  
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 Yukon Trappers Association - Whitehorse  
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 Polaris Industries - Winnipeg, Manitoba  
 Safe Trails North Training Services - Whitehorse  
 Yukon Honda - Whitehorse  
 Yukon Yamaha - Whitehorse

### The Sled Dawgs look forward to winter

by **TIM GRENON**  
 Sled Dawgs president

The Dawson City Sled Dawgs are looking forward to an exceptional winter with great snow, warm weather and good fun.

With the snow starting to build, we anxiously await hitting the trails with our new Arctic Cat Bear Cat Groomer Special. After great performance reviews and a new sleek look we decided to put our 550 Skandic to rest and support our long-term supporters, Lister's Motor Sports. The Sled Dawgs will now be hitting the trails with our Skandic 800 four-stroke and the Bear Cat four-stroke. We have found that the four-stroke technology not only delivers the power needed to pull our trail groomers, it gives us incredible savings with better fuel economy, And we no longer have to dump endless amounts of two-cycle oil into the machines.

During the 2011/2012 winter season, we hope to have various events starting with a Slide 'n Ride—great fun for all ages. It will be hosted by the Sled Dawgs who will be supplying hotdogs, smokies and hot chocolate. Families can come out to the Moose Mountain Ski Hill with their toboggans and take to the slopes with the Sled Dawgs carting people back up the hill on snow machines and sleighs.

With the colder temperatures setting in and the rivers starting to cover over with a thick layer of ice, we have hopes of putting in a trail system on the Klondike and Yukon rivers.

These trails, once in place, can be up to 26 kilometres in length spanning from Moose Hide, the Tr'ondek Hwech'in traditional ter-

ritory five kilometres downriver from Dawson City, to the Sunnydale area upriver from Dawson connecting with the Klondike River. These trails, as always, will depend on safety as our Bombardier BR400 pulling its 8' x 20' drag can put a lot of stress on the ice.

If and once these trails are in place, they will be enjoyed by all user groups: cross-country skiers, skijorers, dog mushers, and even people out for a nice walk as the Snow Cat leaves a very hard-packed, smooth trail.

As always, we are looking forward to the very well known Trek Over the Top, a four-day snowmobiling adventure from Tok, Alaska, to our hometown.

Upon arrival of our Alaskan and Lower 48 friends (and a few Mexicans—the jalapeno group) we do our best to provide true Klondike hospitality by hosting a poker run, amongst other events. Our poker run can be anywhere from 25 to 35 miles in length with a bonfire along the way where the participants can stop to have a delicious smokie washed down with northern-style hot chocolate. Upon completion of our poker run, the winners are announced at the banquet dinner held at Diamond Tooth Gerties. Prizes consist of cold hard cash and Sled Dawg apparel.

The Sled Dawgs club is a non-profit organization whose members like to promote outdoor recreation, motorized and non-motorized. Please look us up on Facebook. We ask that when people are out on the trails, whether they are motorized or non-motorized, they respect other user groups of those trails.

When going out, safety comes in numbers. But, if you are heading out alone, always be sure to let someone know where you are going and when you expect to be back. And always ride safe and ride sober. ■



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