

RE: Major NBFSC Provincial Trail Issues - February 2008 Update

- **NBFSC #12 - Grand Falls to Edmundston:**

The section of provincial snowmobile trail specifically between St. Leonard and the Green River or Grand Falls to Edmundston is still not completed or open. This trail shows as “*under development*” on the new 2008 NBFSC Zone Maps. The historical provincial snowmobile trail in Zone 1 was lost in late November 2006 due to year-round motorized use of multiple private landowner’s property.

The surveying of a new trail corridor for approximately 34-kilometers of new snowmobile-only trail parallel to the Trans-Canada Highway (#2), which is under the management of Brun-Way Highway Operations Inc. (Brun-Way), has now been completed. Also the Trail Bridge constructed at Millstream by the local Grand Fall’s ATV and Snowmobile clubs must be stamped by a Professional Engineer with an engineer’s certification to remain in its location. Without this certification it will be permanently removed from the watercourse this spring. The certification process is being completed under the management of the NBFSC.

Currently we have completed all the requirements requested by Brun-Way and now await a decision from the Trans Canada Highway Project Co. Ltd. (NBHC) and Department of Transportation. Brun-Way is working with these other agencies and our provincial office to finalize a Highway Usage Permit (HUP) that is required before ‘construction’ of the new snowmobile trail north of St. Leonard is permitted.

We were hopeful that NBFSC Provincial #12 would be open by the last week of January 2008. However, the time and processes required by solicitors, professional surveyors, professional engineers, and government departments, Brun-Way and now the NBHC and Department of Transportation have all slowed the progress considerably from what we first understood.

We would like to thank Brun-Way, their staff and Tourism & Parks for assisting the volunteers of the NBFSC to make the progress that we have. We empathize that from snowmobilers and tourist’s perspective it appears as if no progress has been made; this is not true. The timelines and requirements needed have been beyond the resources of the three to four club volunteers in this region who are attempting to please everyone and reestablish Winter Tourism in northwest New Brunswick.

At this time no estimate of when the legal permission to construct the new proposed trail is available. As soon as the NBFSC and Brun-Way receives a HUP (legal permission) from the NBHC and Department of Transportation though we will make every attempt to reconnect and reopen NBFSC Provincial #12, Grand Falls to Edmundston.

- **NBFSC #15 at Fredericton (North Side):**

The section of provincial snowmobile trail has now been connected. This trail shows as “*under development*” on the new 2008 NBFSC Zone Maps. To connect NBFSC #15 a temporary (this season only) trail reroute of NBFSC #42 has been opened on City of Fredericton and private property behind the north side Wal-Mart and under-construction Kent Building Supplies and Canadian Tire.

This new reroute allows for a provincial connection to traverse through the north side of Fredericton from Marysville to Mactaquac and therefore allows provincial travel from the east to the west side of the province. The historical provincial snowmobile trail in Fredericton was lost late in the summer of 2006 due to commercial developments that blocked the historical trail route.

A permanent trail route for NBFSC #15 to connect with NBFSC #42 is 95% secured on a combination of private land and land owned by the City of Fredericton. Currently the City of Fredericton and volunteers of the Nashwaak Valley Snowmobile Club are working with our provincial office to finalize permission to groom a new permanent corridor.

We would like to thank the City of Fredericton staff for assisting the volunteers of the NBFSC to make the progress that we have. We empathize that from snowmobilers and tourist’s perspective it appears as if no progress was being made; this is not true. The timelines and requirements needed have been beyond the resources of the one to two club volunteers in this region who are attempting to please everyone and reestablish Winter Tourism in central New Brunswick.

We are pleased that NBFSC Provincial Trail #15 is now open.