



## Council Report

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**Report Number:** RD2024-003  
**Meeting Date:** December 10, 2024  
**Title:** **Snowmobile Trail Maintenance and Use Agreement – OFSC District 3**  
**Description:** An agreement to define roles and responsibilities of the City and the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) District 3 pertaining to the use of City lands  
**Author and Title:** Oliver Vigelius – Manager, Public Works Roads Operations West B

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**That** Report RD2024-001, **Snowmobile Trail Maintenance and Use Agreement – OFSC District 3**, be received;

**That** the agreement 2015-1550 Ganaraska Snowmobile Club - Right of Use Maintenance, attached as Appendix D to Report RD2024-003, be terminated; and

**That** the agreement between the Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes and The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs – District 3 for the use of City lands for the purpose of snowmobiling, attached as Appendix C to Report RD2024-003, be approved; and

**That** the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute any documents and agreements required by the approval of this agreement.

**Department Head:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial/Legal/HR/Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chief Administrative Officer:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Background:**

In 2014 there were eight (8) snowmobile clubs operating trails within the City of Kawartha Lakes. Five (5) of the eight (8) clubs signed land use agreements with the City in 2015. Operational changes since that time relating to insurance requirements, liability management, and organizational changes are driving the creation of this agreement as a template agreement for the remaining clubs and future agreement changes with the clubs that have already signed. As a result, the existing agreement (2015-1550 Ganaraska Snowmobile Club - Right of Use Maintenance, attached as Appendix D to this report) between The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes (City) and the Ganaraska Snowmobile Club will be terminated as the trails on City lands included within the existing agreement also form part of the proposed agreement with the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) District 3.

This report addresses these changes.

## **Rationale:**

The proposed trail use and maintenance agreements provide clear guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved; in this case the Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes and the respective Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs governing district. Prior agreements have been made between the City and individual snowmobile clubs. The City has become aware that the OFSC has changed its approach and that, going forward, the governing OFSC district will sign trail maintenance and use agreements instead of the individual clubs. The City has also been made aware that the insurance provider for the OFSC is requiring trail maintenance and use agreements as part of their coverage.

## **Other Alternatives Considered:**

Existing agreements include stronger language to limit the City's exposure to liability related to this use of City land. OFSC District 3 requires the City to accept exposure for third party use (i.e. ATV's and non-member snowmobilers), as well as activities off trail (i.e. member leaves trail or trail portion of roadway and hits tree). Please refer to changes at sections 4.5 and 7.2 of the agreement between Appendix D (existing agreement) and C (proposed agreement).

This is common risk the City takes per the operation of municipal roads, and already exists to the extent the City allows ATV users and non-member snowmobile users to use municipal trails. However, this motorized use of our trails is an optional activity, so

the question is whether or not the City is satisfied with taking on this risk for this activity to continue to occur.

If Council opts not to accept this expanded liability, then the following alternative direction could be provided:

“**THAT** Staff be authorized to continue negotiations with OFSC District 3 until mutual agreement is achieved”

### **Alignment to Strategic Priorities**

This report aligns with the City’s strategic priorities in the following areas:

1. An Exceptional Quality of Life by Ensuring recreation and leisure programs are available to all residents
2. A Vibrant and Growing Economy by Enhancing tourism
3. Good Government by sound Asset management

### **Financial/Operation Impacts:**

This agreement clearly defines both the legal/liability exposure and financial responsibilities of the City and the OFSC District 3.

### **Consultations:**

City Solicitor

Director of Public Works

Manager – Public Works, Roads Operations East

Manager – Public Works, Roads Operations West A

### **Attachments:**

Appendix A – Snowmobile Trail Map



Appendix A - Map -  
2024 Snowmobile Tr

Appendix B – Snowmobile Trail Road Name List



Appendix B - Road  
Name List.pdf

## Appendix C – Snowmobile Trail Maintenance and Use Agreement



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Kawartha Lakes - Ex

## Appendix D - 2015-1550 Ganaraska Snowmobile Club – Right of Use and Maintenance



2015-1550  
Ganaraska Snowmo

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**Department Head:**

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**Bryan Robinson – Director of Public Works**