

Snowmobile Speed Limit Set for 25 mph on Island's State Roads

By Karen Gould

An experimental snowmobile speed limit of 25 miles per hour has been established for designated state roads on Mackinac Island. While speed limit signs will not be posted, required permits to operate snowmobiles on park roads will contain the stipulation that riders are not to exceed the 25-mile per hour limit. Mackinac Island State Park commissioners agreed to setting the limit during their January 10 meeting.

"We are trying to find a reasonable speed limit that allows people to get around and that

also is safe," Director Phil Porter later said.

Permit holders must sign an agreement "to operate their snowmobiles at a careful and prudent speed for the existing conditions and not to exceed 25 miles per hour in the Mackinac Island State Park."

On city roads, the snowmobilers cannot exceed 20 miles per hour.

The Mackinac Island City Council asked the park to adopt a 20-mile per hour limit, too, but park staff recommended 25 miles per hour because most of the roads open to snowmobiles

in the park are less congested than in town, said Mr. Porter.

The city first asked for the speed limit in January 2005, but at that time, park staff thought state speed limits had already been set for 35 miles per hour. More recently, commissioners learned that no speed limit had been set previously.

"That hastened the need to deal with the situation," said Mr. Porter.

There will be no speed limit signs on park roads, but city and state boundary markers are posted on most main roads, said Mr. Porter.

State permits are free and can be obtained from the state park field office behind Fort Mackinac or at the airport.

The park is working in conjunction with city police to enforce the speed limit.

A free permit is also required to operate a snowmobile in the city and is available at the police department.

No permit is required for day and weekend visitors.

In another matter, Grand Hotel was awarded the concession at the Fort Mackinac Tea Room. The agreement runs through December 31, 2008. Housed in the Officers' Stone Quarters, the restaurant has been in operation since the 1920s and has been operated by Grand Hotel for 18 years.

Grand Hotel has "brought For the Record..."

Mary G. Dufina of Florida caught two errors in the *Town Crier* December edition. In a story about the closing of Doud Mercantile, pharmacist Robert Bailey was incorrectly identified with a professional title of doctor. His grandfather, Col. John R. Bailey, used that title.

In Jeannette Doud's column where she talked about Helga Doud, the candy store at the Chippewa Hotel should have been called Angel and Phelps, not Angel and Phillips, which was a typo on our part.



A Mackinac Island snowmobile rider and his dog head up Fort Street.

additional business to the fort through group sales, evening programs, and the annual Fourth of July picnic," said Mr. Porter. The new, two-year agreement calls for dinner service to be provided from late June through late August.

For the past nine years, Grand Hotel has been the only business that has submitted a proposal for the concession.

Beginning with the 2009 season, the commission will seek a five-year agreement to operate the restaurant.

Mr. Porter said the Mackinac Island Horsemen's Association is discussing possible options with the Chambers family for use of property for an equestrian center. The association asked if state park property could be made available if the group can not reach an agreement with the family.

Bill Chambers, who attended the meeting, said talks with the

association now are focused on safety issues.

Mr. Porter said the commission may want to consider assisting the association by cutting new trails, which could direct recreational riders away from high traffic areas on the Island.

At the request of the Horseman's Association and at the direction of commissioners, Mr. Porter agreed to appoint someone from park staff to be on the equestrian center committee.

The latest battle on the war against the fast growing, invasive, and non-native Norway maple trees on Mackinac Island was successful, with the removal of hundreds of the trees on state park land over a three-week period this fall, said Mr. Porter. Two park employees cut trees that ranged in size from

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Island Could Offer Inspiration

To the Editor:

Every so often, out of the blue, in this case at 11:23 p.m. on a winter night in January, 2007, with a plane flying overhead in the darkness, a concept for something more rears from nowhere inside a downstate house, and why not share it with others to contemplate?

There have been, and are, many writers who have either visited and/or lived on Mackinac Island, right? We know well about the film "Somewhere in Time." That was some time ago, when many television viewers weren't even born. This is a new opportunity to go further.

There has never been a teleplay that has been accepted after a pilot for a single television network, has there? Have there been scripts written that a studio didn't want? Maybe. Maybe not.

What kind of script would sell and be watched regularly by millions of people with the title of "Mackinaw?"

If it would be a period kind of thing, would we want to focus on Madeline LaFromboise's school and the people around her?

Maybe Captain Ben Pierce and Josette LaFromboise-Pierce could be the feature characters from their points of views.

Or, would the current national and global demographics prefer current everyday life in the four seasons? The fictionalized latter might be easier to sell to entertainment people.

Books have been done for many years about the Island. What about screenwriting for television? Right now it's just a thought.

Happy Valentine's Day. May you be inspired to create and fill a void.

Stan J. Woodard
North Muskegon

MACKINAC ISLAND POLICE REPORTS

Reports from the Mackinac Island Police Department from January 1 to January 30:

A woman called police for information about whether a man from Mackinac Island was in the area Thursday, January 4, as she explained she has a restraining order against him. She previously filed a complaint against the man for stalking and intimidation.

Police handed out civil infraction citations to three Mackinac Island residents who were caught speeding on their snowmobiles.

A Mackinac Island man was cited for speeding on his snowmobile on Main Street, near Bogan Lane Monday, January 15. Police clocked him and a passenger going 48 miles per hour. The speed limit within the city limits is 20 miles per hour.

Another Mackinac Island man was also given a citation for speeding near Marquette Park Sunday, January 28. Police clocked the man traveling at a speed of 41 miles per hour.

On Sunday, police stopped a Mackinac Island man on a

snowmobile on Cupid's Pathway, near Fifth Street in the village area Sunday, January 28, for speeding. Police reported he was traveling at 39 miles per hour.

A Mackinac Island teenager was given a civil infraction citation for careless operation of a snowmobile Tuesday, January 30. Police witnessed the boy speeding in front of the school on M-185, traveling at a speed of 25 miles per hour in an area with a 10 miles per hour speed limit. Police reported the boy slid carelessly into the parking lot after jumping a ditch.

The boy ran into the school building as soon as he parked it but was later approached by police when students were released from class at the end of the day.

Police reported one bicycle larceny, cited one minor for illegal possession of alcohol, responded to two false alarms, both at the Indian Dormitory, and assisted local emergency medical technicians once during the month of January. Police also found a diabetes kit, an umbrella, and a cell phone.

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