



6 February 2025

## Eastman Snopals – Sno Times submission

The Eastman Snopals would like to acknowledge and thank the many groups that make our trail network possible. Our legion of dedicated **volunteers**, who tirelessly give their time brushing, signing, grooming, and maintaining our trails and equipment. Without them, the club does not exist.

To our **landowners** who seasonally allow us access to create critical links in our trail network. Thanks to our **corporate sponsors, club members and donors**, and thanks to our local **municipal governments** for their co-operation and support.

Late frost and low snow have delayed some of our much-anticipated trail openings. The trail preparation took a little extra effort this year with crews taking turns flooding the critical ice crossings to create the 18" needed for our grooming equipment. Our new hydraulic trail packing bar saw some heavy use and proved it's worth, allowing early access for trail preparation as we build dozens of snow bridges over creeks and ditches. Unfortunately, just as the club prepped to transition from packing to grooming, one of the groomers suffered a catastrophic failure in the drive system. Diagnostics were performed to identify the mechanical issue, and the unit was low bedded to a local repair shop. This reduced the club's grooming capability by 50%. In times of need volunteers step up to the plate, taking turns running shifts and grooming almost 100km per day. Fortunately, the repair was completed quickly, and we had both machines back on the snow in just over 10 days.

Trail 62 along the railbed from Lac du Bonnet to Seddons Corner suffered some catastrophic damage last spring. The repair estimate for that work was almost \$200,000. The Snopals applied and were the successful recipients of a grant to rehabilitate and hardscape that surface so our groomers wouldn't have to risk damage in the ruts that would have taken feet of snow to fill.

**Thank you to the RM of Lac du Bonnet** and their contractors for administering that grant and doing the work on our behalf.



The Eastman Snopals are proud to once again be supporting the Lac du Bonnet Ice Fishing derby by deploying our legion of dedicated volunteers to help the day run smoothly. The Snopals are currently recruiting for volunteers for key positions within the club. Regardless of your skillset or commitment

level, the Snopals are a welcoming group of likeminded people that strive to provide a high-quality trail experience.

Club memberships are available on the website at [eastmansnopals.ca](http://eastmansnopals.ca), or reach out directly at [eastmansnopalssnowmobileclub@gmail.com](mailto:eastmansnopalssnowmobileclub@gmail.com).

