

Snowmobilers Get Ready

By Allan Houle
Andover Snowmobile Club

The fall season is upon us and we can see signs of the upcoming snowmobile riding season all around us. With club membership forms coming in, trail work underway, grass drags and swap meets in full force, and fundraisers underway, it won't be long before we are able to enjoy another riding season.

We are continuing to sell raffle tickets for this year's raffle sled, which is a 2006 Arctic Cat Z570LX with electric start and reverse and with the new, hot factory orange color scheme. Tickets are available from club members, from local businesses, or by contacting Lance Demers at 735-6496 or Craig Mayo at 934-3327. You can also check out our club Web site at AndoverSnowmobileClub.com for more information regarding this club fundraiser and other club activities.

Trail work has begun with lots of

trimming, mowing, and decking required to keep the trails in proper condition. We have one major bridge project that must be done in one weekend for safety reasons. If you have time to volunteer, please contact Trail Master Mike Donnelly at 735-4258. More hands make for faster work.

Some of our club members have been invited to participate in an antique/vintage display at the New Hampshire Snowmobile Assoc. Grass Drags in Fremont October 7 through 9. For more information, visit NHGrassDrags.com.

We are excited about this event. Stop by and get a good look at some of the best original and restored sleds in the Northeast. You can get a real appreciation of where this sport came from. There will be collectors on site that are very knowledgeable about the sleds and can answer all your questions. Hope to see you there.



Two moose that locked antlers and died in Springfield have been immortalized in a dramatic exhibit unveiled last month. Photo: Charlie Darling

Dramatic Moose Exhibit Unveiled

On September 24 in Wilmot, the New Hampshire Locked Moose Antler Project held an unveiling ceremony for its life-size taxidermy exhibit depicting two adult moose. The enormous bulls permanently locked antlers in nearby Gile State Forest two years ago and, unable to separate, died.

The concept for the exhibit, named "Forever Locked - The Story of the Battling Bull Moose of Fowlertown," began on October 9, 2003 when New London resident Ray Deragon discovered the recent remains of these North Country monarchs. He contacted Con-

servation Officer John Wimsatt who inspected the scene with Deragon. The two developed the project and, almost two years later, after an extensive fundraising campaign and countless hours of volunteer work, the exhibit is nearly complete.

The \$40,000 project, all created with donated funds, is designed to be mobile and will travel to a variety of outdoor shows, state fairs, and other venues.

For more information, visit NorthCountryNewsNH.com and click on the Locked Moose Antler Project link.

Warner History Film Under Way

By George Packard
Warner Historical Movie Project

With script-writing now in progress, an historical documentary movie set in Warner in the late 19th century is moving closer to the beginning of production. Warner-area residents have spent the past six months pouring over hundreds of documents and photographs from the archives of the Warner Historical Society, piecing together a picture of what town life was like nearly 150 years ago and looking for the clues that bring to life the stories of more than two dozen individuals.

The movie project is sponsored by the Warner Historical Society and is being funded in large part by underwriting from local businesses and organizations and donations from individuals. Rebecca Courser of the historical society is the Research Director, and George Packard, a local writer and video producer, is the Project Director. Marcia Schmidt Blaine, Assistant Professor, Plymouth State University, is serving as the Project Historian. Completion of the movie is expected in February or March of 2006.

The Warner Historical Society has raised more than 75 percent of the \$25,000 budget for the movie. The society is now beginning a fundraising campaign to raise the remaining costs of the movie by pre-selling DVDs and VHS tapes. Donations of \$20 or more are eligible for a free copy of the movie when it becomes available in the late spring of 2006.

The documentary will focus on a lively generation of Warner residents who had reached midlife in the 1870s and 1880s. These were the men and women who stayed in Warner after the Civil War and pushed forward the changes that may have kept the town alive despite a huge drop in population and the decline of the farm economy. Several found fame and

fortune, as well as political scandal, at the national level, but kept their roots in Warner. But many people from this generation stayed in town, building richly satisfying and accomplished lives.

"One of the underlying themes we're exploring is the way the identity of today's Warner was really created by this group of people in the 1870s and 1880s," says Packard. "But they didn't do it by sitting down and writing a master plan. It was a messy process of evolution driven by new ideas, conflict, and tension, all shaped somehow by the sense of the place itself, the river, the hills, Mount Kearsarge. The writer Amanda Harris would feel as much at home with the people in Warner today as she did in 1875. Though her heart would probably break at the way Interstate 89 destroyed so much of the quiet beauty of the Warner River valley."

The style of the movie will be similar to that popularized by the Ken Burns films such as *Jazz* and *The Civil War*, with the use of original photos and letters, posters, and newspapers read by actors off-screen. However, there will be no on-screen commentary from historians. The narrator of the movie will be an actress who serves as a storyteller and guide, often offering her personal thoughts and wry observations on town affairs. The character played by the actress will be a composite of several Warner women writers of the time.

According to Packard, the script will require more than a dozen readers to perform readings of the various documents, as well as an experienced actress age 40-75. There are also many volunteer positions to be filled for all aspects of the production.

For more information about the Warner Historical Movie Project or to reserve your copy of the DVD with a donation of \$20 or more, contact George Packard at 456-2286.

Production Assistant

If you have page layout and/or ad design skills, or would like to learn, then *The Andover Beacon* wants you! Volunteer as much or as little time as you like to help create ads or lay out the paper.

For more info, call Charlie at 735-6099.

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