



Media Release
For Immediate Release

December 4, 2009

Thunder Bay Nordic Trails Receives \$150,000 OTF Grant for Pisten Bully!

Thunder Bay — Thunder Bay Nordic Trails (TBNT) was joined by Thunder Bay-Atikokan MPP Bill Mauro to announce a \$150,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) to be applied toward the purchase of a new Pisten Bully. Joining MPP Mauro was Keith Nymark, OTF representative, to congratulate members of TBNT and local community members on their success.

“I want to congratulate Thunder Bay Nordic Trails, their Board, and all volunteers, for their success in getting this new grant,” said MPP Mauro. “As a government, we are very proud of the work that the Foundation, and to reflect its importance to community-based organizations, we have increased their funding by \$10M, to a total of \$120M.”

Currently, TBNT grooms over 100 km of recreational trails at three different locations in and around Thunder Bay: Kamview Nordic Centre; Sleeping Giant Provincial Park; and Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park. TBNT also works cooperatively with event organizers to ensure unparalleled and nationally recognized grooming standards for competitive events, including Ontario Cups and the Sleeping Giant Loppet. Funding from OTF will help cover a portion of the cost for a new pisten bully, and fundraising efforts will continue to raise the remaining funds needed.

“We’re absolutely ecstatic,” said Paul Higgins, Chair of the TBNT Board of Directors. “This money will go a long way towards securing a new groomer to augment our existing machine, putting us in a better position to provide consistent excellence in grooming at all venues. “

The reality of maintaining over 100 km of trails at three different locations with one Pisten Bully created logistical challenges for grooming staff and management. The current groomer is based at Kamview and must be "floated" to other locations. While difficult enough at the best of times, this situation becomes more complicated during times of heavy, consistent, on-going snowfalls when trail grooming becomes a round the clock activity in order to keep the trail systems open for skiers. In addition, the current Pisten Bully is beginning to show signs of aging, and the board and staff were faced with reasonable risk of breakdown; a situation that might be critical should it occur during the Loppet. Having a second Pisten Bully will address all of these issues. For more information about TBNT, please visit www.nordictrails-tb.on.ca

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario. The Foundation has supported the growth and vitality of communities across the province and continues to strengthen the capacity of the volunteer sector through investments in community-based initiatives. For more information, please visit www.trilliumfoundation.org.

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