

2007-2008 Irving Oil President's Ride

Based in Campbellton from January 25th to 27th approximately 45 Club President volunteers, Past Presidents of the NBFSC, Directors of the NBFSC and Corporate guests and local community leaders gathered to ride on the 5th annual **Irving Oil President's**



Ride. The original President's Ride was the vision of Carl Smidt, NBFSC President from 1999-2001. The ride has become a means to thank all of the hardest working and most dedicated volunteers in the NBFSC; the individuals who occupy the tireless position as NBFSC President at one of our 51 member clubs. This was the 5th Irving Oil President's Ride in the past 6 seasons.



At this year's **Irving Oil President's Ride**, we were joined by four of the eight Past-Presidents of the NBFSC. Stuart Blair of Lake George (Fredericton), John McLellan of Woodstock, Bob Walsh of Miramichi and Hymie Surkis of Bathurst were all in attendance. Other Past-Presidents who were not able to attend were Mr. Greg Green, Mr. John Labonville, Mr. Gilbert LeBlanc and Mr. Carl Smidt.



A special thank-you to the club volunteers and group leaders from Zone 2. The seven member clubs of the entire Zone went 'above and beyond' to ensure that everyone riding had a first-class day.



Group leaders were NBFSC President Leon Bourque, Zone 2 Director Bill MacDonald, Ron Macintosh, President of the Supervillage Trailblazers SC (Jacquet River) and Roger Duclos, President of Club Des Montagnes (St. Arthur).



We traveled on NBFSC Provincial Trail # 17, Local Trail # 230, Provincial # 22, Local # 285 & # 280, Provincial # 22, Local # 259 and returned to Campbellton on Provincial # 22 and # 17. These trails are maintained by the Restigouche SC, Restigouche Timber Trails SC, North Shore (Lorne) SC, Supervillage Trailblazers SC, and Club des Montagnes. Our fuel stop was at the Irving Station at Belledune and lunch at the North Shore Clubhouse. In all the riders completed just over 225 kilometers on Saturday.



There are many individuals and corporations who support the NBFSC's vision including of course Irving Oil Ltd., our Exclusive Partner. Other Corporate Partners who joined the volunteers to ride and socialize at the evening dinner were Chris Thebeau, District Sales Manager for Arctic Cat. Arctic Cat as a NBFSC Level 1 Corporate Partner has provided a Media and Safety sled for the 2008 season, which led the groups from and to Campbellton. From Lamtrac International Donald Gauvin, President and Trevor Chiasson Marketing Representative joined us. Atlantic Snowmobiler Magazine was represented by Harold McCann.



Upon returning to the Howard Johnson's, Campbellton another NBFSC Corporate Partner and friend of the NBFSC, the riders were all present at the **Irving Oil President's** evening dinner. Leon Bourque, President and Ross Antworth, General Manager, brought gratitude to all the volunteers present on behalf of the NBFSC and also greetings on behalf of Mr. David Adams at Irving Oil Ltd., Moncton, N.B.

A special treat at the 2008 ride was the inclusion of Mr. Mark Ramsey, Mayor of Campbellton. Mark has become an avid snowmobiler and delivered his and the City of Campbellton's gratitude to the club Presidents. Also snowmobiling for the first time in many years was Mr. Clem Tremblay, Mayor of the Town of Dalhousie. His appreciation for the day's ride was evident in the greetings he delivered at our dinner.

The **Irving Oil President's Ride** has now successfully run for five seasons; we only took a break last year during the entire 'NBFSC 25th Anniversary' celebrations. Again, the ride was staged to say thank-you too first the 51 member club Presidents and volunteers, but also to expand and grow our longstanding partnership with Irving Oil Ltd.



So again, on behalf of the NBFSC's Board of Directors and 51 Club Presidents, we express a gracious thank you to Irving Oil Ltd., our "Exclusive Partner" since 2002. To everyone involved, thank you and we look forward to seeing you again in 2009.

For further information and/or comment, contact Ross Antworth, General Manager, NBFSC at (506) 325-2625 or ross@nb.aibn.com.