

Rail trail day brings out the best

submitted

They came by ski, horse, snowshoe and foot to the second annual *Day on the Trail* event held recently north of Perrys Siding on the Slocan Valley Rail Trail. Over 100 people ranging in age from seven months to 70+ years, came out during the afternoon to enjoy the trail that is now being groomed and trackset by the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society.

"It was a fantastic afternoon," says Craig Lawrence, vice-president of the SVHTS. "Many times we looked down the trail and there was just a stream of people coming towards us. What a rewarding feeling it was! The increased accessibility, the happy faces, the positive comments and enjoyment that the groomed trail allows everyone to enjoy is amazing. We've taken another big step towards our goal of having a year round recreational facility running right through us all."

Much of the credit for the trail being groomed and trackset from Winlaw north goes to Clarke Smith, whose extensive background with park trail systems and trail grooming has been invaluable. Smith volunteered his expertise and equipment as well as rebuilding the Alpine snowmobile being used for much of the work. As well, thanks goes to Krispen Elder, who built his own groomer (aka 'the bunker') in short order and has been running it up and down the trail, and to Peter Leach for packing snow and Dennis Stefaniuk for digging out road crossings.

The SVHTS hopes to keep the north end of the valley groomed as snow allows and may head to points south if the opportunity presents itself. Their hope is that by next winter a valley-long grooming program will be in place.

For more information visit at www.svrt.ca. There's always room for more people to get involved.



The second annual Day on the Trail event was held January 22, north of Perrys Siding on the Slocan Valley Rail Trail.