



ATVANS NEWS Winter 2020

The President's Message

The fall session was busy as usual with the normal interactions with the executive director and officers. I took part in several committee conference calls and was most pleased with the attendance and interaction in most of them. Expense approvals and other "paperwork" such as our applications for the COHV grant/funding also occupied some time.

Discussed with the executive director, varied issues such as permits, interaction with government, club issues, etc.

The trails coordinator and I have spent many hours reviewing/discussing the status of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) road mapping and how we can prepare our presentation regarding proposed temporary access along certain highways at rallies. Also discussed progress with the TIR issues previously discussed.

I discussed with NS Environment (NSE) Minister Gordon Wilson, the issues of youth riding, closed courses and their enforcement. Legislatively these are Lands and Forestry (L&F) issues but NSE is responsible for enforcement. I was looking for feedback from the Minister and I feel it was positive. We also discussed enforcement issues around the province. We originally brought some of these issues to our Ministers meeting (NSE, TIR, L&F) last summer and the board feels it is important to continue our efforts regarding these issues.

The employee reviews have been completed. Paul Smith and I conducted the executive director's review.

Executive Director, Barry Barnet and I attended a President's council meeting with representatives of the Snowmobile Association of NS (SANS) and NS Off Road Riders Association (NSORRA) to prepare for our joint participation in the upcoming meetings regarding the provincial trails strategy adopted by the Province.

I represented ATVANS as VP-2 of the Canadian Quad Council (CQC) and participated in a couple of officer and board of director meetings. For those of you that may not realize it, CQC is the national body that represents our Provincial ATV federations and associations. We share many of the concerns and issues which our sister federations and associations share.

I reiterated our (ATVANS) support of our reciprocal agreements with NB ATV and PEI ATV. We did not support the national pass as it would have voided these reciprocal agreements. The status quo remains and our members can take full advantage of our Maritime riding opportunities.

The Board and staff have done some great work the past quarter and more will be done. I encourage you to send delegates and guests to our AGM in April. I believe this will be our best one yet and I look forward to seeing you there.

Kevin Lombard

Vice President - 1

Since our last officers meeting, I participated in several committee calls.

As Chairman of a committee under the new committee structure the first call we focused on priorities, ongoing projects and we also worked on designating members for specific tasks. We have been working on getting the zone directors more engaged, so we put out a call to the clubs to find out what their priorities are. Mapping was considered an ongoing project and will be ongoing constantly. We are also looking at alternative funding for clubs.

I have also been talking with the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters group as well as the Share Our Trails group.

I have been busy responding to day-to-day emails, phone calls and messages.

Steve Foley

Vice President - 2

Since the last board meeting, I've participated in the usual officer's calls and committee conference calls.

On November 6th I, along with other board members, club members and Councillor David Hendsbee attended a HRM meeting regarding HARTA. I believe having Corey Robar and Barry Barnet in attendance with their years of experience on the trail side and on the political side helped open some eyes and provided some insight to the situation. Hopefully, moving forward we will have more of these information sharing opportunities. Please make note that the Share our Trail Group was invited but did not attend.

On December 30th at 11:00pm I received a call about a father and son lost and out of gas in the Mersey. I met with the family and RCMP and because they took a screen shot of their location and texted it before their phone died, we had a pretty good idea where they were. We drove into mile marker 10 and there they were with a fire going! We loaded their bikes on the 2 trucks and drove out around 1:30am. The caller said she found my number on the ATVANS page which is great.

Lottery:

To date, we have 67,780 tickets in the hands of clubs. At the request of Honda, we purchased two "A frame" signs for Pro Cycle and Bridgewater Power House. These two dealers have tickets provided by local clubs. Honda has made a request that we attend the Fish and Chip rally on January 25th. Honda sponsors this event and will contact Shore Riders regarding the lottery prize being on display. I have committed to towing the trailer down and selling tickets for the day. Let's make a push over the last couple months and make this year's lottery a huge success.

Trail patrol:

Not much engagement from the clubs regarding trail patrol. Donna has sent emails and I've spoken to most clubs by phone. The ACAMUTS Club had the training in November and the Isle Royale Club was trained in December. There is more training scheduled in January for Cape Breton clubs. It would be great if the zone directors would reach out to their clubs and see if we can get some training arranged in conjunction with zone meetings.

Safety and youth fleet:

As a result of the motion brought forward at our last board meeting, we sent 16 youth bikes and 5 trailers to the Public Auction to sell. The sale went better than expected. The committee has asked for some further information regarding a cost comparison between carrying fire and theft or just liability insurance on the youth fleet moving forward.

Tom Arnold

Executive Director Report

The fall and early winter is increasingly becoming a very busy time of the year. Reports for insurance renewals and grant funding along with regular business consume a great deal of my time and effort.

Upon receiving board direction at the October meeting, we proceeded to gather up and sell underutilized safety training machines and trailers. Through direct e-mail and social media we were able to create significant interest for the sale. The public auction was packed and sale prices greatly exceeded expectations. Reducing the fleet created annual savings of nearly \$2000 on our fleet policy. It was a significant task gathering up the trailers and machines; however, no road, side flats or troubles helped with the process. Most trainers understood and accepted the board direction. The mobile unit is currently stored at my place and will require minor funds to fully mobilize the trailer and bikes.

I met, along with other board members, HRM staff and Councillor David Hendsbee regarding multi use trails and the HRM funding arrangement. It is expected the HRM traffic committee will receive a report in the coming weeks. I will continue to reach out to the councillor and staff to monitor progress of the issue.

Myself, Corey and the Snow Mobile Association of NS (SANS) General Manager met with staff from the protected areas branch of Department of Environment (DOE). This is a regular meeting to discuss issues and concerns about Wilderness Protected Areas (WPAs). Some staff changes have occurred and I feel confident our good working relationship will continue.

After fielding several calls about ongoing issues and concerns at Baddeck and Area ATV club it was determined that a face to face meeting with club officers, members and myself was in order. We had a good meeting that included about 20 club members, myself and Corey. Although it was rocky in the beginning it seemed to end well. The club has more work to do on building relationships and trust but appear to be heading in the right direction. I have had a number of phone conversations with the club president since the meeting.

I conducted my annual employee review with staff once again and am pleased to report that the overall reviews are positive and written copies will be provided to staff and retained on file. In addition, I would like to point out that as of January I have now worked with ATVANS for ten years. I believe we have come a long way over the past decade and jumped many hurdles. I am proud of the growth and direction we have moved toward. I look forward to the coming years as we continue to grow our sport and organization.

I remain very concerned about an ongoing issue that needs attention. Some clubs continue to remit very late membership slips. This results in some members not receiving the full benefits of belonging in a timely manner. In some cases members have brought this to our attention and in others members received "thank you for

joining” letters only to be followed by renewal notices. This is very unprofessional and embarrassing. This matter will be referred to a committee for recommendation. In the meantime offending clubs will be notified of this concern.

The coming quarter is by large the busiest quarter of the year for staff, planning for the AGM, lottery wrap up, Outdoor show, next year’s lottery prizes and applications, grant applications, zone meetings, membership renewals, event posting and the list goes on. I ask for patience and understanding as we meet these challenges together.

On a more positive note we once again held our annual Christmas lunch get together with staff and it was very well attended. On behalf of your staff we thank you all for your efforts on behalf of ATVANS and the sport of ATVing. We are blessed with so many great volunteers.

Barry Barnet

Board working on renewal of strategic plan

The board have been busy working on the renewal of their multiyear strategic plan. The first plan helped to guide the board over the last five years and has worked as a filter or guide as the board made decisions on behalf of our members.

Most progressive organizations use planning tools like this to assist in governance and long term planning. It is hoped the plan will be complete and unveiled at the upcoming annual general meeting at the end of April.



Treasurer Report

Financial Update

We are still in the process of closing out 2019 and planning and approving the new Budget for 2020. Revenue from membership continues to increase as does our membership.

Expenses for the most part were on plan apart from our AGM and Insurance cost. Our 2019 AGM was our best attended and so due to the increase in the number of members attending, so does the cost. In addition, the AGM was held in Dartmouth costing more. Some of the increases in cost were offset with support from Honda Canada and Can Mac Watercraft. Insurance costs continue to increase as I'm sure everyone is aware. To this end it was decided to streamline our Youth Fleet as bikes and trailers were auctioned off with proceeds to support our Youth Training as we move forward.

Website Update

As always, we continue to update and improve our website. For 2019 we had a total of 28,000 visits. Most popular, Events, Maps and Trails, Join Us and Clubs. On our website members will find our By-laws, Policy's, Board and AGM meeting Minutes and a wealth of information. For the public, we have our Events listed and now our Newsletters are available to everyone.

Online Membership

Online Membership for new members and renewal continues to increase as people realize how easy and fast it is. The service is available 24/7. For example, we had 4 members renew and 2 new members apply on Christmas Day. On New Years Day, 4 renewals, 3 new members and a store order for a map.

In 2018 we had 735 members join or renew online, in 2019 that number has doubled to 1530 and 24 Trail Permit Only.

2020 Budget

The 2020 budget will be presented, discussed, adjusted and approved by the Board on Sunday, January 12th.

As stated in previous years, "The budget is just that, a budget." These are estimates based on history and planning. If we do not receive the income, we budget, then we need to cut our expenses. It also carries items from one year to the next.

Paul Smith

Trails Coordinator Report

Attended meeting in Dartmouth regarding the HRM funding program and review being done by staff as directed by HRM Council. Staff to present to Council in 2020.

Met with and assisted Central Nova ATV Club with presentation to Bridgewater Town Council.

Now helping to gather more information based upon questions posed by Council.

Met with mapping company (LGS) to go over updates to the GeoMapix, Rocky Pearce and myself are now set up to be able to edit data on a "demo" basis at this point. The goal is for us to be able to edit data, saving costs and helping increase turnaround time on edits.

Travelled to Sheet Harbor for two days, first day was spent looking at trail work completed and second day I attended the opening of their covered bridge. There was a great turnout for the event with lots of riders and individuals in attendance.

Travelled to Riversdale and went in the Calvary River Wilderness Protected Area (WPA) looking at the bridge completed by the North Shore ATV Club and the South Colchester ATV Club. NS Lands & Forestry (L&F) staff were also in attendance as the bridge was funded by the Off-Highway Vehicle Infrastructure Fund (OHVIF). Impressive job done by the clubs.



Travelled to Baddeck and attended a meeting in Little Narrows discussing the club's small grant project in that area. Stopped at St. Peter's and did some GPSing of the rail trail from River Tillard towards Louisdale. Visited Arichat and updated some of the Isle Madame ATV Club trail mapping data as they have added several new trails to their

system with connection to local community centers.

Travelled to Guysborough and met with local ATV clubs, snowmobile club, private landowners, community members and community trail group to discuss the announcement regarding the Ogden Round Lake WPA. Went out with NS Department of Environment (NSE) staff the next day doing trail assessment in the area.

Met with Pictou County ATV Club regarding mapping and getting them a map developed/produced.

Met with NS Department of Transportation, Infrastructure & Renewal (TIR) regarding several matters such as Central Nova ATV Club's Naugler Road connector, Bridgewater to New Germany connection and a bridge over the Lahave River.

Communication with Annapolis County ATV and Multi Use Trails Society, Isle Royale ATV Club, Barachois Trails Association, Chedabucto Multi Use Trail Association, Colchester Five Islands ATV Club and the Ocean Lake Riders ATV Club regarding issues they are dealing with.

Happy to report that all our Small Grant Funding has been awarded for 2019.

We have finally obtained the additional MacDonald bridge panels; clubs will be informed on what is available once inventory is completed.

Attended the OHVIF meeting and brought forth the issue that the clubs are having difficulty coming up with 50% funding for larger, mostly cash outlay, projects. Committee supported the idea of possible higher percentage funding for certain projects. This would require Minister approval before it can be implemented.

Met with NSE to go over the next steps for recently announced changes to the WPA Act and also got to meet with the new Central Region Coordinator.

Attended the SANS Trails Committee meeting.

Met with the Hubbards & Area ATV Club to address questions on grants and arrange a day to go out with them on the trail to look at some issues to be addressed.

Participated in Operations Committee and Officers conference calls.

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

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

Attended the ATVANS Christmas Luncheon.

Corey Robar

Zone 3A Report

Fundy ATV Report – Fourth Quarter 2019

We held our annual fall rally on October 19, 2019. This rally was held in partnership with the Hants North Baseball Association, signifying the end of year 2 of our 3-year renewable agreement. The rally had 225 registered entries and everyone left happy and dirty.

The contractors we have working on our two trail projects have them pretty much completed and our executive is getting everything in place to finalize the two grants so we can close them. We have built a new trail to complete what we refer to as the Georgefield Loop for one project and the other was a major brush cutting effort on a large amount of our trail network. We are opening up a bunch of new roads and trails to create a new loop for us to access the restaurant that operates in summer and fall at the recreational facility/baseball park in North Noel Road. Once we have some crossings repaired, we will add this section to our database of trails.

Our president and vice-president spent a day out on bikes with the local staff of Nova Scotia Lands & Forestry (NSL&F) touring our trail system on Crown Lands. The review of trails in their area will be an ongoing thing now for reasons outside of Fundy ATV's control. During our tour they identified two major routes that they want upgraded. One is part of the Pilot Project Trail and the other one is a major route that runs just outside of the Nature Reserve in the area that ultimately leads to the other side of our Pilot Project area. We have gotten estimates and applied to the Off-Highway Vehicle Infrastructure Fund (OHVIF) for funding and pending approval will begin work as soon as possible inside the specific timeframes set out by NSL&F.

On New Year's Day night there was an accident on our trail system when a gentleman hit a washout caused by beavers. This site has been repaired at least 3 times by either Fundy or the Driftclimbers Snowmobile Club and we are in the process of raising some money and getting it repaired again. The site is passable and has been well marked with caution signs and ribbons. This has always been done in the past while waiting to be repaired but someone seems to like to collect our Caution Signs. Our executive has spoken with the injured person and he is on the road to recovery from a broken pelvis, his ATV is likely a write-off. It's unfortunate but luckily it wasn't a worse outcome. Fundy had members assisting the Kennetcook Fire Department and the RCMP to identify the area of the accident.

On the fun side of things, we had a few smaller fun runs during the fall and during Christmas holidays. We plan to continue with runs whenever possible. Some of our runs are advertised to our members only via email but most are advertised to the public via our Facebook page.

Also, we finally have a pad leveled for our clubhouse to be built on in by Shield's Lake. We will begin construction as soon as the weather permits in the spring. We had

purchased the trusses 2 years ago but ended up needing the money that we had set aside for trail work. We anticipate that we will have all the material to build it donated and look forward to finally having it completed.

Trevor Hebb
President, Fundy ATV

Beaver Bank ATV Club – Fourth Quarter 2019

We held our second club rally on November 10th 2019 and raised over \$1300 for VETS Canada. We had over 80 bikes and close to 100 people in attendance. We look forward to making our next rally bigger and better. We are very limited with rally routes due to our land owner agreements with Barrett Lumber that do not permit rallies on their land.

We are still working on our 5k trail, hoping to find a way to get the material moved into the trail over the winter before everything thaws out and start work on the worst sections in the spring once things dry up. The biggest challenge for us on this trail is the three bridges that all need to be replaced. We have been in contact with Mark Shaw both directly and via Corey Robar and we are working on getting the Land Owner Agreement (LOA) in place. The LOA was applied for in the past, however it was orphaned for some reason and there needs to be an aboriginal study completed in order for us to get the long-term LOA which would allow us to complete the bridge work. We are hoping to apply for the funding in 2020 to complete the work in the summer of 2021 at the latest.

We also have the land leveled out at the Lions Club where they have provided us a spot to house a 20' sea can for us to store all of our club supplies. This should be in place in late spring once things dry up.

The club is hosting a minimum of one event per month for the members, be it a fun run, BBQ, rally, camping trip, etc. The executive team along with the social committee has been hard at work to make this happen and we have lots of exciting ideas for 2020!

The club is continuously working at improving our warming hut and we are hoping to secure a piece of land in the coming years to put a second shelter on for the members and riders in the area.

Club clothing is being re-vamped and we are now selling it on our Facebook marketplace, along with the ATVANS store and at some local dealers in the area.

-Beaver Bank ATV Club Executive Committee

SMATVA – Nothing received

Hubbards – Nothing received

Long Lake Loggers – Nothing received

Zone 6A Report - Judy Giovannetti

Isle Royale ATV Club

The Rat Lake, Framboise, section of the new trail has been postponed until the spring of 2020 due to weather conditions and delays in getting the go ahead to begin the work.

The bridge on the MacDonald Road has been signed off and designated for ATV use only. A photo of the bridge is included below.



Trail Patroller training has been provided for eight members of the Isle Royale ATV club.

Marconi Trail Blazers

After some delay, the MacDonald Road portion of the new trail has been completed.

Several club members have taken the Trail Patroller training in December.

The Marconi Trail Blazers in conjunction with the Bay It Forward Group held a poker run in the Glace Bay/Sydney/ Broughton area. This trail ride was a success with forty-two quads and side-by-sides taking part in the run. The group will hold another poker run in the new year, with the assistance of the Marconi Trail Blazers. A trail ride picture is depicted below.



East Richmond Club

Ricky Stone reported that the club continues to work on their trail system. They currently have 5.2 kilometres of trail roughed in with most of the ditching completed. They have installed Armour Stone along eroded areas and top coated a couple kilometres of trail. Due to weather related conditions and softening trails they stopped their work for the winter and will restart in the summer. Below is a picture of a section of the trail work they have completed.



Barachois ATV Trail Association

Dwayne Boudreau provided an update on the work the club has been doing. He indicated that they have begun phase 1 of their rail trail from Grande Anse toward St Peter's. They have been grading the trail to multi-use standards. Club members have been working on receiving private landowner permissions to expand the trail from Louisdale toward Lower River along Hwy 104 and across to NS-4. Attached photo depicts some of the trail work that has taken place.





Zone 6B Report - Graham Menzies

Highland ATV Club (Cheticamp) – President, Claude Bourgeois

No formal meeting yet, however we have done some trail clearing in the fall and I have recorded all the men and hours spent for POST DORIAN wind storm trail damages. Even before that there were damages and trees and branches down. People seem to be responsive to new interests by myself and others to get things moving. Cheticamp, I have found out, is very busy with fishing from April to Sept and everything happens after August. Because of this it will be tough to do much trail work in the spring and summer. We continue to sell trail passes and received our 2020 passes... a few sold. Along with the Skidoo boys as helpers, we just completed a major trail repair to multi use 905 trail (Forest Glen) as we had 100 trees down. I have recorded some of the hours for this work as well, as this is a multi-use trail.





Baddeck & Area ATV Club – President, Paul Brown

Most of the trail work done by this Club was completed this fall until we ran into winter and snow.

A grant from ATVANS was used to upgrade a trail 2.5 km over on the Iona Peninsula. Lots of help from the community members.

Another 2 km trail was cut out and a new bridge constructed in Middle River near the Garlic Mountain. This trail will make it possible for ATVers and snowmobilers to get to the Highlands on the south side.

Victoria County provided a grant to make a connection from Big Baddeck to the Highlands. This multi-use trail will give access to the north side to the Highlands right to Wreck Cove. Included in this trail is a 5 km loop which will be excellent for cross country skiing and snow shoeing.

Cape Breton Highlands ATV Club – President, Donald Ingraham

Cape Breton Highlands reported that because of all the snow their club has not been very active doing trail work but Donald Ingraham did report that their members have been working on filling a very large wood furnace in the old school. One of the local wood processors cuts and blocks the 6-foot fire wood and their members keep the fire going. As a pay back, the club gets free use of the school for meetings and rallies whenever they need it. Whenever the snow leaves Margaree (that might be in June) they plan on doing some trail maintenance.

Upcoming Events

February 14 & 15

10th Annual ATV Poker Run - Isle Madame ATV Riders Club

February 29

ATV Poker Rally - Sheet Harbour ATV Club

March 13, 14 & 15

37th Annual Atlantic Outdoor Sports and RV Show
(ATVANS Lottery Draw will be held on the 15th)

April 24-26

ATVANS Annual General Meeting

May 9

Fundy ATVenturers Spring Rally