



ATVANS NEWS WINTER 2018

The President's Message

Over the past year the ATVANS Board of Directors have been working hard on a wide range of items. Some of them are: trail areas for shoulder of the road travel; trail patrol, lottery, 20th Anniversary Yamaha Grizzly give away, Zone Meetings and Board policies. More on these to follow.

We've held Zone meetings in Zones 1 & 3A, with planning underway for four more. Both of these had a great turnout by club executives and club members with great information passed on to everyone and lots of questions that Board members fielded.

Yamaha Grizzly In a few weeks some lucky (trail permit) member will be the proud owner of a brand new Yamaha Grizzly! This will bring a close to our 20th Anniversary give away. I would like to thank Yamaha Canada, Pat Hicks, all the dealers and CC Liberty. Without their support, none of this would be possible.



At the Outdoor show this March we will be drawing the winners for our annual lottery. Some lucky winners will receive great products from Honda Canada, a 700 Pioneer, 2000 watt generator and trimmer with attachment. A huge thanks to Honda Canada, Morgan Vallis, Mark Lane, all the dealers and ProCycle for another excellent lottery with Honda Canada.

ATVANS Third Largest ATV organization in Canada

When I began my position as executive director for ATVANS in 2010, I had no idea how big this organization was. I was somewhat surprised to learn at that time we represented only about 8% of the total registered ATVs in Nova Scotia. Total membership stood at just over 2200 registered machines. Today, just eight years later, we have nearly doubled enrolment sitting at just about 4100 as of last check.

This has been a steady year over year climb. With 2016 and 2017 seeing marked record increases. Although you can't point to any one thing as the contributing factor it's fair to say the many great club organized events, the ongoing mapping and trail work effort, on-line membership and the steady flow of information have all contributed to this success.

We continue to press the government of Nova Scotia to implement mandatory trail permits on managed trails. In areas where this now occurs, (New Brunswick and Quebec) membership in provincial rider's federations are far in excess higher than all other jurisdictions.

Our success provincially can only continue with great cooperation and support at the club level. We will continue to update and improve our systems and programs to respond to the needs of our clubs and members. During the past year we have eliminated the \$5 surcharge for online registration removing one more barrier to join online. Our board undertook an initiative to reach out to clubs and members on how we can realign our membership fees and process. We conducted an extensive survey in the summer and fall of 2017 with over 1300 participating. We have been out meeting face to face with members at local zone meetings. This work is expected to wrap up very soon and a complete report will go out to clubs prior to the upcoming AGM.

With record enrollment in 2017 and great optimism in the early weeks of 2018 things are moving in the right direction. Hats off to all the hard work of the many volunteers at the club level who do so much to support the organized and responsible ATV sector in Nova Scotia.

Barry Barnet
Executive Director ATVANS

ATVANS Lottery Report

The 2018 ATVANS Lottery kicked off July 27th with our Partners from Honda at Pro Cycle in Dartmouth. The early roll out lottery was well received by clubs who were able to take advantage of summer festivals and events throughout Nova Scotia. With the participation of 38 of the 41 ATVANS clubs in the province this year's lottery should be another great success. Please join us at the Atlantic Outdoor Sports and RV Show for the draw on March 11th.



Thanks to our Partners at Honda Canada and Pro Cycle.

Tom Arnold
ATVANS Lottery Director

The Treasurer's Report

If you have received this Newsletter by email, it means we have your email in our database. However, there are many members that we do not have their email. Tell your club members to send their information and email address to our office to be added to our database to receive Rally and Fun Run information, meeting notices, trail safety notices and the ability to access the members only section of our website.

Membership update. We ended 2017 with just over 4100 members, up from the previous year. We currently have around 25% of our members that have renewed their membership for 2018. There are clubs that have not sent in any 2018 renewals.

Clubs are encouraged to submit memberships to ATVANS monthly. This is especially important for new members, so they can be added to our database and receive our emails. Joining and renewing membership can be done at the club, or on line, if your club takes part in on line payment, it's fast and convenient.

Great News! Membership cards are now available for members from our website. Members can download and print membership cards. More information will follow in the coming months.

Go to <https://atvans.wildapricot.org> and click our “How to” tab for more information.

Paul Smith
ATVANS Treasurer

“Trail Talk”

ATVANS is pleased to announce we have obtained three Garmin Montana 610 GPS units for clubs to use. The goal for their use is for clubs to be able to obtain clear and accurate data to help assist with mapping and identifying each club’s trail network.

There is a GPS Lending Agreement that needs to be filled out and the units will only be available to the clubs for a two week period at any one time. The units will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

Videos showing the various functions and use of the units along with how to save and manage data collected can be found here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSy8vFZ_8C4&t=7s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSy8vFZ_8C4&t=33s

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBai1vPlq9w>

There are a lot more videos available online in regards to the GPS units that can be found with a simple google search.

Clubs can obtain the units by contacting Corey Robar, Trails Coordinator at 902-521-9790 or trails@atvans.org

The Trails Committee is working on a strategy to help move forward the mapping project. Preliminary thoughts are a zone by zone approach may be one way to get things accomplished, with a plan to be in a zone for a period of time to help facilitate getting

mapping in that area started.

Shawn Beaulieu (Zone 3a Director) has arranged for a demo of a possible mapping app that ATVANS could get involved in. Arrangements have been made for the developer to show a demo version to the ATVANS Trails Committee members at the SMATV Club clubhouse on Feb 17.

Communication continues with TIR in regards to the shoulder the road projects, we are hopeful that there will be another announcement in the near future in regards to these.

Looking at possible future sites, criteria, connection, access to services, the ability for no other connection, this is the reason for a push on the mapping.

DNR has sent out a letter advising trail managers that barrier widths on the Rails to Trails shall be set at 66" to allow safe passage of authorized OHVs. As you will recall ATVANS sent out a survey to our members in regards to barriers widths and we presented these results to DNR along with a request for consistent widths so users don't encounter problems when passing from trails managed by one group to trails managed by another. Although ATVANS was requesting a larger width opening we feel that a consistent width will help alleviate some of the safety concerns.

Zone meetings are being planned throughout the Province, there is one planned for Zone 5 on February 25 and one for Zone 4 on March 3. Members in each respective zone will be receiving an email invite.

The ATVANS and SANS Trails Committees are planning a joint meeting in the near future to discuss trail items that are of joint interest such as signage, construction and maintenance guidelines, etc. We feel this is a great step forward in a more united OHV community which will result in better expenditures of funds from the OHV Fund, a result will be better trails and greater involvement from the different clubs.

In 2017 the ATVANS Small Grant Program was exhausted with the full \$75,000 being allocated. Congratulations to those clubs who applied, received funding and were able to move their projects forward.

The OHVIF committee recently met to review the OHVIF Grants for 2018. Recommendations have been made to the Minister so hopefully not too much time will pass before the clubs that are approved will receive their letters.

There are currently 17 – 16ft bridge panels left. All 32ft ones have been allocated and we are working to see if we can acquire the panels that were allocated to HRM but never used.

At the AGM in 2017 we had presentations by some clubs on different projects in their areas. This allowed those clubs to speak about how they went about getting things accomplished and also allowed those in attendance to ask questions about the different and unique situations they faced.

For the upcoming 2018 AGM we are seeking input from the clubs/members as to what they would like to see presented in regards to trails topics. Suggestions can be forwarded to Corey Robar, Trails Coordinator at 902-521-9790 or trails@atvans.org

The Grant Report

Hello ATVANS Members, and welcome to what I hope becomes a regular newsletter that we put out. It has been a fairly busy fall and winter so far. We have had two regular Board meetings plus several conference calls. We started the process this winter of having Zone Meetings with the clubs and members in the various zones to discuss some possible changes within ATVANS. I was able to attend the meeting for Zone 3A but had to miss the Zone 1 meeting. Both were well attended.

On the actual ATVing side of things, most parts of Nova Scotia have had a pretty easy winter so far and while that is not good for our snowmobiling cousins, it does create increased riding opportunities for us. I would like to remind you all that if you are in an area where they are able to groom the snowmobile trails please stay off them unless there is an agreement between the local ATV Club and Snowmobile Club. Their season is short and there is no sense creating bad feelings over a couple weekends of riding.

The ATVANS 2017 Membership Draw is coming up on February 17, 2018 at Liberty CC Yamaha in Dartmouth and I would like to wish everyone good luck, and wish myself great luck!!! Someone is going to win a nice four-wheeler. I will not be able to attend the draw due to a family vacation, but I encourage you all to attend. It should be a fun day, I know the launch for the draw was fun.

Finally, it looks like spring is going to be here early so it will soon be time to get out and hit the trails before it gets dusty. There will be lots of rallies showing up on the calendar as spring gets closer. Also with spring comes the ATVANS AGM. This is always a fun weekend to socialize with some fellow members from across the province as well as set the tone for the organization for the next year. We are trying to plan some different things this year, so I hope to see some old friends there as well as make some new ones. If I don't see you at the AGM, hopefully I run into some of you out on the trail. Everybody have fun and ride safe.

Greg Grant
ATVANS Secretary

Cape Breton Zone 6B Report

It's an exciting time to be part of the trail movement!

ATVANS lobbying the government has raised awareness of the \$230,000,000 economic impact that the off-highway vehicles has on the Nova Scotia economy. As a result, funding for big important trail projects has become available resulting in multi-million dollar projects being initiated and or completed. For example, the tunnel under the TCH near Oxford and an overpass over the TCH near Baddeck. From the big trail projects to the small, from the mapping initiatives to our safety programs, these are testaments that the riders' money is hard at work and that ATVANS has indeed fostered important relationships with our stakeholders by using riders' money in a responsible fashion resulting in greater connectivity and trail projects. Thank you ATVANS because we could not have done it without you.

Thank you

Ray Asaph
Director of zone 6B
President of the Baddeck & Area ATV Club

Shawn's Report - Zone 3B



Before and after shots show the old and new bridge across the Nine Mile River.

New Bridge and Final Signage Installed At Nine Mile River

A five-year project that involved countless volunteer hours and effort, as well as funding from many supporters is finally complete. The new 66-foot bridge at the Nine Mile River is ready to safely transport trail users and will do so for many years to come.

Trust Board Member Mike Marriott, project leader and President of Safety-Minded ATV Association, managed this awesome installation and is pleased to report that the final touches, including new signage and trail maps have been erected.

In spring 2018, the Trust along with the SMATVA will plan a public celebration of this important link that ties trails from Goodwood right through to Seabright using the Old Coach Road and the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road.



Mike Marriott with Trust Board Advisor Beth McGee

We have been hearing lots of complaints of ATVs on the freshly groomed snowmobile trails. Please be aware that the snowmobile clubs are now grooming trails. Many of our clubs within the Association have an agreement with their local snowmobile clubs to stay off their groomed trails until they advise us that it's safe to ride on them without harming the trail for the snowmobiles.

The snowmobiles in Nova Scotia have a very short window to run the trails so please be respectful of their groomed trails and allow them to enjoy their short season. Also all the clubs (ATV and Snowmobile) put in a lot of effort to have a great trail system and a good relationship between the different OHV groups and people out damaging the groomed trails does nothing to benefit all the work that we all do.

Shawn Beaulieu
Director of zone 3B

Upcoming Events

8th Annual ATV Poker Run - Isle Madame ATV Club

February 16 & 17, 2018

Location: D'Escousse Civic Improvement Hall

[More Information](#)

ATV Poker Rally - Sheet Harbour Snowmobile & ATV Club

February 17, 2018

Location: Port Dufferin Balcom Center, 25718 Hwy 7 Port Dufferin

[More Information](#)

20th Anniversary ATVANS Prize Draw

February 17, 2018

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Location: Liberty CC Motorsports, 1 Ralston Avenue, Dartmouth

[More Information](#)

Poker Rally - Barachois Trail Assoc and East Richmond ATV Club

February 24, 2018

Location: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 47 in Grande Anse

[More Information](#)

Zone 5 Meeting

February 25, 2018

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Saint Andrew High School, 2 Appleseed Dr. Antigonish

[More Information](#)

Zone 4 Meeting

March 3, 2018

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Debert Hospitality Centre, 130 Ventura Dr., Debert

[More Information](#)

Atlantic Outdoor Sports and RV Show

March 9 to 11, 2018

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: Halifax Exhibition Centre

[More Information](#)