

# Klondike SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION

## Welcome back

Changes are coming—but so is winter!

by MARK DANIELS

Welcome back to what I hope will be a stellar snowmobile season. *The Old Farmer's Almanac* is predicting winter temperatures will be above normal, on average, with above-normal precipitation and snowfall. The snowiest periods will be in mid-November, mid- and late December, early and mid-January, and early February. Here's hoping!

The KSA had a busy summer doing the usual planning and administrative work plus brushing trail with a bunch of good people in camouflaged clothing.

We had a couple of changes on the corporate sponsor front. Fountain Tire has come on board with a five per cent discount on all regularly priced parts and tires. That's great news for anyone with a vehicle. We also lost the food discount at McDonald's—not so great. The Thorpes have been great supporters of the KSA for longer than I can remember. Times change and so does technology. It's getting more and more difficult for the corporate McDonald's point-of-sale machines to accommodate the KSA discount. Whitehorse McDonald's is still a gold corpo-

rate sponsor, and as such, I hope you'll still patronize their restaurants.

The City took a break from clearing the Copper Haul Road this summer. They're shooting to get back at it in October and promised to let me know when they start up again so we're not all surprised. I'm also trying to get them to leave the snow-covered trail intact in the middle of the right-of-way instead of plowing it to gravel like last year. Despite the hiccups, the haul road is much more open now. The combination of clearing and fire-smarting has really increased sight lines and improved safety. I think the City plans to brush the haul road south all the way to the Mt. Sima road this fall but I'll let you know when I find out.

I had an interesting meeting with some folks from the Yukon Government's Wildland Fire Management Branch at Sima in September. They're talking about cutting a wide firebreak around the south end of town starting at the Mt. Sima parking lot. The intent is to avoid a wildfire scenario like the disaster in Fort McMurray, Alberta. I'll keep you updated as things unfold. ■



**Mark Daniels**  
KSA President



The old TCT signs need replacing.

Mark Daniels photo

## What's in a name?

by MARK DANIELS

The Trans Canada Trail organization re-branded the TCT to The Great Trail in 2016, and ever since, they've been asking local agents like the KSA to replace all the trail identity signs along the route. I mentioned in the spring edition of the *KSA News* that we would be out replacing signs on the Trans Canada Trail this summer, pending a funding agreement with the parent organization. That agreement materialized in the form of a contract based on thirty-cent dollars—meaning TCT would pay the KSA 30 per cent of the cost to do the work. This is a fairly normal

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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.

Give caribou a wide berth—at least 500 metres. When you see caribou on the trail, stop and turn off your machine. Take the opportunity to view the caribou and wait until they move on.



### ► WHAT'S IN A NAME?

*Continued from page 1*

arrangement in the world of trail management as the compensation covers hard costs such as fuel and signs but not the volunteer labour required to get the work done.

We agreed to rebrand the trail in the highest traffic areas around Whitehorse: the main TCT trunk from north of Crestview to south of Wolf Creek as well as the Dawson Overland Trail up to Flat Creek. The contract was to remove all the old Trans Canada Trail signs and replace them with The Great Trail signs, based on the assumption that there were 21 TCT signs on the trail. We found that, over the years, the TCT signs had piled up to the point that most posts on the route had one or two signs each. Some of the posts at the trailheads had three TCT signs each, and one trailhead installation had 24 signs in a space the size of your kitchen.

Overall, we removed 254 TCT signs from the trail and put up 22 Great Trail signs. Some signs had faded or had bullet holes but most of them were in good shape. We intend to recycle all the signs we removed, so let me know if you want one for your den wall before we get rid of them.

Since we replaced 254 signs with only 22 new ones, you'll likely notice the difference while out on the trail. We don't plan to ever put up 200+ more Great Trail signs on those sections of trail but we're not opposed to plunking an extra sign here or there if it's really needed for navigation. Shoot us a note if you find such a place.

We got asked the obvious questions while out removing all those signs from ►

► the trail: "Why are you removing/replacing perfectly good signs?" and, "Why are you changing the name of the trail?" The name change was decided upon by TCT executives in Ottawa so I'll use their rationale to explain.

*"The Great Trail/Le Grand Sentier—created by Trans Canada Trail—is the longest network of multi-use recreational trails in the world. It is used by millions of Canadians and international visitors to experience our country's legendary wilderness, cycle historic rail trails, explore provincial and territorial capitals, canoe the routes of early explorers, visit national and provincial parks and historic sites, commute to and from work, and enjoy the benefits of safe, healthy, active living.*

*Trans Canada Trail is responsible for facilitating the planning and development of*

*The Great Trail, working closely with provincial/territorial partners and local trail groups and municipalities; raising funds for local and national trail initiatives; and marketing and promotion of the Trail.*

*Now that the Trail is connected, we have turned our attention to engaging people of all ages in order to shine a light on this grand*

*project. For this reason, we have launched a new brand platform. The Great Trail brand is designed to stand alone, apart from our corporate identity. In the logo, the words 'The Great Trail,' with their rugged lettering, are meant to be aspirational and make us feel proud that, together, we have created this incredible legacy. The swooshes on either side of the words create a sense of horizon, which is the view that all those traveling the Trail share; a vanishing point that extends from coast to coast to coast. This 'view of the horizon' is also an expression of our goal to engage younger generations, to keep us looking toward the future.*

*Trans Canada Trail continues to be our corporate name as a not-for-profit entity, while The Great Trail is the physical trail, the product that is delivered in conjunction with our*

*Trail partners, as well as our marketing partners and corporate sponsors. Within the Trans Canada Trail organization is the Trans Canada Trail Foundation, the fundraising arm of the corporation."*

So there you have it—one organization with three distinct parts: the corporation, the fundraisers and the physical trail. ■



Mark Daniels photo

A new "The Great Trail" sign is already in place.



# WANTED:

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Share your sledding shots from this season with the SnoRiders community. Visit [www.snoriderswest.com/hotshots](http://www.snoriderswest.com/hotshots) for details.

# SNORIDERS



# SNORIDERS

## SPECIAL KLONDIKE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION REPORT

Zane Daniels photo



Army Cadets clear the trail with the KSA.

### Armed forces provide valuable help

by MARK DANIELS

Another project I mentioned in the spring came together differently than planned but with excellent results. I had preliminary talks with the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) about doing a trail project in the Whitehorse area as a side activity to Operation Nanook. We initially hoped to do some bridge and trail work around Cowley Lakes but the project ended up being more complex than expected and not feasible in the time we had to plan it.

Instead, the CAF committed 16 combat engineers for two full days to brush out two heavily used sections of trail in Kulan/Crestview and Copper Ridge/Ice Lake. Combined, the CAF, KSA and Rangers performed more than 300 person-hours of work on the trails over the weekend of June 1 and

2. This weekend effort is roughly equivalent to our average hours of trail brushing per year using just KSA volunteers. Despite the pouring rain on Saturday, the soldiers were upbeat and a pleasure to work with.

In order to do so much brushing in so short a time, the KSA bought two new brush saws—one from each snowmobile dealer that sells them. Director Brad Milligan had the ambitious idea to chip all the brush from the Copper Ridge project with our 30-year-old brush chipper. He quit after an agonizing morning spent coaxing the machine to stay running. A quick inspection revealed that it was worn beyond repair so Brad promptly sourced a replacement unit that he bolted onto the trailer. It's now ready for the next project.

Word of our co-operation with the military must have spread because it wasn't long until the phone rang and it was the Army Cadets asking if they could co-ordinate a trail project with the KSA during their international cadet camp at Boyle Barracks. The cadets spent all day on August 6 helping KSA volunteers brush out two very popular connector trails near the intersection of the Copper Haul Road and the Mt. McIntyre Road.

The cadets were energetic and enthusiastic. They weren't permitted by their supervisors to use power tools but they did make good use of their axes. Some of the cadets from the U.K. had never cut down a tree. It was entertaining to watch as they first felled

**Continued on page 4 ►**

### Membership Form

Time to renew your KSA membership.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues for the 2019/2020 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 printed newsletters per year, plus a monthly highlights email)
- KSA licence plate and decals (available upon request)
- Input into the development of KSA policy
- Assistance with trail projects, problems and development initiatives in your area
- A strong, unified voice for snowmobilers with government and others
- A guarantee that a team of volunteers are working year-round to enhance and promote multi-use trails throughout the Yukon Territory
- Five free issues of *SnoRiders* magazine
- 6% off gas at Tags, 4th Ave., Whitehorse (not valid with other offers)
- 5% off regularly priced tires and parts at Fountain Tire in Whitehorse
- 10% off food at Trails North (excluding alcohol)
- Free access to the Last Run Lounge at Mt. Sima (please no drinking and sledding)
- 10% off snowmobile rentals at Yukon Wide Adventures
- 10% off at Mark's Work Wearhouse on a selection of regularly priced merchandise (separate card is required, issued with membership)
- Special rates at Choice Hotels (special rates from the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations, please see [www.choicehotels.ca/ccso](http://www.choicehotels.ca/ccso) for details, special rates are only available for online bookings)
- Special snowmobiler rates at the Atlin Inn
- Members can post free classified ads on our snowmobile buy and sell page
- Corporate Members get links on our website and social media
- Corporate Members can post free dealer/manufacture ads on our snowmobile buy and sell page
- Gold Corporate Members get the regular corporate membership benefits plus and 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:  
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 4061 - 4th Ave., Whitehorse, YT Y1A 4H1  
 Phone: 867-667-7680 • Email: [klonsnow@gmail.com](mailto:klonsnow@gmail.com)



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# SNORIDERS

## SPECIAL KLONDIKE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION REPORT

### KSA corporate members

A special thank you goes out to all the businesses that help support the Klondike Snowmobile Association! For more information about becoming a corporate member, please see our membership page.

#### Corporate Gold members:

Main Street Driving School - Whitehorse  
McDonald's Restaurants - Whitehorse  
Recreational Powersports and Marine Repairs - Whitehorse  
Ruby Range Adventure - Whitehorse, YT & Anchorage, AK  
Safe Trails North Training Services - Whitehorse  
Triggs Family - Whitehorse  
Whitehorse Toyota - Whitehorse  
Yukon Yamaha - Whitehorse

#### Corporate members:

46271 Yukon Corp.  
Alpine Aviation - Whitehorse  
Alpine Club Canada - Yukon  
Alek Valley Contracting - Whitehorse  
Braeburn Lodge - Braeburn  
Brewery Bay Chalet - Atlin, BC  
Canada Flooring  
Capital Helicopters - Whitehorse  
Centennial Motors - Whitehorse  
Checkered Flag Recreation - Whitehorse  
City of Whitehorse  
Fireweed Helicopters - Whitehorse  
Klondike Visitors Association - Dawson City  
Kooacanusa Publications - *Snoriders* magazine - Cranbrook, BC  
Locksmith Services - Whitehorse  
Nomad Air - Whitehorse  
Quality Bearing Supply - Whitehorse  
Territorial Contracting - Whitehorse  
Tourist Industry Association - Whitehorse  
Up North Adventures  
Village of Mayo - Yukon  
Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon  
Yukon Avalanche Association  
Yukon Honda - Whitehorse  
Yukon Quest  
Yukon Trappers Association - Whitehorse  
Yukon Wide Adventures - Whitehorse

### ► ARMED FORCES Continued from page 3

the trees and then had competitions to see who could buck up the cord wood the fastest. The KSA and cadets put about 140 person-hours into trail work that day.

The work done in partnership with the CAF and cadets improved accessibility, increased sight lines and enhanced safety by removing trees that were obstructing or leaning over the trail. The result is a huge benefit to the community and to us as the stewards of the trail. The KSA is extremely grateful for their assistance and I'm hoping these become annual events. We're already in discussions with another paramilitary group, the Junior Yukon Rangers, about potential joint trail work next summer. ■

## We're on this ride together

by MARK DANIELS

The KSA runs on community support. Whether that's volunteer effort, public sector funding or corporate sponsorship, community support is what makes the wheels on the KSA bus go round and round.

We're happy to announce that Fountain Tire in Whitehorse has joined the KSA this year as a corporate sponsor, offering a five per cent discount off all regularly priced parts and tires. That's great news considering that a set of four high-end truck tires can run upwards of \$2,000 nowadays. The hundred bucks you save could buy the first tank of fuel you burn on your new tires.

Most people think of Fountain Tire as simply a tire shop. Sure, they sell passenger car and light truck tires from Goodyear, Dunlop, Kelly, Kumho and other brands. They also



Mark Daniels photo

Come and talk to the friendly folks at Fountain Tire.

sell commercial, agricultural and industrial tires for construction equipment. They'll supply, install and balance your new tires, rotate them so they last and fix them if they ever go flat. They'll even do the seasonal changeovers if you have winter tires and they'll store your off-season tires so you don't have to lug them around or make space for them at home.

Fountain Tire is also an automotive service and repair shop that does oil and other fluid changes; brake, exhaust, battery and shock replacements; tune-ups; and electrical and transmission work. They'll even perform pre-trip vehicle inspections to give you peace of mind when making those long trips to visit friends and family south of 60.

The Fountain Tire motto is "We're On This Road Together." Thanks to their generous corporate support, I'd say, "We're On This Ride Together." Business owner Sheldon Greenough and the crew wish everyone a great snowmobile season. They remind us all to ride safe and ride sober.

Fountain Tire is open Monday through Saturday at 2283-2nd Avenue beside Home Hardware and across from the Days Inn, or they can be reached at 867-668-6171, [www.fountaintire.com/stores/details/105](http://www.fountaintire.com/stores/details/105) or [f192@fountaintire.com](mailto:f192@fountaintire.com). ■

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