

STORIES AROUND THE BAY – SUBMITTED BY WAYNE JEFFEREY

All snowmobilers should always travel with a buddy. I know the rule but just this once I broke it. With my Golden Retriever aboard my snowmachine we headed towards Sans Souci late on a Friday night after driving up from Toronto. The ice was good and there was about a foot of snow. All went well until we passed by Chamberlin Is. The Arctic Cat began to 'hiccup'. I kept on going. What else could I do? Heavy snow was falling and the temp was about -20C. If we got close to Sans Souci it would be OK. About ½ way between Chamberlin and Wild Goose Is, the machine quit. With the deep snow, cold and declining visibility, we walked as far as we could and then decided to find a cottage for the night. I picked the first one that came into sight—it was a poor choice. The cabin was from the 30's- a bare 2x4 construction. All blanket's, bedding, towels, wash cloths, pillows mattresses, everything had been removed. With the temp below -20C, dog and I were close to exhaustion, we were going no further. Soaked in perspiration I was not cold but soon would be. I found a tarp and wrapped up the dog. I scavenged dead branches to start a fire in the fireplace which I thought might be our salvation. I got a fire going only to discover that the chimney was covered and sealed to keep out the snow. The cabin turned into a smoke house. My only hope to avoid frost bite was to keep moving. I walked in circles all night –cold but generating enough body heat to manage until daylight . When first light arrived I could see we were not too far from Sans Souci

I knew there was no one home but I also knew there was a snow machine available. I found it. In 15 min we were at the cottage with a fire going. A few minutes later, both the dog and I were curled up together beneath a heating blanket sound asleep.

Early afternoon I called a friend who came to the rescue. We met at the expired machine. The 'kill' switch had failed and shorted the engine. A piece of wire to bypass the switch solved the problem.

A "buddy" sure helps when your snowmobile expires.
