



2014

The “Diamonds in the Snow” Awards

The “Diamonds in the Snow” Awards recognize a significant contribution to Snowmobiling in Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association would like to invite nominations for our “Diamonds in the Snow” Awards. Saskatchewan snowmobilers and clubs can let us know who they believe are their “Diamonds in the Snow” under the following eight (8) categories. The Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association and its Board of Directors may nominate in categories six and seven only. Judges may not nominate in any categories.

The award recipients will be announced in June 2014 at the “Diamonds in the Snow” Awards banquet held in Saskatoon at the Park Town Hotel – Oak Room on Saturday June 21, 2014.





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“Diamonds in the Snow” Awards

Recognize a Significant Contribution to Snowmobiling in Saskatchewan

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AWARD CATEGORY

Highlight/underline or bold only one

- 01 Outstanding Snowmobile Dealer of the Year
- 02 **Outstanding Snowmobile Club of the Year**
- 03 Outstanding Snowmobile Family of the Year
- 04 Outstanding Volunteer Snowmobiler of the Year
- 05 Outstanding Junior Achiever of the Year
- 06 Outstanding Business Contribution to Snowmobiling of the Year
- 07 Outstanding Snowmobiling Tourism Promotion and Development of the Year
- 08 Outstanding Volunteer Groomer Operator(s) of the Year

DUE MAY 1, 2014

Nominee name: Candle Lake Sno-Drifters

Address: Box 108

City: Candle Lake

Province or Territory: Saskatchewan

Telephone: (306) 716- 8720

Name of Nominator: Carey Painchaud

Signature of Nominator:

Date: April 9, 2014

Please email all submissions to: ssa.admin@sasktel.net or you can mail them to: Box 533 Regina Beach, SK S0G 4C0. Please answer the questions for the appropriate category. Do not hesitate to use additional sheets to complete your submission. You may attach any documentation you feel might help provide a better evaluation of the nominee i.e. photos, videos, testimonials, magazine/newspaper articles, etc.

2. Outstanding Snowmobile Club of the Year

- 1) How many years has this snowmobile club been in operation?

Club was first organized in 1981 which is 33 years ago. Many of the original members are still around during the summer months and stop in for visits.

- 2) How many club members are currently in the club? Has the membership increased over the past year? What does the club do to bring in new members?

We presently have 97 members in the club and every year we seem to grow our membership or stay the same. We are a resort community so many of our members don't live at Candle Lake year round, however they come every weekend to help volunteer their time and labor. We are really focusing on having the younger families and youth joining the club. We have been very successful with this and we have seen a huge increase in our monthly meetings and volunteer base. The kids really look forward to getting together with their friends and they take part in everything that the adults do.

- 3) Identify the club executives and any committees. How often are meetings held and how are members contacted?

- **President: Carey Painchaud**

Vice President: Dan Jackson

Secretary: Carla Painchaud

Treasurer: Michelle Lozej

- **We have a the following committees**
 - **Trail signage committee**, this group is responsible for the trail sign installations, upkeep of trail sign stock, installation of staking, and the removal of signage at the end of the year.
 - **Trail development/maintenance committee**, this group is responsible for the groomer hours, groomer repairs and maintenance, trail clearing, warm up shelter maintenance and repairs.
 - **We have also implemented an “adopt a warm up shelter” program to help spread out the work load**

on a daily/weekly/monthly basis. We have groups of families that have adopter shelters and it is their responsibility to ensure that that shelter has fire wood, emergency items, fireplace is in good working order and the general clean up is done. We have had a lot of positive feedback and it has turned hard work into a family event.

- **Fund raising committee**, is responsible for developing fund raising ideas and implementing the plans. Many hours are spent in this area to help make our annual 250 Rally a huge success.
 - **Clubhouse committee** is responsible for the general upkeep and maintenance of our clubhouse. They ensure that everything is ready for our meetings and help plan and organize special functions between monthly meetings.
 - **Promotions and media committee** is responsible for the letters that are written to the snorider magazine, trail response letters through our facebook page and any thank you letters or general correspondence to the public.
 - We have our general meetings once a month and a directors meeting once a month. During the course of the year we meet regularly about different items our situations that need to be addressed. We have 10 directors that are actively involved in the decision making process and more than willing to meet whenever required.
 - We contact our members through an e-mail distribution list and social media. All members are comfortable with the web and if we had any problems with people that didn't know how to use the web we educated them to help understand. 99% of our club correspondence is now through e-mail.
- 4) Does this club promote snowmobile registration? How does this club ensure that all snowmobilers participating in club events display valid registrations?
- We promote snowmobile registration through education and reminders. When we have our first meeting of the year we remind people to get their sleds registered and send e-mails to help remind them.

5) Describe how the club promotes safe and responsible riding for members and non-members.

- **We promote safe riding through education and safety courses. We have brought in snowmobile safety awareness courses for our youth and through the years this has proven to be very useful. We find our young people more aware of the dangers and also see them being more responsible for their actions as well as helping others to understand. We make sure as a club that we have all of the safety posters in the warm up shelters and that they are in the most visible spots possible. We feel a very large part of trail safety stems from our dedication to the trail signing program. The large majority of the trail riders in our area are visitors, it's very important that we make the signage easy to see and keep it consistent with the SSA expectations. Due to a large part of our trails being in the forest we have many other risks that need to be taken care of to allow for everyone's safety. We have group rides to ensure trails are clear of trees or other obstruction and this includes ice conditions on lakes, swamps and rivers. Many non members contact us through facebook to get trail updates and the general conditions. We always tell them that the SSA has a website that allows everyone to get the trail conditions of each club; however we also give them the feedback that they are looking for. We also post any hazards on our facebook site that are out of the ordinary and keep it current with our trail reports.**

6) What are the three most important events organized by this club in the current year? Please provide details on how these projects or events support and promote snowmobiling within the community. Provide details and specific examples in the last 12 months.

- **We are involved with the spring ditch cleaning in the Candle Lake area; we clean approximately 15km's of ditch each year. This is all done by our volunteer group and over the last several years we have had 30-40 helpers from the Sno-Drifters club.**
- **We are actively involved in the Candle Lake Canada celebrations. It has turned into an annual event and the kids love to decorate the float, dance and throw candy to other kids. After the parade is complete the Sno-Drifters host the Canada Day BBQ at the village hall and we normally cook for approximately 200-300 people.**



- **The 250 Rally is our largest event and takes a great deal of time and effort. We sign the rally route, we have a trail lunch cooking crew, we have a kitchen crew that feed 270 people a formal meal, we have a prize gathering crew, we have event planners that come up with new ideas and ways to raise money, we have a live band and a silent auction. The day is extremely busy for the Sno-Drifters and the people that schedule the work for their specific areas do a great job to keep it organized and rolling along without any hiccups.**
- **All of these projects promote snowmobiling through the course of a 12 month period and not just the actual snow season. We are visible and active all year and we feel that it helps people that may not know about the trails and the SSA identify with our group and may even help more people register as members. We have noticed that by being active all year and getting our youth involved more has actually help with our family registrations. The Sno-Drifters know that a succession plan needs to be in place to keep the club going another 33 years.**

7) Does this club participate in the annual Snowmobile Association sponsored 4-Sled Raffle?

- **No we do not sell tickets on the 4-sled raffle; however we sell tickets on our own raffle sled. We sold tickets on a Polaris mini 120 this year. We sell the tickets through the year and at our 250 Rally we draw for the sled. This year the winner of the sled sold it and donated the money to MS. We rose over \$9,800.00 for our trails this year from the raffle and another \$2,200.00 was raised for MS.**

8) Does this club sell Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association Family/Individual and or Business Memberships?

9) Does this club host charitable events?

- **Yes whenever possible**

10) What distinguishes this club from other clubs in the area? Does the club provide awareness or snowmobiling to new riders from other clubs or snowmobile organizations in the area?

11) Explain how this club has above all, distinguished itself in the following areas: management, safety, promotion and development, community outreach, and providing opportunities for snowmobilers to ride?

- **Management- We distinguish ourselves in the Management area in many ways. We always want to manage and maintain**

the environment so we always follow the permit processes when required and ensure we leave the forest with no harm. We pride ourselves in being very good money managers and we are the best fund raisers in the Province.

- **Safety-** We need to change the culture of trail riding and set the standard to safety and trail enjoyment. Far too often we see people riding with excessive speed or riding outside their comfort zone. In our club we have a wide variety of experienced riders, from first timers to many years on a snowmobile. We always try and group the experienced riders with someone that has less experience to help them understand the rules and make them feel comfortable. We also hosted the beginner's safety courses in our clubhouse and we have had people of all ages join. We have veteran riders in our club that the courage to intervene on riders that are not watching for the safety of themselves and others. We are proactive rather than re-active and I believe the message is getting down to the riders.
- **Promotions and Development-** We constantly promote snowmobiling and we are dedicated to this all year. The development of the club is constantly evolving and we have set 1 year plans and also set 5 year plans. We set goals and monitor our progress to meet the goal. As everyone knows the goal posts can change depending on Mother Nature however we manage the changes and reassess. We have developed a trail system that is tops in the Province and take a great deal of pride in our warm up shelters. In fact we leave a guest book in each shelter and that is the most talked about item by all visitors. In the last three years we have built 2 brand new shelters and rebuilt one other. We are planning to give the Long Shipman Shelter a face lift and we are also looking at rebuilding the Short Shipman Shelter. We have had the female members in our club request that all outhouses be replaced and we are making that the number one priority for the next 2 years. All shelters have been built by volunteers in the club and we hold fund raiser's to cover the costs.



CLEAR SANDS SHELTER



CLEAR SANDS SHELTER



ICE HOUSE CREEK SHELTER



BAY LAKE SHELTER



CLEAR SANDS SHELTER



ICE HOUSE CREEK SHELTER

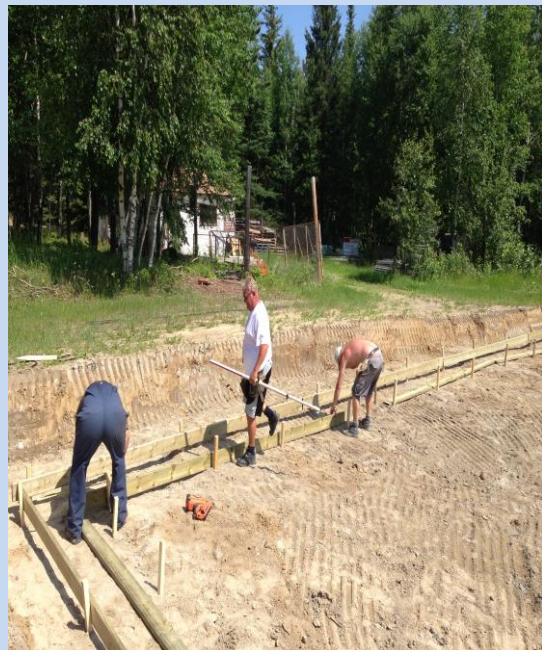


- **Community outreach-** Many of the businesses in Candle Lake depend on the trails being open and ready to get them through the off season. We work in conjunction with the community as well as the business community to maintain open lines of communication and treat the relationship as a partnership. At the end of the day we need everyone in the community to be working together and understand that we are all part of the whole winter industry. Another way we reach out to the community is by giving back to the area in volunteer help and assisting in community functions no matter what time of the year.

- **Providing opportunities for riders-** our trails and shelters provide everyone the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors in a safe manner. Many new friendships have been made at the shelters around a warm fire enjoying a trail wiener. We view our shelters as a place to meet and welcome people to our winter community.

12)What were the highlights or accomplishments in the current season?

- **The Candle Lake Sno-Drifters had many highlights and accomplishments this year. The 2013-14 snowmobile season was definitely one for our club to remember.**
- **We started the year with the ground breaking of our new club house; we had planned and saved for many years to get the vision moving into reality. We broke ground in July and we were hoping to be moved in before the season started. The planning committee developed a plan to execute the work and managed the costs to maintain budgets. We put an aggressive schedule in place so we could have the Grey Cup party in the new building and help push the Riders to victory. We were able to make it in the building with only hours to spare and enjoyed our first formal function on that Grey Cup Sunday. The building was completed on time due to the unbelievable donations from businesses all over Saskatchewan and our volunteer labors young and old.**











- **Early fall we had a heavy wet snow fall that completely destroyed our trail system. We got the Sno-Drifters trail committee together along with the directors and made a group decision to do whatever it takes to get the trails open. We pooled all of our resources together and called on our volunteers to help whenever they could. We had many groups working to ensure we were planning, organizing and maintaining our budgets and resources. We had a trail cleaning group, warm up shelter group getting the buildings ready, groomer group getting the groomer ready and on the trails right after the cleaning was done, we had the signing group following the groomer. We had heavy equipment on the trail cleaning and many volunteers out lending a helping hand. After we were done and ready to move forward we received another storm with winds in excess of 110KM's/hr. Without even asking our members we were on the trails again with chainsaw's and people just came out to help that were not even members of the club. We had people asking us on facebook how they could help and in a week we had the trails ready for the second time.**





With very little snow in the southern parts of the province we had one of the busiest years ever on our trail system, and thanks to the help of many people we were able to make sure the trails were open and most of all safe.

After all of this work we had a trail audit done with the SSA in early March and we were able to get a perfect score and had a great time with the SSA trail inspections group.

- **March 8, 2014 we hosted our 12th annual 250 Rally. We had the registration at our new club house, a trail lunch at one of our new warm up shelters and a supper and dance that night. We were sold out 2 weeks before the function and had a waiting list for tickets. This is our largest fund raiser of the year and it takes every member we have to make this a huge success. Needless to say the club was completely overwhelmed with the amount of support we received that night. Everyone that attended came to help support the trails and say thanks to the people and businesses that helped open the trails for everyone to enjoy.**
- **Sunday March 23 ,2014 at 8:00am we received news that our new club house had burnt to the ground. The Sno-Drifters were notified immediately and we were all in complete shock, confusion and heart broken. Attached is the letter that was written to the community and club members.**



Greetings

At the end of Nov 2013 we opened our new clubhouse. The members of the club had a vision and with volunteer help and countless donations from businesses and individuals all over Saskatchewan we accomplished a goal that many thought impossible. Our youth members adopted the club as something to be proud of and I know they also learned that no matter what, hard work and dedication brings great results. The new clubhouse was a huge milestone for the club, past and present members were extremely proud of the final results.

In the early hours of Sunday March 23, 2014 our new Clubhouse burnt to the ground. Needless to say all of our Sno-Drifter members as well as the community are in disbelief and shock. Fortunately nobody was injured; it might just be a building however the hearts of the club members and sponsors is what built it.

We would like to say thanks to the Candle Lake Volunteer fire department for their help to put the fire out. Your group was very professional, helpful and understanding, keep up the good work!

It has been an extremely challenging year, and like the old saying states "what doesn't break you make you stronger" As a group we acknowledge our successes and welcome the challenges.

Thank you to everyone for their support, and we will be back next year with the same great trail system, warm up shelters and hopefully our clubhouse.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the Candle Lake Sno Drifters

Carey Painchaud, Sno Drifters President

- We had far too many challenges this year however we had many more accomplishments, we proved that volunteers can make a difference if everyone pulls in the same direction. There were times were the group thought we were too tired to continue, times were we thought nothing was working for us, one step forward two steps back. The best times are when we are together working and having fun.

- What we accomplished this year is really unbelievable, and from all the challenges we are still together and growing strong as a club in our community. We are positive, energetic and willing to work hard. We have many tasks in front of us that need to be addressed and we definitely have the group to get it done.



This is why we feel

that we are worthy of

the club of the year!