



MEMO

To: Economic Development Standing Committee

From: The Manager of Economic Development

Date: September 26, 2024

Subject: MOU with Elliot Lake Snowbirds

The City of Elliot Lake and the Elliot Lake Snowbirds have an ongoing and successful partnership. The City has in the past supported the Club with both financial and marketing support with the Club, in turn, providing the City with decades of grooming the trails and volunteerism.

From an Economic Development perspective, Snowmobiling is one of the key drivers of winter tourism traffic. Both local and visiting riders support our power sports dealers, our retail stores and our hospitality sector. The quality work done by the Snowbirds, maintaining roughly 300kms of groomed trails, serves as an attraction to both visitors and perspective residents.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Prescribed Snowmobile Trail Land Use Permission provides an agreement between the Club and the Municipality. This 5 year agreement is entered into at no cost to the Municipality and allows the Club to enter and groom trails on municipal property and provides Fifteen Million Dollar Liability Insurance coverage as stated in the agreement. This coverage is extended to riders permitted through the OFSC. This condition of the coverage speaks to the importance of purchasing a Permit. First, having a Permit protects riders and the municipality from an insurance and liability standpoint. Secondly, revenues from permits are what pays for fuel and expenses associated with grooming the trails. Of the roughly 3,000 snow machines in the City, only 400 purchased permits last season.

Staff recommend that Council pass the appropriate By-Law to enter into the 5 year MOU with the Elliot Lake Snowbirds and continue their support of snowmobiling in Elliot Lake.

Respectfully submitted,