



NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE

2010 Annual Report Snowmobile Patrol

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A. Mandate of the Unit

The Joint Forces Snowmobile Unit is joint endeavor between the North Bay Police Service and the Ontario Provincial Police.

The unit's mandate is to:

- 1) Patrol North Bay and area OFSC snowmobile trails providing a high police presence.
- 2) Enforce the Motorized Snow Vehicle Act and other statutes related to snow vehicles, all-terrain vehicles and off-road vehicles on trails, roads and frozen water bodies.
- 3) Investigate snow vehicle, all-terrain and off-road vehicle collisions, assist with search and rescue operations requiring snow vehicle support and assist with other agencies offering snow vehicle support for first responders.
- 4) Investigate Criminal Code complaints, Trespass to Property Act and other applicable acts.
- 5) Assist with training for S.T.O.P officers.
- 6) Participate in safety presentations to various community groups and schools.
- 7) Attend Media events and North Bay and area snowmobile club meetings.

B. Executive Summary

During the course of the 2010 snowmobile season officers conducted many patrol checks ensuring operators carried appropriate documentation, trail passes and other requirements within the acts. In addition to snowmobiles officers conducted checks on Off-Road and All Terrain Vehicles and ice fisherman.

Officers travelled 2016 km's of snowmobile trails and lakes, conducting approximately 1223 snowmobile and ATV checks.

Jointly officers issued 57 offence notices contrary to the Motorized Snow Vehicle Act, 12 contrary to the Off Road Vehicle Act, 16 Contrary to the Liquor License Act and 17 offence notices contrary to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation act and Fishery Regulations.

In addition to the general patrol, officers conducted criminal investigations involving break and enter, arson, theft, mischief and assisted in missing person investigations.

C. Activities

Officers conducted general patrol throughout the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club trails in the North Bay, Bonfield, Corbeil, Powassan, Nipissing and Mattawa areas. The general activities included checking snowmobilers for required documentation, assuring compliance to legislative and regulatory requirements.

Further assistance was provided by Officers by attending Snow Vehicle Operator education seminars, providing information to students and attending the Snowmobile club meetings. Officers provided further support when requested by individual clubs during poker runs, radar runs and other community events.

The Near North District Snowmobile Clubs were provided with a new groomer funded by the OFSC. With focus on an upcoming OPP lead snowmobile enforcement blitz weekend on January 30, 31, 2010, officers were involved in the a media session to unveil the new groomer and kick off the blitz weekend. Officers further partook in the enforcement over the weekend.

In February, officers ran a joint patrol with the Ministry of Natural Resources Conservation division on Lake Nosbonsing and Lake Nipissing ensuring compliance with fish conservation and related requirements.

Weather took March by surprise, warming temperatures and reducing snow banks encouraged an early closing of snowmobile trails. Officers completed the snowmobile patrol by the end of the second week in March.

D. Performance Indicators

In 2010, an increase in snowmobiling, liquor and fish and wildlife related charges can be attributed to the zero tolerance police took when it came to snowmobiler and trail safety and the increase police presence on the local lakes, due to poor trail conditions.

It is anticipated that the low number of serious or fatal snow vehicle collisions reported in the area may be a direct indicator of the positive results the snowmobile unit has on public awareness and trail safety.

E. Anticipated Issues for the Future

It is anticipated the 2011 snowmobile season shall be similar to that in the past. Regulatory compliance with licensing, insurance and trail pass display over the 2009, 2010 seasons has greatly improved with increased charges. The local fishing communities have been greatly educated on the Liquor Licence Act and the consequences thereof.

The snowmobile unit is a support unit as well as a response unit. The unit may not be currently utilized to its greatest potential. The police department could increase its usage by requesting assistance when required.

F. Performance Objectives for the Next Year

Over the past two years the Snowmobile unit has generated positive feedback from the local and tourist snowmobile enthusiasts through the zero tolerance enforcement technique.

It would be anticipated that the Snowmobile Unit be thorough with its compliance by way of charges. The objective would be to maintain snowmobiler and general community safety on local trails and frozen water bodies through enforcement, education and exposure.