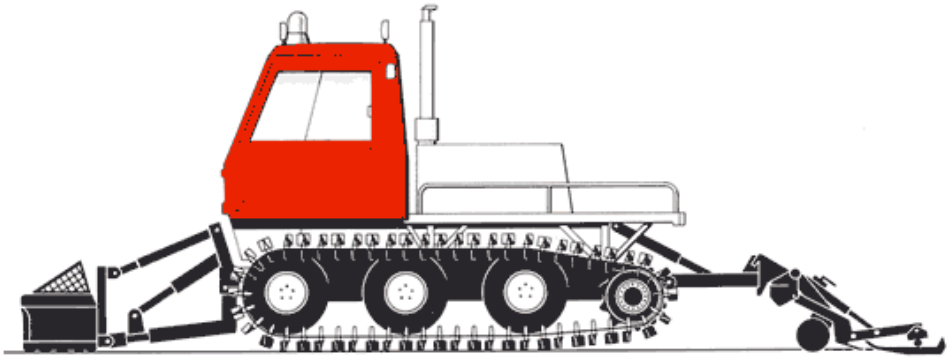
Greetings Hartland Winter Trails Users and Supporters,

This special mailing is to inform you about the exciting purchase HWT recently made of a piece of snow grooming equipment which will truly help to secure the future of our community trail system. We were incredibly fortunate to locate a used PB070DR Piston Bully groomer, which is the smallest model available and will fit on our existing trails (with a few modifications)!



As background to why this purchase is so vital, it is helpful to understand some things about our current grooming equipment, which most of us who support and use the trails may not be aware of. We currently own and groom with a Skidoo Skandic snowmobile (real 'workhorse' of snowmobiles) and Tidd Tech groomer. Trail grooming with a snowmobile is an extremely difficult and incredibly physically demanding job (particularly when the machine gets 'stuck' in tight terrain), and requires many hours of labor per snowstorm. The grooming is frequently done at night when it is the coldest. In addition, the person grooming has to hand shovel many of the road crossings, often after the town has plowed the roads – you can imagine the back breaking job that this adds. The grooming requires a very devoted and physically fit individual. All these things have made it virtually impossible to recruit volunteers to groom. The result is that for over 30 years of the trail system's existence and growth, grooming has been done by only the same 3 individuals who have donated untold hours of time! This scenario could not be sustained, and without the addition of the Piston Bully the future of the trail system was in jeopardy.

The purchase of the Piston Bully opens a whole new "era" in trail grooming for HWT. This machine is in great condition and includes a power tiller, track setting pans and a front blade which makes it very versatile. It will make the grooming job possible for more volunteers and will cut the amount of time it takes to groom by 50 to 75%! It will eliminate the need to shovel road crossings and make it possible to groom in a wider range of conditions. We will still use our current snowmobile system to groom in a limited range of minimal snow conditions.

HWT has been saving money received from individual donations and fund raising events for many years, and we have also recently applied for several small grants. The very reasonable purchase price of the Piston Bully plus transportation costs is ~$17,000. It is important to note that a comparable new machine would cost ~$100,000.!! There are very minimal additional expenses, and with HWTs current balance, the shortfall of funds needed for the purchase was ~$7,000. We have been fortunate to be able to secure interest-free loans to cover this shortfall and make the immediate purchase possible, so we did not miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

HWT wants to pay back the several very generous 'patrons' who gave us these interest-free loans of $7,000. as soon as possible. We hope that you will consider making a special donation to HWT now! Please show your support and help ensure the future of our special community winter trails network – we know that you will enjoy using the well-groomed trails this winter!! To see real photos and get more information about the machine, please visit the HWT web site at the following address: www.hartlandwintertrails.org
And watch for a special invitation to "meet and name" the new Piston Bully once the snow flies.

Happy trails to all! HWT Directors : Andrea Ambros, Theo Ambros, Gary Trachier, Lorraine Nichols, Jan Fisher

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I would like to donate money (check) to help repay the loans and help with expenses for the 2010-2011 season. All funds are tax deductible.

Name:_____

Address:_____ e-mail address:_____

$25_____ $50_____ $100_____ Other:_____

I would also like to donate time (special events, trail work, grooming, etc.) Contact info: Home Phone_____ Cell phone_____