



ATVANS NEWS Fall 2020

Executive Directors Report


In what can only be described as the most challenging year in my 10 years with ATVANS, you never know what is around the corner. I reported in the spring a complete drop in membership after the COVID-19 restrictions and lock down. We held our annual general meeting virtually and by most accounts folks seemed happy with the outcome.

In preparation for what looked to be a major retraction in membership, we began the implementation of a COVID-19 recovery plan. This plan included an early bird giveaway, with the early release of 2021 memberships, free masks for the first 3000 members and a focus on online renewal. During this time dealers and National industry information were reporting unexpected record new OHV sales for Nova Scotia. This resulted in a larger than expected uptake in new memberships and inquiries to staff.

With clubs now meeting again in most areas, I am now very optimistic membership is on a dramatic rise. We requested clubs to close off their books for 2020 and return unsold books. As of Tuesday October 13, 2020 all but 11 clubs have done so. We sent reminders and will continue to push clubs to comply.

We currently have 3833 active members, 1770 not renewed members from 2019 and over 6000 on our total contact list. These numbers now exceed the YTD numbers from last year. I am now expecting 2021 to be a record year and 2020 to greatly exceed my earlier expectations. This is good news but it should be tempered with "anything can happen" and we need to be vigilant, nimble and able to pivot at a moment's notice.

In partnership with CF Moto and Canmac Marine we announced our 2021 early bird giveaway program. Over 1000 interested viewers watched the live stream video of the launch and many more logged onto our website and Facebook for details. Membership for new has been very brisk. We have processed 348 online memberships since September 1st with 110 being brand new members.



I attended several Zoom and other type conference calls with government officials, industry groups and others. I have also started visiting dealers in expectation that we can build a closer working relationship. We now have one dealer offering free ATVANS membership with every new machine purchased.

Although things initially looked bleak I am now very optimistic about our future. On a final note I will be reaching out to two new ministers to welcome them to their new departments, offer support and highlight our ongoing requests. Minister Mombourquette adds Lands and Forrest to his work load and MLA Suzanne Lohnes-Croft becomes minister of Heritage Communities and Culture.

Remember stay safe.

Barry Barnet
Executive Director

President's report

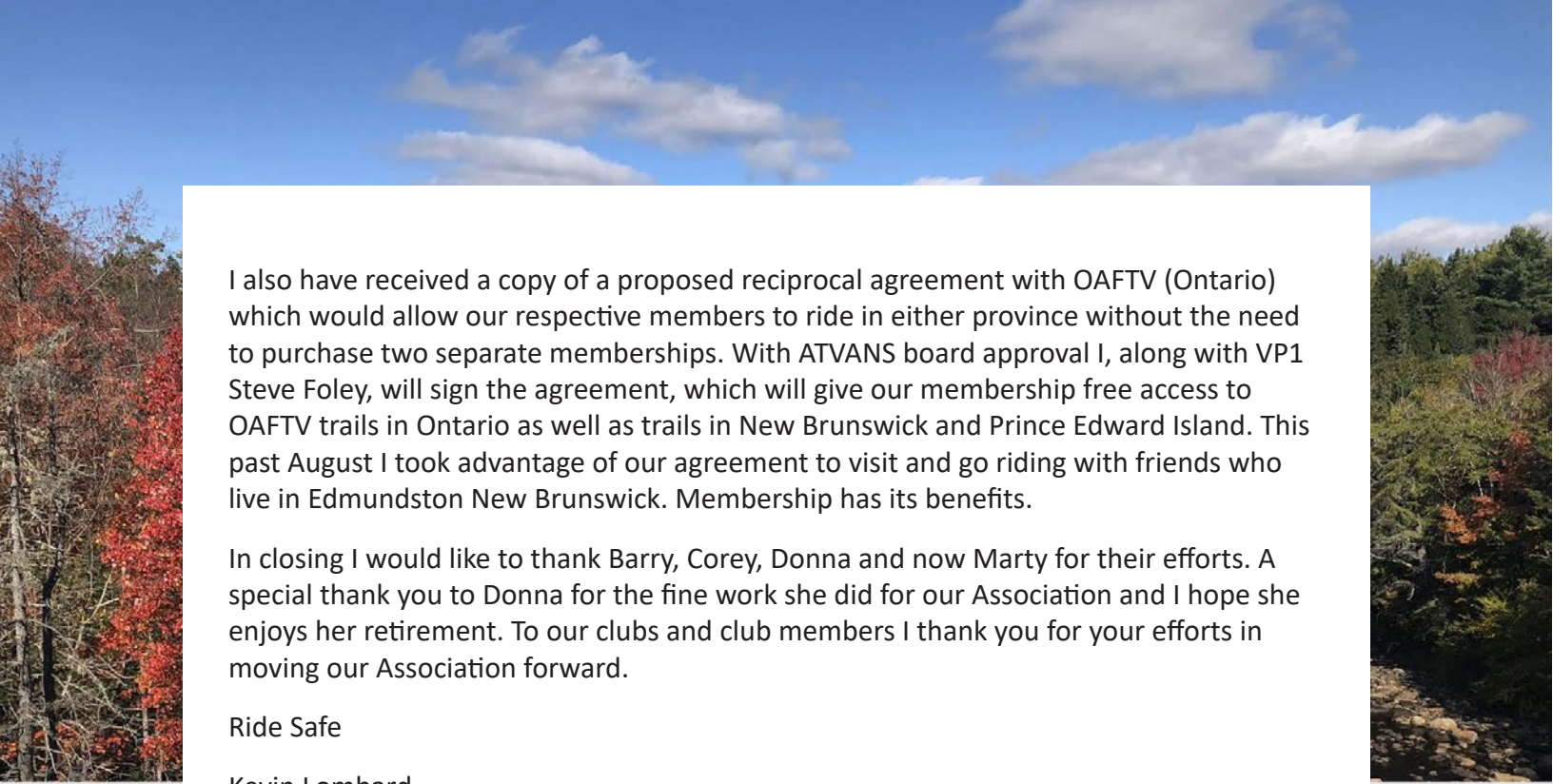
As we enter the fall riding season I am very pleased that our membership numbers, despite Covid-19, were strong and the number of advance 2021 memberships is going well. I want to congratulate the clubs on the fine work that was undertaken on our trails and for the well managed events that have taken place under the guideline put forth by the Province.

Over the past few months I have had discussions with the Minister of Environment regarding our agreements and the good work that clubs have been doing with respect to those agreements. Because of such agreements we have been able to open up new riding opportunities for members.

I am pleased that our revamped trail patrol with online reporting is now active. The trail patrol can play an important part in our goal of increased share the road sites and also benefits our relationships with land owners and other trail users. In a discussion with the RCMP in Yarmouth the new staff sargent told me he was impressed with the good work clubs have been doing in the pilot sites.

With respect to the pilot sites and our goal of increased road access Barry will be scheduling another meeting with NSTIR to update and build upon the issues we raised in our previous meeting with the three ministers and deputies as well as ongoing discussions with staff.

Judging from the comments I have personally received and seen on social media it would seem that our agreement with Polaris Ride Command has been well received. Please continue to update Corey on trail conditions, locations etc. so we can continue to update Ride Command and TrakMaps.



I also have received a copy of a proposed reciprocal agreement with OAFTV (Ontario) which would allow our respective members to ride in either province without the need to purchase two separate memberships. With ATVANS board approval I, along with VP1 Steve Foley, will sign the agreement, which will give our membership free access to OAFTV trails in Ontario as well as trails in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. This past August I took advantage of our agreement to visit and go riding with friends who live in Edmundston New Brunswick. Membership has its benefits.

In closing I would like to thank Barry, Corey, Donna and now Marty for their efforts. A special thank you to Donna for the fine work she did for our Association and I hope she enjoys her retirement. To our clubs and club members I thank you for your efforts in moving our Association forward.

Ride Safe

Kevin Lombard

Vice President - 1

Due to COVID-19 there was no face-to-face meetings, but we did manage to get a few officers calls in as well as operations committee calls.

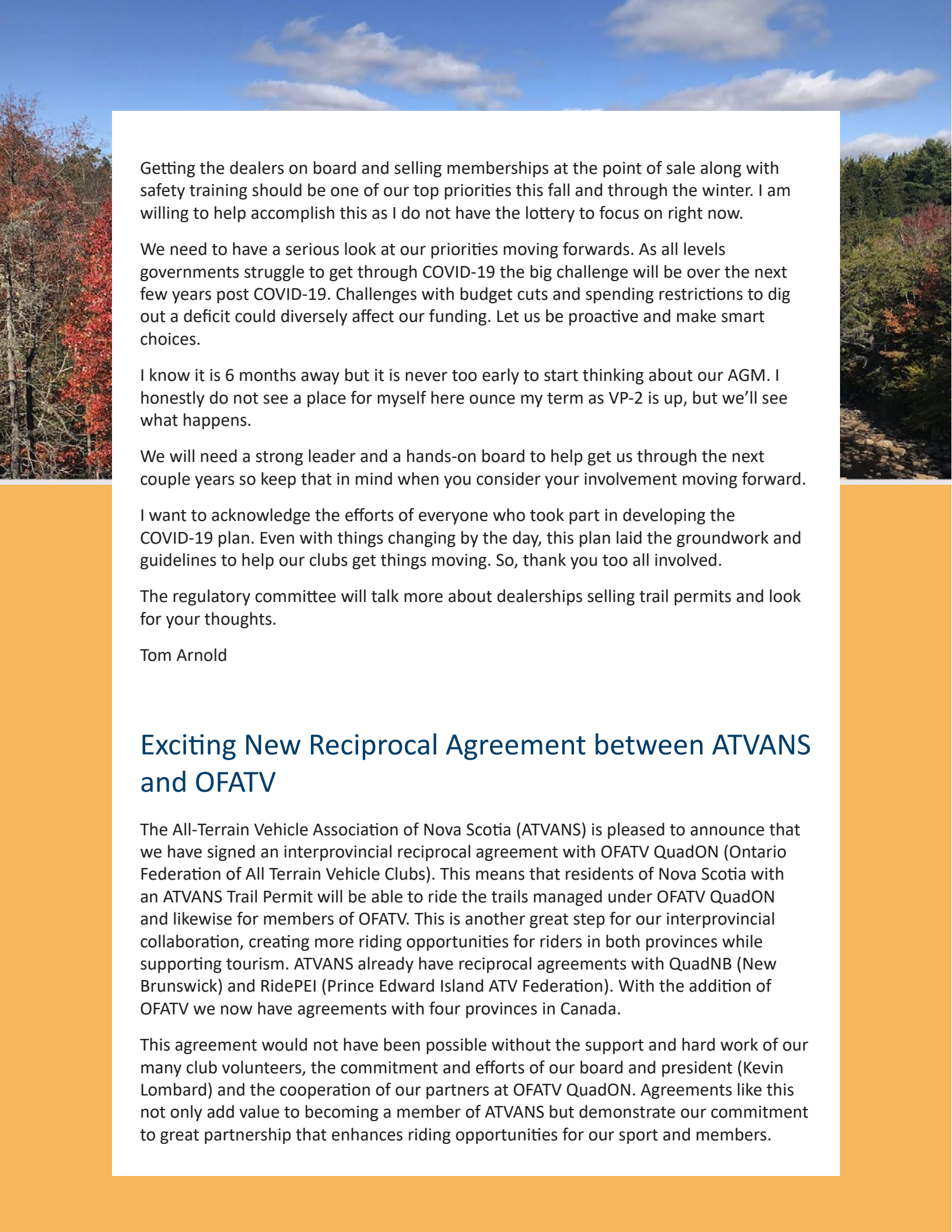
In regards to the operations committee we have been working on a couple of projects, one being a land owners pamphlet filled with Q&As that the clubs can pass out when dealing with landowners. This pamphlet is in the final design stages and should be available before the end of this year. The second project is a connectivity project where we have identified the connectivity issues between clubs and zones. The next step for this will be discussing the issues within each zone, and their respective zone directors and club presidents. This project will be a multi-year endeavor.

There has also been the normal amount of emails and calls with other executives of ATVANS.

Steve Foley

Vice President - 2

2020 has been a challenge to say the least. While the ridership grew, manufacturers announced record sales, and dealerships struggled to keep up with demand, we struggled with memberships. Why is that? We have missed the boat and that is not entirely our fault as we worked along with our strategic plan.



Getting the dealers on board and selling memberships at the point of sale along with safety training should be one of our top priorities this fall and through the winter. I am willing to help accomplish this as I do not have the lottery to focus on right now.

We need to have a serious look at our priorities moving forwards. As all levels governments struggle to get through COVID-19 the big challenge will be over the next few years post COVID-19. Challenges with budget cuts and spending restrictions to dig out a deficit could diversely affect our funding. Let us be proactive and make smart choices.

I know it is 6 months away but it is never too early to start thinking about our AGM. I honestly do not see a place for myself here ounce my term as VP-2 is up, but we'll see what happens.

We will need a strong leader and a hands-on board to help get us through the next couple years so keep that in mind when you consider your involvement moving forward.

I want to acknowledge the efforts of everyone who took part in developing the COVID-19 plan. Even with things changing by the day, this plan laid the groundwork and guidelines to help our clubs get things moving. So, thank you too all involved.


The regulatory committee will talk more about dealerships selling trail permits and look for your thoughts.

Tom Arnold

Exciting New Reciprocal Agreement between ATVANS and OFATV

The All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Nova Scotia (ATVANS) is pleased to announce that we have signed an interprovincial reciprocal agreement with OFATV QuadON (Ontario Federation of All Terrain Vehicle Clubs). This means that residents of Nova Scotia with an ATVANS Trail Permit will be able to ride the trails managed under OFATV QuadON and likewise for members of OFATV. This is another great step for our interprovincial collaboration, creating more riding opportunities for riders in both provinces while supporting tourism. ATVANS already have reciprocal agreements with QuadNB (New Brunswick) and RidePEI (Prince Edward Island ATV Federation). With the addition of OFATV we now have agreements with four provinces in Canada.

This agreement would not have been possible without the support and hard work of our many club volunteers, the commitment and efforts of our board and president (Kevin Lombard) and the cooperation of our partners at OFATV QuadON. Agreements like this not only add value to becoming a member of ATVANS but demonstrate our commitment to great partnership that enhances riding opportunities for our sport and members.



We look forward to welcoming our friends from OFATV when public health guidance and travel restrictions allow. We also look forward to visiting and riding the trails managed by QuadON in the near future.

ATVANS supports safe, responsible and organized ATV riding in Nova Scotia through our 42 member clubs and over our 11,000 kilometers of mapped trails. Information on ATVANS, our member clubs and how to join can be found on our website at www.atvans.org

Barry Barnet
Executive Director ATVANS

Trails Coordinator

Participated in Trails Strategy Coordinating Group meetings via Zoom with our first in person meeting held in early October. The group is meeting every two weeks to help move things along, an update from the group on work to date is attached to this report and more info on the Trails Strategy Coordinating Group can be found here <https://nstrails.com/trails-strategy/>

Had Heather Stilwell from NS Trails out shooting video and taking pictures for future promotional material while visiting with several of the clubs.

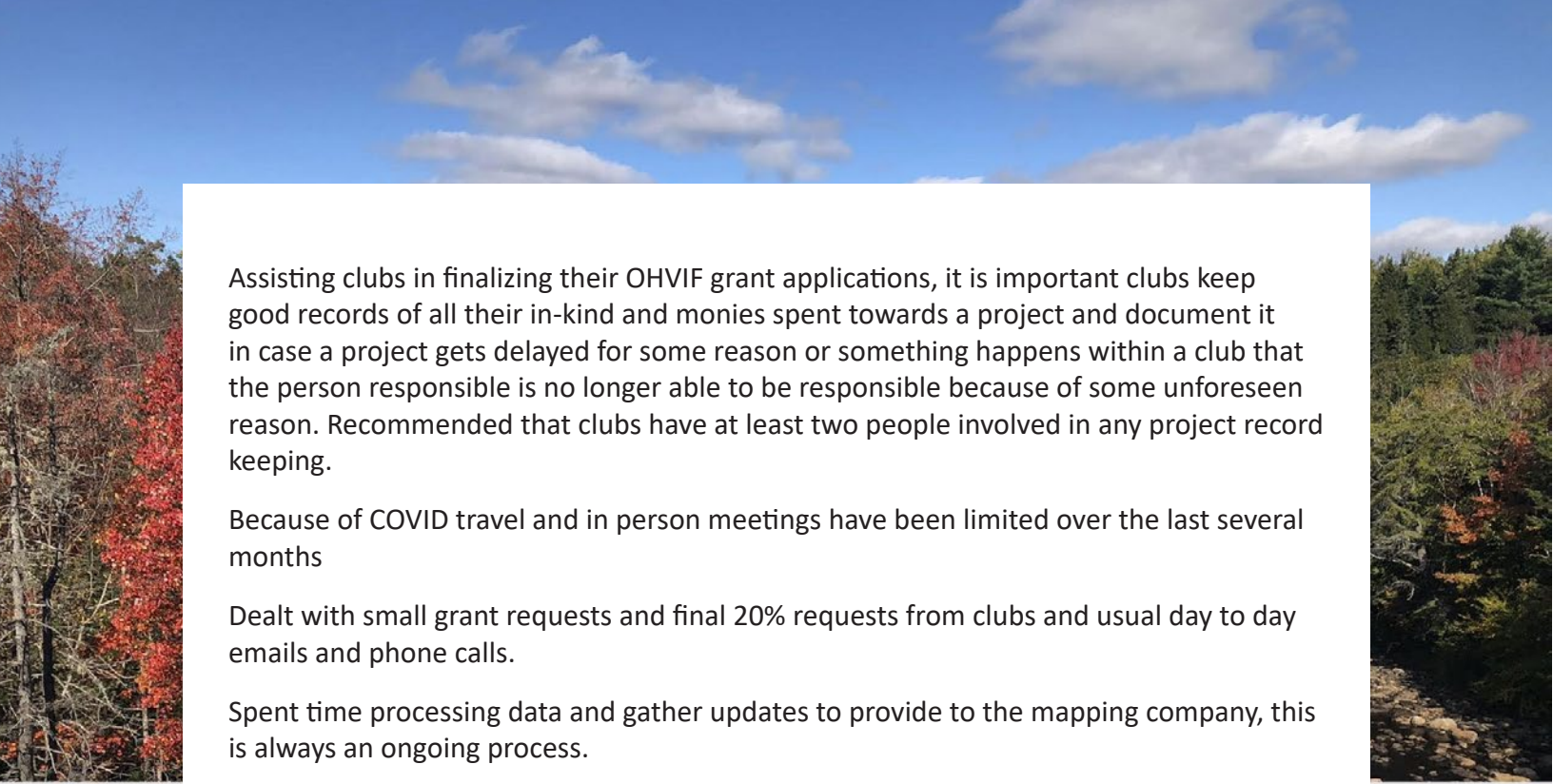
Continue communication with TIR regarding twinning of Hwy 104 regarding placement of tunnels and under passes. Meetings held with the local clubs and TIR and the locations of the tunnels have been determined and finalized.

Participated in the Operations Committee, Regulation Committee, Trails Committee and Officers Conference calls

Did several site visits/trail assessments with NSE and local clubs trying to get access to different WPA trails and to confirm what routes work best and work required.

Working with various clubs in their applications for building trails on Crown Lands. In communication with L&F to make sure all information required is provided. The good news is several clubs have received their LOAs and can move forward with their projects many of which are new trails providing connectivity.

Communication with Atlantic Gold who have been meeting with the local clubs who may be affected by their Beaver Dam Mine Project, initial conversations are sounding good and it appears the company is willing to work with the clubs to maintain trail connectivity and possibly expanding riding areas in the future as sections of the mine close and are reclaimed.



Assisting clubs in finalizing their OHVIF grant applications, it is important clubs keep good records of all their in-kind and monies spent towards a project and document it in case a project gets delayed for some reason or something happens within a club that the person responsible is no longer able to be responsible because of some unforeseen reason. Recommended that clubs have at least two people involved in any project record keeping.

Because of COVID travel and in person meetings have been limited over the last several months

Dealt with small grant requests and final 20% requests from clubs and usual day to day emails and phone calls.

Spent time processing data and gather updates to provide to the mapping company, this is always an ongoing process.

Corey Robar

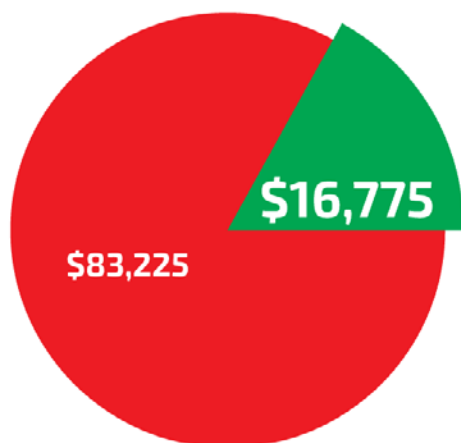
Treasurers Report

YTD Financials

As the year unfolded there were fears and uncertainty, do to COVID-19 as to how the year would roll out. I am happy to say, that the year was not the disaster we anticipated. Although our income was lower than budgeted, so were our expenses. AGM, Board Meetings, Zone Meetings Mileage, Meals, Accommodations, were significantly lower YTD. I expect we will be increasing spending in these areas over the next few months as restrictions are eased. I anticipate a surplus for the year.

Small Grant Funding

We were off to a slow start, but our Clubs and Community Trail Groups have used just over \$83,000 with \$17,000 still available. I understand there are still projects in the works and I once again urge Clubs to not leave any money on the table. I would like to thank the clubs for their hard work and point out that these clubs have to match these funds with their own funds and/or in kind labour.



2020 Small Grant Budget:
\$100,000

■ Amount used to date

■ Amount still available

Website Report

Member Management Website Wild Apricot

2020, a year like no other. With club meetings cancelled due to Health Guidelines, members were not able to join or renew in person as they did in the past. For 2020 we have just over 1300 members join or renew online. For our Early Bird Draw we have just over 350 on line with the number growing every day.

Last Month, September we had a record month with online transactions. A total of \$19,500.00 and 570 individual transactions. This was mostly due to new memberships, membership renewals, and online registration for both the Lake Charlotte and Fundy Rallies. Online shopping is now the new normal and we are and have been ready.

With clubs now once again having meetings and rallies, website traffic has increased. Year to Date we have had over 45,000 sessions with once again, Maps/Trails, Events, Join-Ups and Clubs the most popular. If your club doesn't have a map, what's holding you back?

Membership, "More than a Sticker"

I see a lot of discussion taking place on if one needs a Trail Pass, Membership sticker or what ever one wants to call it.

People say, I paid my \$40 so that is enough. Well first, all club members also pay their \$40. These club members also donate their time and effort to build and maintain trails, work with landowners to obtain land use permissions, lobby government for change, support local charities, build club houses and warming huts, put on Rallies and the list goes on.

A club membership is \$50, 40 % of the fee goes directly to the club to support their efforts, 45% to ATVANS and of course 15% HST. When you look at \$50 for a year, that \$1 a week, 25 medium Tim Horton's Coffee, or 25 Bud Lights. So, skip on 2 coffees or beers a month and there is your membership.

Show your support of the local clubs, buy a membership or Trail Permit to say 'Thank You' to the clubs and hard-working volunteers that are working to make this sport better. Buy a membership to show that you support the sport in Nova Scotia and want to see changes and improvements in the coming years. Currently there are over 5,000 members, just think how loud the voice would be with 20,000.

The choice is yours, become a member and help us move forward. Or sit on the sidelines, do nothing, let others do the work and complain that enough is not getting done.

Paul Smith

ATVANS Staff and Board Changes

As we move forward together, we have a few staff and board changes to announce.

In the office Donna Peverill, who worked as our office administrator, has retired after three years with ATVANS. Donna may return from time to time filling in for vacations and helping with heavier work load if required. I want to thank Donna for her dedication and professionalism she brought to the office during her time with us and wish her well during her retirement.





Filling Donna's roll with some additional responsibilities is Marty Jefferies. Marty has been providing ATVANS with technical support on our website, graphic requirements, photographs and other needs. Marty is a member of Marine Riders ATV club and is a graphic designer by trade. His skills will help us as we move forward.

Long-time board member, and all around good guy, Richard Dumas has decided to step down from the board at this time to give someone else a chance to serve in this capacity. Richard served as the Zone 5 director for several years.

Eric Dwyer from Pictou County ATV club has stepped into Richards place as the Zone 5 director. Eric has a long connection to the sport of ATVing and has agreed to be ATVANS representative on the Nova Scotia Trails Federation board.

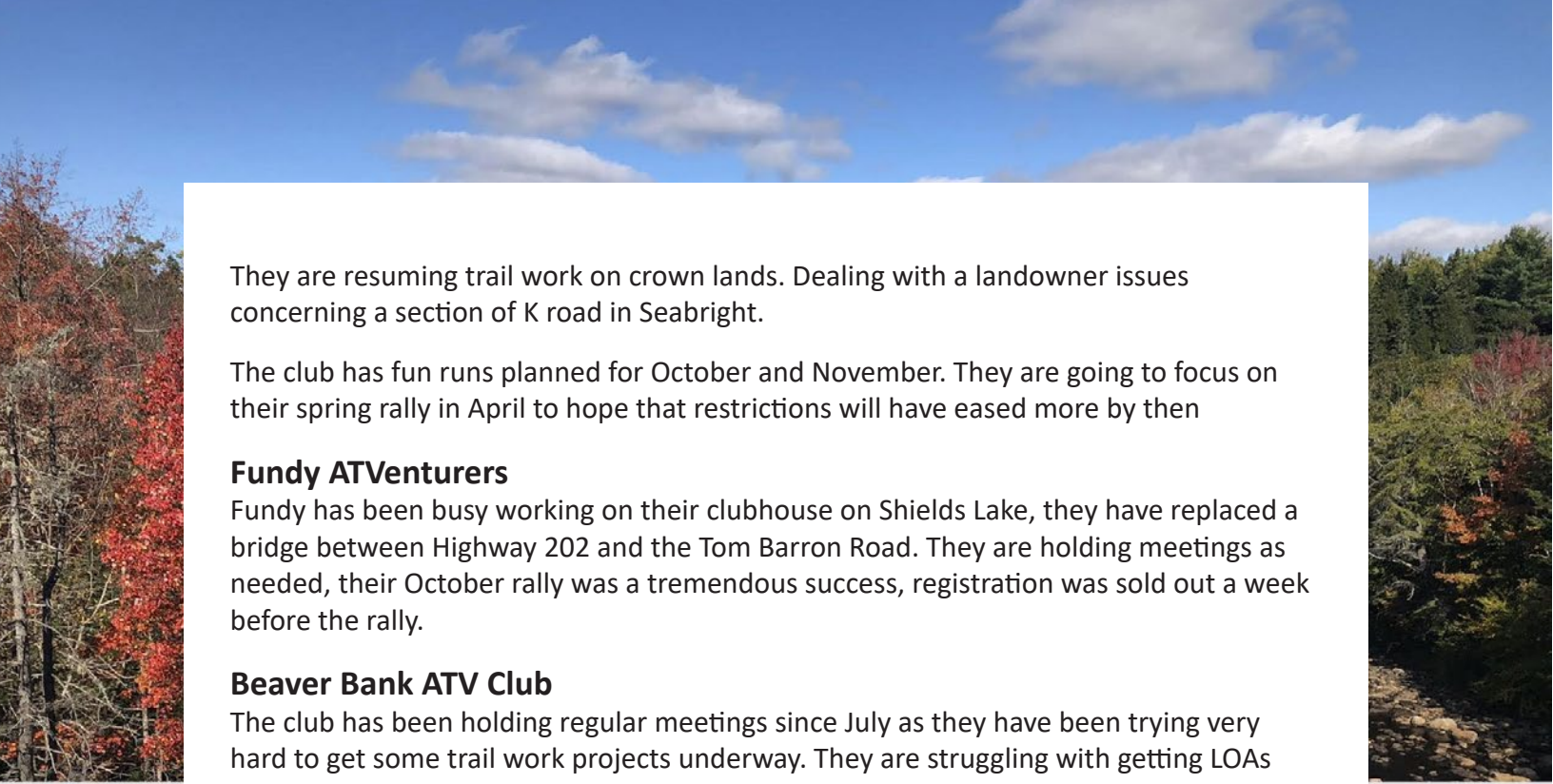
I want to thank those who are stepping up to new challenges and those who served our board clubs and members in the past. Together we are growing this great organization.

Barry Barnet
Executive Director ATVANS

Zone 3A Report

Safety Minded

The club has resumed regular meetings. They have been continuing with ongoing maintenance of the Five Bridges WPA that they are responsible for. Some of the projects they have been working on include, replacing the railing on a bridge in the community we have on a private land Trail, under an LOA, along with some Improvements to clubhouse and lands.



They are resuming trail work on crown lands. Dealing with a landowner issues concerning a section of K road in Seabright.

The club has fun runs planned for October and November. They are going to focus on their spring rally in April to hope that restrictions will have eased more by then

Fundy ATVenturers

Fundy has been busy working on their clubhouse on Shields Lake, they have replaced a bridge between Highway 202 and the Tom Barron Road. They are holding meetings as needed, their October rally was a tremendous success, registration was sold out a week before the rally.

Beaver Bank ATV Club

The club has been holding regular meetings since July as they have been trying very hard to get some trail work projects underway. They are struggling with getting LOAs from DNR to get these projects underway. Corey Robar along with Steve Foley attended their monthly meeting in September, Corey Robar answered questions around trail connectivity, status of LOAs, shoulder of the road pilot project updates and more.

BBATV has been working with ATVANS and Dave Barrett to try and get Barrett Lumber signed on to a LOA with ATVANS rather than with the club. They now have an active trail patrol up and running, they are hoping this will help with trying to get Barrett on board with getting into an LOA with ATVANS.

BBATV had a remarkably successful fun run, they held the Walton Run in September, they had 38 bikes and 45 people. This was huge for the Walton Pub, they filled every table at the pub and with COVID impacting the restaurant industry in 2020, the economic impact of this run was huge for the pub.

Long Lake Loggers

After having a 6 month break due to COVID, meetings started back up on September 3rd 2020. We applied for Funding to do some bush mowing on the west side of 5-mile lake in Ellershouse and has now been completed. September also had us start up our monthly fun runs. We made a trip to Noel road to the Burger Shack for a great feed. If you have not been before I highly recommend a trip.

As a club we decked in a bridge off the Elliott Rd in Rawdon to help maintain a trail for OHV use after loggers moved out of the area. During COVID we obtained OHV funding for the installation of a bridge in the Ellershouse area in partnership with DNR and Westfor forestry. installation still in progress. This bridge will allow us accesses to the east side of big Indian from Ellershouse. October also seen us supporting another ATV Club Fundy ATV had their annual fall rally, which was well attended, and a fun time had by all.

Corey Osborne

Zone 3B Report

Marine Riders

- Had first meeting in September since COVID-19 hit
- Membership drive is strong with many new members joining
- Have 2 new directors with club
- Trail maintenance is on going
- With Trail connectivity they are land lock but have had good luck with local enforcement going trail head to trail head on Old Guysborough Rd



Lake Charlotte

- Had first meeting in August since COVID-19 hit
- October 3rd hosted ATV rally with 249 machines with no issues
- Trail maintenance on going
- Trail connectivity is good with PUMA and SHEET HRBOUR except for small part on Mooseland Rd



Sheet Harbour

- Had first meeting in July since COVID-19 hit
- September 26 hosted rally 96 people registered no issues encountered
- Trail maintenance on going (Balcom Center Trail, Bridge work on 5 bridges with 2 being totally replaced)
- Trail connectivity is good except for small part on Mooseland Rd can connect with Puma, Lake Charlotte and St Marys with no trouble
- The club has put on 6 safe rider courses for ATV and side by side

Puma

- Had first meeting in September since COVID-19
- Concerns about unregistered bikes in area of the Lemmon Hill Community Center on weekends (I spoke with RCMP in Sheet Hbr and Middle Musquodoboit with concerns)

There has been and will be further meetings between Atlantic Gold and the following clubs Lake Charlotte, Puna and Sheet Harbour as some trails will be affected by the mining operations. Atlantic Gold so far has been receptive to constructing new trails to replace existing ones at no costs to clubs. This will be on going over the next couple of years. Some of the Scott paper roads are now owned by Atlantic Gold and they are trying to be good corporate clients.

Jamie Briggs

Zone 4 Report

Sunrise Trail Club

Work carried out for 2020, valued at \$10,000.00 including ditching, placing culverts, road building and gravelling.

South Colchester ATV Club

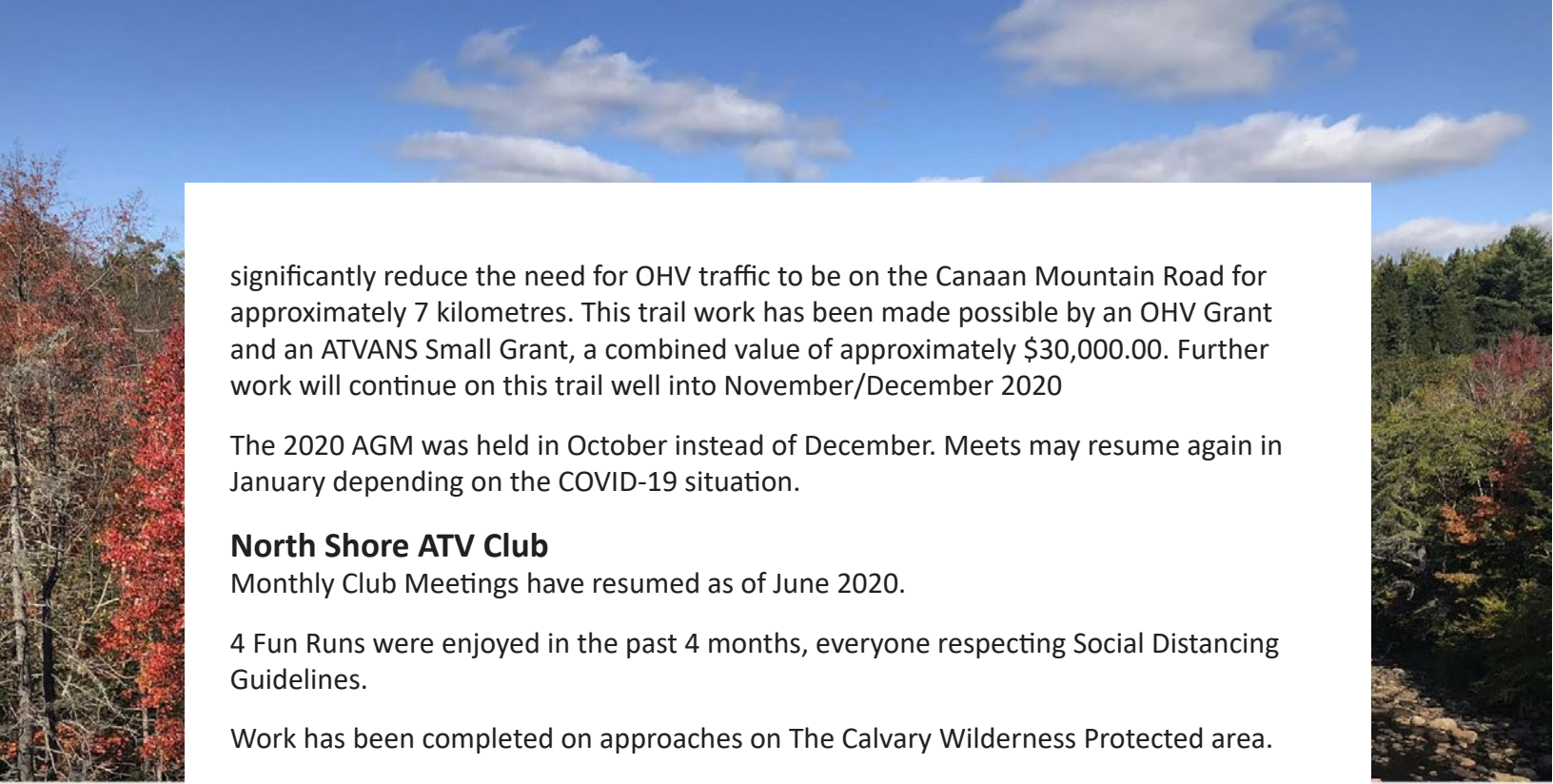
Activity has been reduced this year due to COVID-19.

Work consisted of trail trimming and a sign project in conjunction with the North Shore ATV Club. 2021 memberships are now for sale.

Colchester Five Islands ATV Club

No runs were carried out this year due to COVID-19.

Work has been concentrated on one major trail upgrade, the connector trail and new trail head, between Canaan Mountain Road and Newville Road. This trail should



significantly reduce the need for OHV traffic to be on the Canaan Mountain Road for approximately 7 kilometres. This trail work has been made possible by an OHV Grant and an ATVANS Small Grant, a combined value of approximately \$30,000.00. Further work will continue on this trail well into November/December 2020

The 2020 AGM was held in October instead of December. Meets may resume again in January depending on the COVID-19 situation.

North Shore ATV Club

Monthly Club Meetings have resumed as of June 2020.

4 Fun Runs were enjoyed in the past 4 months, everyone respecting Social Distancing Guidelines.

Work has been completed on approaches on The Calvary Wilderness Protected area.

Work identifying and addressing the process to mitigate potential water damage to the Calvary Wilderness Protected Area trail system using Conveyor Belts. Installation of new culverts and buried conveyer belts to control water.

Completed Joint Project with South Colchester signing trails from their area to ours creating well marked trail connectivity.

Completed new signage marking a route from the North Shore ATV Club to the Rail bed leading to Tatamagouche and the Pictou areas.

Donna Graham

Zone 6A Report

Isle Royale ATV Club

In the fall of 2019, the Isle Royale ATV Club secured a \$5000.00 ATVANS Small Grant to carry out necessary repairs to the old bridge over the river along MacDonald's Road in Framboise. Once plans were finalized, a number of members from the Isle Royale and Marconi Trail Blazers took part in the construction.

Work finally got underway to upgrade the Rat Lake Road which is located .08KM from the Capelin Cove Road along the St. Peters-Fourchu Highway. Approval came late in 2019 which did not allow for construction until May of 2020. Travel by ATV along the Rat Lake Road ATV trail provides connectivity with the L'Ardoise ATV Club system. There remains a requirement for additional signage to be placed in some areas along this trail.

During the October storm of 2016, considerable damage was caused to the ATV trail system and the bridge on the old Chapel Road, originally built by the French between 1730 and 1750 from the Fortress of Louisbourg to connect to their fort at St. Anns. This

is a significant trail system to connect to other ATV trails. A new bridge utilizing an old pulp trailer bed was constructed and put in place by club members. A picture of Gordon crossing new bridge is shown below.



The club executive reluctantly cancelled the Highland Quest because of the Covid 19 pandemic. The next Highland Quest event will take place October 2nd and 3rd, 2021.

Jim Surette, representing the Marconi Trail Blazers, and Dan Fraser and myself representing the Isle Royale ATV Club, accompanied Corey Robar, ATVANS Trail Coordinator, and Mr. David Williams, Environment Canada Wilderness Area Specialist, for a visit to the Capelin Cove area in Framboise at the end of August. The purpose of this visit/meeting was to advocate to take the Capelin Cove Road out of the Wilderness Protected area to facilitate access by ATVs.

Marconi Trail Blazers ATV Club

Jim Surette, Vice President, secured a \$5,000 Small Grant to repair extensive damage along one kilometer of the Cow Bay Road ATV trail system. Ditching is now being carried out to eliminate the large flooded areas on this trail system. An additional small grant of \$5,000 will be requested to complete this work. Please refer to before and after pictures below depicting the initial phase of the work that is required.



Below: Water hole drained to prepare for replacing eroded trail bed.



Allister MacLean, President, has been very involved with the committee that is taking over management of the old Rail Bed between the Gardiner Mines and Glace Bay. This trail system is important in the overall scheme of ATV travel in the Glace Bay area.

Coastal Riders ATV Association

Marie Prout, President, advised that they had some mapping done and picked up bridge panels that were available through ATVANS. Their club was pretty quiet through May, June and July as many of their members are part of the fishing industry at that time of year. COVID also negatively impacted their work. They received a grant from the municipality for trail work which will start shortly now that their mapping has been completed. Also, a group of them are planning to work on finishing repairs to their clubhouse the weekend of the 24th, weather permitting.

East Richmond ATV Riders

According to Ricky Stone, the East Richmond ATV Riders have been busy this summer doing trimming on trails and cleaning out brooks that run along the trails. They have resurfaced 7.5 km of trail and are presently waiting for signs and gates to be finished being made so they can be put in place along the trail. They are not having any meetings at this time; however, they plan to schedule meetings soon, one which will be their AGM. The pictures below depict some of the work that they have been doing.





West Richmond Riders Association

West Richmond Riders is the newest club within ATVANS, from their first meeting July 18 with just 14 members, they now are just under the 50-member mark and expect many more members to be joining.

According to Shelton Benoit, club president, they are having a 50/50 draw in hopes of raising \$4000.00 to help with some much-needed trail work. At this time, they are only \$1000.00 away from \$4,000.00 and still have until November 2020 to meet their goal. They have designed two logos, one for their West Richmond Riders Association Logo, and the second one is a Logo for their shirts which depicts an ATV trail with "Riding Dirty" on it. Sales from the merchandise will be used to help with the money needed for trail development. They also received a \$5000.00 grant from Richmond County, and have applied for a \$2000.00 Small Grant from ATVANS.

For additional funds, club members are in the process of starting a Chase the Ace draw. They are also in the process of developing a partnership with the West Bay Fire Department to develop different muster points in case of an accident or emergency on a bike run and for gearing up a rescue wagon/cart to use for bike runs or other events. According to Shelton, funds raised will be used to help fund these initiatives as well as being used for trail development and the purchase of a groomer.

Corey Robar, Trail Co-Ordinator, visited the area to do some GPSing, checked out their

trails, and provided club members with the information requested.

Shelton indicated that they had multiple trail clearing parties with up to 16 people helping at one time. As well, they have several people clearing trails on their own. Pictures below show work parties out doing trail work.





Judy Giovannetti

Zone 6B Report

After making phone calls and email contacts, I found that the clubs in my area are still trying to get back to normal since the Virus attack 7 or 8 months ago.

The late winter and early spring months completely shut-down their operations although we had a good summer not much was going on in an organized way.

Claude Bourgeois, President of the Highland ATV Club reported that his club has scheduled an AGM meeting on November 10/20. Their club is trying to organize work parties to do trail work on washout areas near Cheticamp.

Paul Brown, President of the Baddeck & Area ATV Club reported that his club are hoping to get started soon but not much to report at this time.

Graham Menzies