



f o r i m m e d i a t e r e l e a s e

OFSC Trails Remain a Great Value Despite Modest Fee Increase

(Barrie, ON. August 24, 2004): Snowmobiling on OFSC trails for the 2004/05 season remains the best winter recreational deal in Ontario according to the not-for-profit Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC). Despite an increase in the 2005 Full Season permit fee to \$230 (from \$195 in 2004), savvy snowmobilers can purchase a permit for only \$180 (\$160 last winter) prior to December 1, 2004, saving \$50. By comparison, a 2005 Quebec seasonal permit is \$200. The 2005 One Day and Seven Day permit fees remain unchanged from last season, at \$35 and \$100 respectively. Ontario law requires that recreational snowmobiles being used primarily for riding on OFSC Prescribed trails display a valid permit.

The new 2005 seasonal permit fee, which was developed by snowmobile club delegates at the OFSC Annual General Meeting last September as a recommendation for the approval of the Minister of Transportation, is necessitated by trail liability insurance costs and the escalating overhead for trail operations.

“Ontario snowmobilers benefit from being able to ride the world’s largest recreational trail system, which is also Ontario’s only integrated, border to border trail network and surpasses anything available in the U.S. or any other province,” noted OFSC President Dennis Burns. “No other trail user group in Ontario can duplicate the OFSC provincial system, which is operated by 260 local clubs at an annual cost of over \$21 million, while permit sales bring in about \$14 million. The revenue shortfall has been made up by club fundraising, volunteer contributions and a provincial funding program which expires in 2005.”

OFSC projections for 2004/05 indicate that the actual cost per permit expended by the OFSC and its clubs will be almost \$280, so each \$180 seasonal permit comes with considerable value added by the clubs and the OFSC. The benefits continue because \$180 also buys unlimited snowmobile access all winter to OFSC trails that are interconnected, mapped, marked, maintained, and that lead to destinations and hospitality services.

“Where else can you get this value for \$180 all winter?” asked Burns. “There are lots of places to spend \$180, but nowhere else I know that buys you a full season of entertainment and fun whenever you want it.”

The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs is dedicated to providing strong leadership and support to member clubs and volunteers, to establishing and maintaining quality snowmobile trails which are used in a safe and environmentally responsible manner, and to furthering the enjoyment of organized snowmobiling.

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For further information, please click on <http://www.ofsc.on.ca> or contact OFSC Communications at (705) 739-7669.

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