



April 2023

Hello SnoPals

Our season came to an end mid March this year as we ran out of snow. It was a very light snow year with about 30% of the snow cover compared to 2022.

That said our team of volunteers did great work preparing the trails and grooming them each week of the season. We put on just over 5100 kms grooming this season. At an average speed of about 9 km/hour so that is in the range of 560 hours grooming this season or about 70 hours each week. **THANK YOU** to our core of dedicated groomer operators.

This year we implemented grooming routes and a color-coded map to help the groomer operators complete their task. The system worked very well!

We continued with our **TRAIL GUARDIAN** and **SHELTER HOST** programs again this year.

TRAIL GUARDIANs assist the Eastman SnoPals by patrolling their designated section of trail and perform the following functions throughout the season:

- early season packing
- start of season signing of non permanent signs
- mid season sign verification

- mid season brush trimming or debris pick up after the groomer with the brush bar goes down the trail
- end of season sign removal of non permanent signs
- all season - reporting hazards / incidents / items of interest to our directors

We are always looking for more **TRAIL GUARDIANs**. Are you interested??



Our **SHELTER HOSTS** volunteer to ride into their favorite shelter on a weekly basis and reported on the status of the shelter and equipment inventory. This allows the club to ensure that there was adequate wood, kindling, matches, TP and maps available along with functioning solar lights, broom, axe, dust pan and garbage bags.



If you would like to join our **SHELTER HOST** team let us know!

The season started with GREAT NEWS as our club received a WINTER TOURISM DEVELOPMENT FUND grant and were able to put those funds with our GROOMER RESERVE FUND and purchase a 2020 Prinoth Husky. We traded our 2008 Husky and took possession of our new machine in January.



At the SNOMAN Congress in November our very own Vice President, Jason Wiebe was installed as the SnoMAN President.

Congratulations Jason!!



At the SNOMAN CONGRESS our Grooming Director, Dave Bruderer was presented with the Groomer Operator of the Year Award.

Dave was not able to attend the SNOMAN CONGRESS and Dave's plaque was presented at our club meeting at the Seven Sisters Community Club.

GREAT JOB Dave!!



This year we hosted a SNOPALS Member Appreciation chili day at our groomer building in Seven Sisters. Kevin hosted the event and offered up several batches of his homemade chili which everyone liked.

Dave & Dennis gave groomer rides in the adjacent field and anyone who wanted to try their skills behind the controls was given the opportunity.



Former club president, Gus Wruck took the opportunity to take the 07 Husky for a drive.

Our club put out a new map for the season which this year was sponsored by **Drifters Inn** and **Watertown Inc.**



We would like to thank our Corporate Sponsors for their continued support. This year the Pinawa Club came on board as a sponsor.

Our corporate sponsors are noted on our website and include:

Pinawa Club

Drifters Inn

Whiteshell Wood Works

Home Hardware – Lac du Bonnet

Blaney Enterprises

Watertown Inc

Sobering Funeral Home

CCS flooring

SOLO – Pinawa

ABC Fire & Safety

Transcona Trailer Sales

Granite Mountain Stone Design

Beausejour COOP – Lac du Bonnet, Pinawa & Whitemouth, bulk fuel and propane

Gimli Snowmobile

If you have the opportunity, please thank these businesses for supporting the Eastman SnoPals

At our meeting in March, we finalized the purchase of our new 2024 SkiDoo Expedition 900 ACE from Gimli



Snowmobile Center. We traded in our 2012 Artic Cat Bear Cat and the new machine will be delivered for the start of next season. Our thanks to Dennis at Gimli Snowmobile Center!

Our year is not over yet just because the riding is done. We have shop work and equipment maintenance to do.

Our CLUB meeting and AGM will be held on May 4th 7p.m. at the Pinawa Club. Please come out to support our club.

And yes..... we are always looking for more volunteers to help keep the SNOPALS strong. Think about it. Do you have time to be a DIRECTOR, coordinate a project or an event. Perhaps a TRAIL GUARDIAN, Shelter HOST, or lead members on a club ride.

THANK YOU to our great core of volunteers!

Stay safe

John Fleming, President

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