

# 2018 Canadian Tire President's Ride to Caraquet

**Caraquet-** The Annual NBFSC President's Ride was hosted by the New Brunswick Canadian Tire dealers and the NBFSC recently. The N.B. Canadian Tire dealers - 19 owners - came on board as the NBFSC's Exclusive Corporate Partner in the summer of 2017 including their title sponsorship of the annual NBFSC President's Ride.



This season, the ride began in Bathurst NB, riding trails to the 'Caraquet Coast' region on the weekend of January 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018. A number of our Zone 3 member clubs were the 2018 hosts of Presidents, volunteers and guests from all over New Brunswick.



NBFSC President (1999-2001), Carl Smidt created the concept of the Annual President's Ride to honor and thank the many volunteers in each of the member clubs who provide all of us with the NBFSC trails. All of the Club Presidents are invited to attend each winter, usually a weekend in January. In addition, the NBFSC's Directors from each Zone, all the NBFSC Past Presidents and a number of Corporate Partners and the previous season's NBFSC Award winners also attend, annually.

The weekend's fun, friendships and gratitude was touched by another moment of sadness; Carl Smidt had just passed away days before the event, which he so dearly loved and was proud of. Ross Antworth, General Manager for the NBFSC told the story of the creation of this event and Carl's passion for snowmobiling to the group. A moment of silence was held to thank Carl and recognize his contributions to our past and our success.



Past NBFSC President's joining the 2018 Ride were Sandy Young (2012-2015) from the Moncton region, Jody Tower (2010-2012) from the Fredericton region and Leon Bourque (2007-2010) from the Sormany-Bathurst region in the winter and Grand Digue in the summer and John McLellan (2004-2007) from Woodstock. The NBFSC has had eleven (11) club volunteers serve as President for the Federation in our 36 year history including current President, Brad Mann from the Campbellton region.



The weekend was capped off with a dinner on Saturday evening. Greetings and gratitude were brought forward by President, Brad Mann. Corporate partners recognized were Danny's Inn, host for the weekend, Pat Hicks of Yamaha Motor Canada who rode with the groups, all four Snowmobile OEMs and Extreme Torque Motorsports (Ski-Doo) , City Argo Motorsports (Ski-Doo), Patterson's Equipment (Arctic Cat), West End Sports (Yamaha) and Hawkins Equipment (Polaris) for the use of their snowmobiles.



Greetings and appreciation were capped by Mr. Pierre Girard, owner of the Canadian Tire in Athoville, NB who spoke on behalf of the 19 Canadian Tire dealers in New Brunswick. He stated they were proud to be the NBFSC's Exclusive Partner and prouder of the work of the volunteers of the Federation.



Thank you to all the Federation's Corporate Partners and those who took the time to participate in the volunteer's weekend. A final and very special thank you goes out to the volunteers and Groomer operators of Nepisiguit Sports Lodge Snowmobile Club and Club Motoneige Nord-Est for the trails that everyone enjoyed on this season's Canadian Tire President's Ride.

