

# Intrepid snowmobiler: Explore Ontario

It's said that Canadians are the last to recognize their stars. Certainly this is true for Ontario snowmobiling.

Maybe it's proximity or familiarity, or maybe we'd rather believe good about others, or its it simply because we don't know any better?

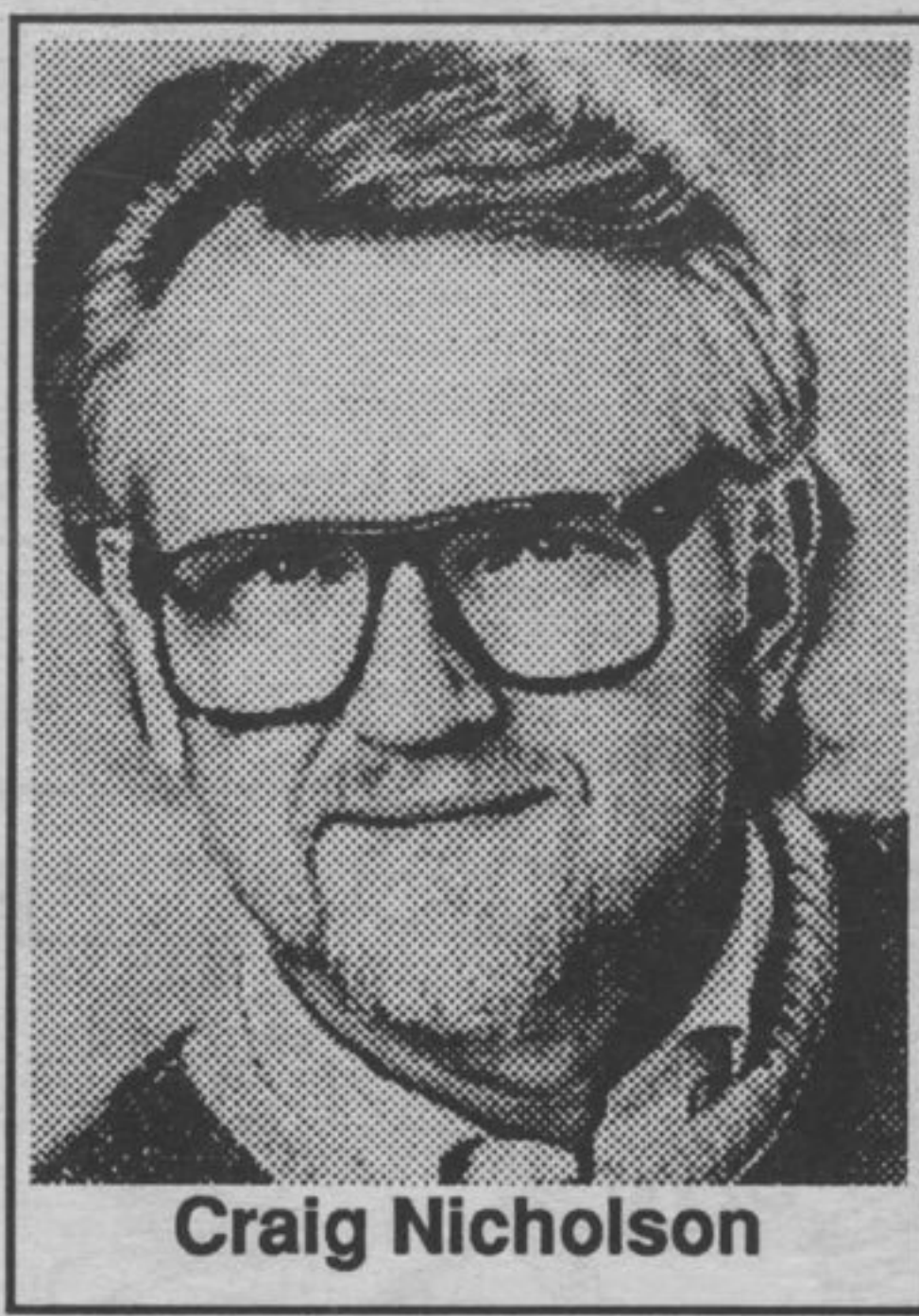
Whatever the case, too many Ontarians are missing the world's greatest snowmobiling by taking their winter vacations elsewhere. Because 1993 is the year to holiday at home and here's why.

For snowmobilers who want to stay at one resort or hotel, make a day excursion rides on great trails, and have access to other attractions, shopping, events, and winter activities, some of my favorites places are:

**The Muskoka Snowmobile Region**—surrounding Bracebridge, Gravenhurst and Huntsville, MSR has an excellent regional map. A wide range of services and amenities, and numerous other winter activity options. Hundreds of miles of scenic and well-marked trails for all styles of riding, strong local clubs with excellent grooming reputations. Bonus: some of Ontario's top full-service resorts for that all-inclusive, pampered vacation.

**The Sudbury Trail Plan**—with the city of Sudbury as the hub, STP covers a large area with an excellent regional map, a good variety of amenity and service options, and the full gamut of wilderness experiences on a top notch, well-groomed trail system. Bonus: an active urban setting for those who want a break from the trails.

**Grey Bruce Snowmobile Trails**—centered around Owen Sound and Wiarton with an adequate regional map, sufficient accommodation and restaurant choices, and a trail system stretching to the tip of tobermory, encompassing open field, forest, and rugged terrain riding under an effective regional grooming operation. bonus: magnificent views of Nottawasaga Bay.



Craig Nicholson

**The Algoma Snowmobile Region**—anchored by the city of Sault Ste. Marie and stretching along Lake Huron's north shore are miles of wide forest access roads and of marked lake running over the frozen North Channel to various towns and islands.

Decent selection of services and amenities along highway 17 and in town, but with limited direct trail access. bonus: access to Michigan trails for day-tripping.

For adventuresome snowmobilers into touring to a different location each night, here are some rides with universal appeal:

**Ride around Algonquin Park**—a three to five day ride depending on the pace and side trips. Start in North Bay, Huntsville, Barry's Bay, Pembroke, or points in between. I travelled counter clock-wise and can attest that the trails range from decents to excellent and are generally well-marked.

There is a good OFSC Region 14 map that covers the Park panhandle east to

Pembroke and north to about Mattawa. Services are sufficient, and across the top of the park the trail is usually not far from Highway 17.

**The Great Northern Ride**—5 to 10 days variable with pace. Start in either Hearst or North Bay. I began in the latter and rode north parallel to highway 11 through Temagami, Kirkland Lake, and on to Cochrane and Kapuskasing. Again, services are sufficient with most trails being in proximity to the highway. Wide forest access trails and a true Canadian wilderness experience. Trails well-marked and groomed.

**The Central Ontario Ride**—four to eight days, depending on distractions. A long loop starting in Bancroft, Apsley or Haliburton in the east, or Parry Sound or Collingwood in the west, or Barrie or Orillia in the south, and making the circuit through the Huronia, Georgian Bay, Muskoka, Haliburton or Kawartha regions in the heart of southern Ontario's snowbelt. A vast variety of top services and amenities, trail riding styles, plus great scenery and places to shop, party and be entertained.

So there it is, fellow snowmobilers. Your OFSC trail permit buys you access to all this and more. Good reasons why you should plan your winter vacation in Ontario this season. Not only to enjoy the best snowmobiling and see your own province in a unique way, but also to help boost our dormant economy.

In this of all years, the reasons to sled at home are undeniable. Happy trails, and remember: Ride Safe and Ride Sober.

## STOCKING STUFFERS FOR EVERYONE ON YOUR LIST

Golf Ball Soaps 3's.....	\$1.99
6 Pack Assorted Bubble Bath Balls.....	\$3.49
Fruit Scents Glycerine Soaps.....	\$1.99
Puzzle Car Erasers.....	.98
WWF Pens.....	\$1.99
Twirling Mechanical Santa Toy.....	\$1.99
Tummy Puppets (filled with candy).....	\$4.99

**HOLIDAY HOURS - Open regular hours except as noted below**

Thursday December 24...9 - 4.30

Friday December 25...CLOSED

Saturday December 26...CLOSED

Thursday December 31...9-5

Friday January 1...CLOSED

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**IN MEMORIAM**

In memory of  
**Bill Smeltzer**

Down the path of memories we gently tread today  
Our loving thoughts are with you. As life goes on its way we often talk about you with love and sad regrets. For those who love you dearly.  
Never will forget.  
**Sadly missed by Erma, Heather, Murray, Bobby and families**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**IF YOU ARE OR HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OF SEXUAL ABUSE THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES CAN OFFER HELP TO YOU OR THOSE YOU CARE ABOUT.**

Family & Children's Services.....	887-3035
	or 1-800-465-3905
North of Superior Programs .....	887-2632
Dilico Ojibway Child & Family Services .....	or 886-2282
Integrated Services for Northern Children .....	887-2514
Thunder Bay District Health Unit .....	or 1-800-465-3985
Ontario Provincial Police .....	886-2282
Red Rock Police Department .....	887-3031
Lake Helen Band Family Support Office .....	887-2637
Rocky Bay Band Family Support Office .....	886-2235
	887-2309
	885-3204

\*\*Sponsored by Nipigon-Red Rock Area Child Sexual Abuse Committee and The Nipigon Red Rock Gazette

