



Press Release / Communiqué de presse

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NEW GROOMERS AT SUMMERSTOWN TRAILS

Summerstown – Cross-country skiing will benefit from better trails conditions this winter as the Friends of the Summerstown Trails (FOTST) have added new grooming equipment to the ones they currently own. With the help of an in-kind donation from Minimax Express and a grant from SDG Tourism, two new groomers will definitely help our volunteers in providing the best trail conditions for both classic skiers and skate skiers.

First, a “roller” was built in the Minimax Express welding shop, using a culvert donated by Lin Scott Drainage of Alexandria; this is the second groomer that Minimax co-owner and FOTST member, Yves Poirier has built for FOTST. Rather than using the snowmobiles, this roller will be used to pack down the snow after heavy snowfalls to prepare the surface to do the tracking for the classic skiers and even out the trail for the skate skiers.

Second, a grant from SDG Tourism allowed FOTST to purchase a “tenderizer” from a U.S. manufacturer. The tenderizer will help us in breaking up hard, crusty snow which we have had frequently in the past couple of seasons due to more numerous thaw-freeze cycles occurring, and with more to come with the changing climate. In past years, we sometimes had over a foot of snow on the trails, but too hard and icy to be able to work with and groom. Minimax also had a hand in this one, taking care of the delivery all the way from Wisconsin (U.S.A.).

Our next event at the trails will be our **Official Opening Day**, which will take place on Sunday, January 5. On that day, rental of XC ski, snowshoe equipment and fat bikes will be free from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A great way to start the season.

The Summerstown Trails are situated on Summerstown Road, 1.6 km north of exit 804 of the 401.

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Photo of groomers – Photo Caption: Minimax co-owner and FOTST member Yves Poirier (left) examining the new groomers along with Minimax welder Jean Bourgelais and FOTST President Vic Leroux. These groomers were donated by Minimax and SDG Tourism.

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About FOTST: The Friends of the Summerstown Trails (FOTST) is incorporated as a non-profit group run by volunteers with a stated mandate to maintain and develop green, recreational trails for healthy outdoor activities in the Summerstown Forest. In recent years, an impressive amount of progress has been made specially with the addition of a new parking lot on County Rd. 27; also, trails have been improved and expanded and new grooming equipment and signage installed. Many activities are offered, such as races, instructional lessons, outings for schools and seniors and Family Day activities. Rental of XC ski and snowshoe packages and fat bikes is also offered on weekends. The Summerstown Trails are situated on Summerstown Road, 1.6 km north of exit 804 of the 401.