

**November 9, 2009**



## **City Council Committee Report**

**To: Mayor & Council**

**Fr: Tara Rickaby, Planning Assistant**

**Re: Proposal by Snowmobile/ATV Advisory Committee to Re-vamp  
Snowmobile Registration/Trail Permit System**

### **Recommendation:**

**That** Council of the Corporation of the City of Kenora, supports the proposal, of the Snowmobile/ATV Advisory Committee, to amend the Motorized Snow Vehicle Act to authorize MTO to collect trail permit fees through a registration fee for owners of snowmobiles in District 17.

### **Background:**

The City of Kenora's Snowmobile/ATV Advisory Committee has been working diligently to address the issue of the high cost of trail permits, issued by the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs. The substantial cost of these permits has had an effect on the snowmobile tourist in District 17 (from Kashabowie in the east then west to Kenora to connect to Manitoba, or south to the Minnesota border).

The decline in snowmobile tourism began in the late 1990's and has continued to a point of almost nonexistence. Our local OFSC Club (Sunset Trail Riders) sold 647 permits this year (2008/2009 season) with about 45% of them being purchased by Manitoba cottagers. Of the resorts named above, two remain open for the winter and one other is open occasionally (week-ends or by reservation). These resort closures are but one indicator of a significant drop in snowmobile activity. Local hotels are feeling the decline as well. To put the decline in perspective, statistics gathered from the Ministry of Transportation, and the local OFSC Club affiliate, indicate that of all snowmobiles in Northwestern Ontario (district 17, OFSC) only 8% purchase an OFSC permit.

The following issues have been identified; 1) the cost of trail permits at \$250.00/ season (2009 new price) or a 7-day permit at \$140, or the 3-day option at \$100.00, is simply too expensive; 2) the resulting loss of reciprocity agreements with Manitoba and Minnesota, 3) discontinued grooming to destinations such as open resorts and camps in District 17 4) District 17 can no longer compete with our competition; Manitoba and Minnesota. The District's westerly border is shared with Manitoba and its southerly border is that of Minnesota.

**Budget: N/A – Office and postage costs to the Planning Department  
Operating Budget**

**Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:**

Property and Planning Agenda, Council Agenda, Ministries of Health Promotion, Tourism and Transportation, Howard Hampton, MPP, Michael Gravelle, MPP, Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations, Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, SNOMAN, Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association, Whiteshell Snowmobile Club, Sunset Trail Riders Snowmobiling Club, Rosseau County TrailBlazers, International Voyageurs Snowmobile Club, Borderland Snowmobile Club, NOMA Municipalities