

Gold Rush Snowmobile Trail

The Gold Rush Snowmobile Trail was the vision of long-time snowmobiler Jack Barnett of 100 Mile House, BC. Jack's vision since the early 1970's became a reality in 1999 during a Premier's summit on economic development held in the Cariboo Chilcotin region. Working for years on trails off the side of his desk with many volunteers he presented his plan for the Gold Rush Trail. The Province endorsed support for the snowmobile trail network – funding was provided for the identification of the trail. Jack was at the time President of the BCSF (British Columbia Snowmobile Association). A protocol agreement was signed between the BCSF and the Land Use Co-ordination office to review existing legislation and policy regulating snowmobile use.

The 100 Mile and District Trails Foundation which Jack formed and was President of signed an agreement for the identification of a trail linking communities from Clinton to Well Barkerville.

Aestech Consulting was hired to map and GPS trail. Jack worked (volunteering) countless hours with Aestech and finally a pilot project was launched. Aestech report 2001 finalized.

The volunteers of the 100 Mile Trail Foundation worked tirelessly for years with 100 Mile Snowmobile and other clubs clearing and building the trail.

Jack Barnett, the founder continued to volunteer his time and passion for the trail system until his health no longer permitted.

His years of vision, his persistence convincing governments to get on board made the Gold Rush Trail a reality.

I thank the Pathways to Gold, BCSF, Province of BC (Recreation and Trails) and the 100 Mile Snowmobile Club for continuous work on the Gold Rush Trail and moving it to finalization.

Donna Barnett