

An Open Letter to the Ontario Snowmobiling Community

As we officially close the book on a historic 2024/2025 Ontario snowmobiling season, I am compelled to share my deep appreciation for what has occurred over the past 5 months.

To our Volunteer Army:

The dedicated thousands who quite literally make the impossible happen, a thank you is not enough. For all the seasons you have endured unfavourable conditions, you deserved every flake of snow and every second of freezing temperature that made the 2024/2025 season one to remember. Without your volunteer efforts subsidizing this sport to a tune of \$16.4M annually, it would simply not be what it is.

To our Landowners:

Both public and private, your selflessness, generosity, and sense of community are truly special. Thank you for working with our Clubs to update land use agreements and ensure our 30,000 KM trail network remained connected. Ontario is simply better because of you, and your local communities have benefited with up to \$6B in economic activity this winter.

To our Permit Buyers:

Thank you to the nearly 80,000 who continue to support our clubs, respect our landowners, and ensure snowmobiling in Ontario is a positive, family-friendly activity. I trust that your odometer got a workout this season and you experienced all corners of this vast Province by sled. There is nothing we like to see more than you enjoying winter on our trails.

Finally, to those who complain about permit prices, trespass, or find negatives in what has been the best winter in Ontario in decades, it may be time to take up a new activity. Instead of criticizing, reach out to your local club, attend a meeting, volunteer, and understand their challenges. The weather is unpredictable, but the one thing we can hang our hats on is the dedication of our Clubs to show up each winter - they deserve your support.

So - tuck in your sleds, give your throttle thumb a rest, and enjoy the sunshine. The 2025/2026 Ontario snowmobiling season is right around the corner!

Ryan Eickmeier