

# Johnstown ATV Club

## Club News Archive 2006



### December 30, 2006

There is a posting on the forum about Spring Jam 2007 which is organized as Canada's largest ATV Jamboree. The event will be held April 27 and 28 next spring. To register, set aside \$120 for this two day event. [Here is the link to their website.](#)

### December 28, 2006 -- Year-end news

Let's go back a couple of months to September.

Hello Brian,

Here are a couple of pics from our trip.

Just so you know Mike Malcomson and I are both members of the Johnstown club.

We went to Richfield, Utah for a week long ATV Jamboree the Week of Sept. 18-22. It was over 2200 miles one way driving to get there.

The [Paiute Trail](#) system is rated the # 1 trail system in North America. There are over 2,000 miles of trails. You go up a lot of different mountains and at points you are over 12,000 elevation. Therefore, you experience a variety of weather from starting point to the top of the mountain. We experienced rain, snow and hail all in one day.

We met people from Germany, France, Manitoba, Texas, California all over the place. Including the guides there was over 800 ATV's in

this jamboree.

In case anyone is interested, the website for the Jamboree is:  
<http://www.atvjam.com/>

Enjoy,

Brian Prosser

Take a look at his photos on this page . . .

[Small images for low speed connections](#)

[Large images for high speed connections or people who have time to go get a coffee](#)

## **Year-end News**

This is going to take some time so I'll provide a synopsis now and details as I have time and ambition. First off, we are now planning for the annual general meeting, or AGM as we call it. The date was set early in order to give you plenty of notice. Please plan to attend because it is time for elections and every member has a vote.

You will be voting for the following officers--

- President
- Vice-president
- Secretary
- Treasurer (possibly combined with secretary)
- 2nd Vice President (likely your trail supervisor)

The director positions are then appointed by the five executives thus forming your club's management team. The certificate of incorporation does not provide much guidance for all this, but it is clear that there are elected officers and a number of directors. If we have time, we may put forth a motion to amend the by-laws for clarity.

After several years with the club, Ann has decided to depart. This leaves a big hole in the executive team. John Meester is preparing to take on the secretary/treasurer role if he is so nominated and elected.

Your president, who was not elected by the membership last year, is willing to accept another term, if elected, but he is quite willing to go down in competition. If you know of any candidate for this office, please come prepared to nominate him/her at the AGM. I fell into the presidency when the officers and directors saw fit to appoint me after Garry Dewar departed.

John Foot is stepping down from his role as trail supervisor. Bob Douglas has been assisting in that role lately and I believe he will accept a nomination, if one is announced.

Rodney has become our master communicator lately. He runs the forum and has gone to councils and businesses for our club. If he is willing to continue, I'd expect a nomination for one of the officer positions (vice-president, perhaps).

I'm being impertinently bold here by *suggesting* or hinting at candidates, so please don't misunderstand. This is your choice.

The current officers are--

- Brian Day (elected in absentia as vice-president, then appointed president)
- Ann Gill (elected as secretary/treasurer)
- John Meester (elected as director then appointed vice-president)
- John Foot (elected as director, then appointed trail supervisor after departure of Darryl Reynolds)
- Bob Douglas (elected as director)

The current appointed directors are--

- Clive Catt
- Rob Meester
- Rodney Hurlbert
- Dave Dwyer

According to our incorporation papers, we can have up to ten elected and appointed positions. These are the people who make the management decisions for the club.

#### Other news . . .

The tractor is working and has been in service on the trail immediately north of the clubhouse and south of Black Creek. You will hear more about this at the AGM.

Our membership population is now at 257.

The trails have been very wet and sloppy this year, but the water levels in the Black Creek area are approaching normal levels.

Turnout at recent rallies has been rather poor. Some people go to the rallies but do not register. The weather has been poor for most of these rallies.

A new club may be forming in our region. We have been attending meetings with them and are waiting to see how they want to develop their club.

The Augusta Township Council is considering a proposal submitted by Rodney for a by-law.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*Auld lang syne* means

old times, especially times that are fondly remembered, so please toast to your friends and to good times past, but first arrange for that designated driver . . .

All the best to you,

Brian Day

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December 22, 2006

Hello, Folks.

The directors just learned that Kory lost his life while driving his ATV on Bains Road earlier this month.

I do not have many details about the accident, but the news media reported that he was somehow ejected then pinned under his machine. Kory was driving a 2005 Polaris 400.

Such tragedies hit hardest at this time of year. Some of you may have known Kory.

We will all miss him.

ATVs are powerful machines and inherently unstable due to their fat tires, narrow stance, high center of gravity, and short wheelbase. They are designed and balanced for a specific purpose and we must remain cognizant of this whenever we set out on our machines. We must *never* forget this.

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There is a lot of news to share with you, but I'm just not up to reporting it right now. Please check back in a day or two for an update and my year-end report to all of you.

May you all have a joyous, safe, and Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

Brian

**The tragic ATV incident that occurred on Friday, December 15th on Bains Road claimed the life of Kory Birtch.**

**Kory was a member of our club.**

**I'm sure that I speak for all our members by offering our heartfelt condolences to Kory's family and friends.**

**Bains Road is just north of South Augusta and west of Algonquin.**

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**November 11, 2006**

It is hunting season and the trails are wet, so its probably wise to stay out of the woods until at least November 20th. If you do venture into the forest, be sure to wear high visibility clothing.

## **HUNTING SEASON**

**From the MNR web site:**

**Our trails are in WMU 66A with possibly a small amount in 66B (North Grenville)**

**WMU 66A has a Sunday rifle hunt.**

**66A Rifle Season is Nov 6 to 12 (traditional).**

**66A Archery, Muzzle loaders are Dec. 4 to 10**

**66A Extended Rifle season runs Nov 13 to 18th (or maybe the 19th)**

**66A Archery season is Oct 1 - Nov 5, Dec. 4-10 (Archery and Muzzleloaders), Dec. 11-31**

Parts for the tractor are still on order and a couple of our directors are hoping that we can keep the tractor after it is fixed. It will come down to money. Here I go again. We need more members in this club. We are financially in the position to maintain operations this year, but to really do something for the trails, we need a lot more income. One thousand members; that's what we need! One thousand.

We are now negotiating to renew our lease for the use of crown lands in the area. It's an urban myth that the crown lands are free. We have paid for lease in years past and must continue to do so now. The interesting thing about the crown lands here is that a new property manager has been contracted to tend to these lands. We have been advised that trespass will not be tolerated. This means that travel on the trails with your ATV is not legal on crown lands in our area unless you have a club membership or a trail pass (once our new lease is established). I'll be able to tell you much more about this in a couple of weeks.

Here is a low resolution image that shows the crown (Ontario Realty Corporation) lands in our area. If you are in the dark gray areas, you are on crown land.



We are always in need of more help than we have. Please consider to help the management of your club by offering assistance for at least a fraction of the workload.

Thank you,

Brian Day

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**October 24, 2006**

The directors of the JATVC met with the management team of the South Grenville Snowmobile Club to plan for the needed repairs to the four-bridge trail south of Limerick Forest. I am pleased to report that we had a very productive discussion and we all would like to proceed with a plan to complete the repairs. We must now hold a meeting to plan our next steps. This will require a financial commitment and a budget plan in order to proceed; therefore, I'm inviting all of our members to attend this meeting on Sunday, October 29, 09:00, at the clubhouse. Please come out

and support your club directors. It's not an easy job for us and we really need your support.

The agenda for the meeting will cover other business, but the main issues right now are the bridge repairs and our tractor repairs. An upcoming concern is the increasing water depth in the Black Creek area. This is an ongoing problem for us and we may have to do some work in the area.

Thank you,

Brian Day -- Club President

October 22, 2006



Brian, posing next to the prizes provided by our sponsor — Shell Canada!

The October rally was held on October 14th which turned out to be a damp and rainy day. We had thirty two registered participants. We were prepared for many more people to participate, but the weather was poor so I attribute the low attendance to the wet weather. I showed up dressed in my Russian 'chapka' or hat and I posed with a genuine bottle of Russian Vodka (that bottle remained unopened). It was a bit cool; I wore a pair of boots, which was out of character for me (as I'm known for being in bare feet), so it took just a little encouragement from some people in the clubhouse to convince me to kick them off.

We had a wonderful gift of prizes from our sponsor — Shell Canada. Thank you to Shell for this generous gift. Most of the people who attended the prize draw received a prize. We now require that people be present at the clubhouse after a rally to collect a prize. In the past, we've learned that some prizes go unclaimed and it's too much bother for the volunteers to chase down reluctant winners.

Now to the good news: WE HAVE 254 MEMBERS! A membership is now \$130 because the early

bird offer has expired. Nevertheless, people continue to join the club. This is fantastic. I thank you all for supporting the club. We won't get the 300 that I was hoping for by the end of this month, but 254 members is significant.

Now for some bad news. The tractor has broken down. We bought the tractor in the spring with hopes of using it to work on the trails and to save money spent on contract work, but the first time we went to use the tractor resulted in a breakdown. The front differential failed. The estimate for repair is nearly \$5,000 (that's worth about 40 new memberships). The directors met to decide on the fate of our tractor and we agreed that it should be repaired, but then we will sell it. This four wheel drive tractor is not quite suited to our needs, and with this repair we must consider the future operational costs; therefore, once the new front differential is installed, we will advertise the tractor for sale.

We did complete the trail work that was planned for September. Thank you to all who helped.

Some issues have come up lately. We still receive complaints about ATV use on private property and on side roads. ATV drivers operate their machines at their own risk, even when they are on our trails and are members of our club. The directors of the club are working to provide a safe and managed trail system for ATV enthusiasts, but the directors cannot control the use of ATVs. Nevertheless, we receive complaints from people who ignore the law and who, through the use of their ATVs, create problems for other people. For example, on private property near my residence, someone has cut a trail with an ATV. The land owners were not amused. In another case, I hear that ATVs have created deep ruts in the ground that covers a gas pipeline. One of our directors had a conversation with an OPP officer recently and the office revealed that there have been complaints about people "racing" ATVs down the roads in the area of our club. We have no idea who these ATV drivers are or where they are "racing," but it is clear that complaints are being reported.

It is our intention that our club be family oriented and complimentary to our locality. People in our region want to have ATVs and they deserve a safe place to drive their machines. That is what our club is all about. It is our mission to provide a managed trail system for the use of ATVs while being sensitive and cognitive of the environment, land owners, and home owners. The directors are now reviewing the club's rules and regulations. You already know that you must have insurance and have a properly registered ATV, but we are considering to formalize a set of rules as has been done by other ATV clubs. For now, please refer to [Our Trail System](#) for our existing policies. I'd like to add that I am not a proponent of rules, but I accept that some are necessary. We will keep our list of rules as simple and as short as possible; the rules that are stated in Ontario Law are beyond our mandate, but you are expected to know the law where it applies to the use and ownership of your ATV.

The four bridge trail is still in need of repair. We have a meeting with the GSC on Monday, October 23 to continue our planning for this trail, but we cannot make any commitment to repair the trail until we have the tractor repairs covered and a budget for the work. If you are interested in this saga, please check the forum for developments.

## **HUNTING SEASON is upon us.**

**From the MNR web site:**

**Our trails are in WMU 66A with possibly a small amount in 66B (North Grenville)**

**WMU 66A has a Sunday rifle hunt.**

**66A Rifle Season is Nov 6 to 12 (traditional).**

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**66A Archery season is Oct 1 - Nov 5, Dec 4-10 (Archery and Muzzleloaders), Dec 11-31**

That's all for now. Drive save, respect the private lands, and watch your speed. Oh, and please continue to encourage people to join and support the club.

Thank you,

Brian Day – Club President

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August 19, 2006

Tina Bowen of the Spencerville Fair Committee is asking if members from the Johnstown ATV Club would help with parking for the fair on September 8, 9 and 10. Tina's number is 613-342-6105. If anyone is interested in helping or knows of anyone who is, please give her a call.

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The organizers of the 'wheelsachurnin' event in North Augusta are planning an ATV pull for September 17, 2006. We've been asked to tell all of our members about this ATV event. Please contact Onne at 613 926 2628 for more info.

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Our membership population is now at 239. This is very good, and I thank you wholeheartedly for the support, but I must also appeal to you to continue to promote the club to your friends who have not yet signed on.

I'm sure that I'm beginning to sound like a skipping CD, but its true that we just do not yet have the funds that we need to do some important trail work. The multi-bridge trail that is closed south of Limerick Forest requires a significant investment from our club before it will be reopened. We are working cooperatively with the Grenville Snowmobile Club (GSC) and the Township in order to get this trail reopened, but it cannot happen without more memberships. I'm aiming for 300 members. We are considering some options. I don't like to do this to you, but we may have to levy a fee of \$20 to \$25 per member in order to repair these bridges. If the directors choose this option, I will call a special meeting of the membership for a vote on this matter. We must raise more than \$6,000 to do all of the required work on this trail. The budget is not fully calculated yet, but I suspect that we will need this much money for the job. The GSC and the Township will work with us.

The repairs must meet standards such that the bridges are safe for a fully loaded groomer. The project will involve the installation of three or four STURDY gates. The gates will be structured in a manner that will allow an ATV or a snowmobile to pass, but a car or truck will be blocked. The gates must also open wide enough for the groomers. The bridge decks must be completely replaced.

We can do this once we have the money. The best time to do the work is before the ground

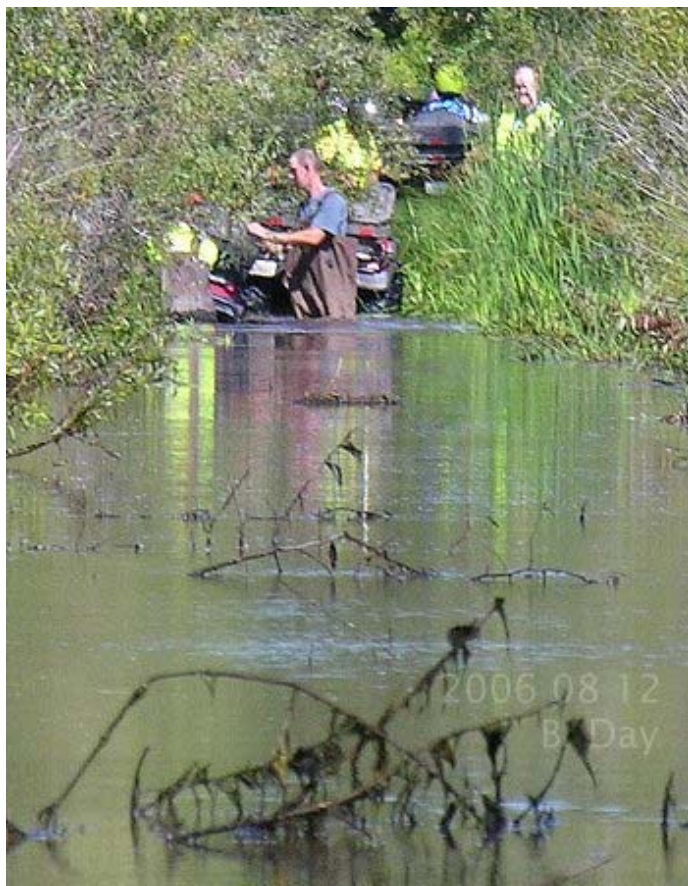
freezes, so we must act quickly if we are to re-open this trail this year.

Think it over and let me know if you have any other ideas. It would be wonderful to receive a gift for this project, but I doubt we'd be so lucky. The money will come from either another 60 memberships, or a special levy. Without it, the trail will remain closed.

Thank you,

Brian Day -- Club President

### **Photos from the last rally . . .**



July 31, 2006



Our club needs a lot of money to operate. It may seem like there's money aplenty when you multiply our membership by the average price per, but it's not enough. We are about to invest \$800 on a section of trail on private land. We need about \$4,000 for another project that is looming. That means that we continue to need more memberships.

Take a look at the photo above. That driver, and four others in hinder pursuit would not stop for us when challenged. We didn't see any membership stickers on the machines and they had no intention to stop for us. We had a vehicle blocking the trail, but these five drivers just turned their machines into the brush and drove over uncut brush and youthful trees to abscond. This type of behaviour and disrespect for our trail system is inexcusable.

[Check out this link to see what is going on in Florida.](#) These off road machines wreak havoc if not driven with care and respect for the environment. The trails are for the ATVs, but respect for the line is needed. By cutting off the trail, these five machines were used to destroy five or ten years of growth of potential new trees. If only they had stopped for two minutes . . .

Fellows, if you are reading this, please join the club. We are working hard to provide an ATV trail system for everyone to enjoy, but your actions on Sunday are hard to excuse. You ruin it for the 230 members that have made a commitment to this club and you have no voice in the community. Help us to help you enjoy your machines more. We need another 40 memberships to pay for some urgently needed work on the three-bridge trail. Five would be a start.

Brian Day  
President, Johnstown ATV Club

July 9, 2006



On Wednesday, July 5, Dr. Frederick Schueler of the [Bishops Mills Natural History Centre](#), and Geoff Owens and Amie Boudreau of the [SNC](#) met with the JATVC at our clubhouse. A handful of Club members made the effort to attend, but most of your Club executive attended. I had hoped for better attendance from the membership, so it was disappointing to me to see so few of you at this meeting. For those of you who did attend, you have my sincere appreciation.

Thanks to John Meester for taking some excellent notes about the presentations. Here are some excerpts from his minutes.

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**Johnstown ATV Club special meeting with representatives from the South Nation Conservation Authority (SNCA) and the Limerick Forest Advisory Committee (LFAC).  
Wednesday 5 July 2006 7PM at the JATVC Clubhouse.**

Present at the meeting:

SNC

Fish Habitat Protection Biologist: Amie Boudreau  
Regulations Officer: Geoffrey Owens

Bishops Mills Natural History Centre

Herpetologist: Dr. Frederick Schueler

JAVTC

President: Brian Day  
Vice President: John Meester  
Sec/Treas: Ann Gill  
Director: John Foote  
Director elect: Dave Dwyer LFAC:  
Director elect: Rob Meester  
Webmaster: Rodney Hurlburt  
and seven Club members

The following is a recap of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Brian Day at 7:00 and he explained the reason for the meeting and introduced the guests.

The first presentation was by Dr. Fred Schueler and he gave a brief overview of what he had seen during his tour of our trail system with Brian on the third of May of this year. Pretty well all of our

trails were covered and they experienced a lot of mud due to the wet spring in our area. He explained that the ATVs disturb the surface of the trails and in some cases may destroy habitat for certain species while creating new habitat for others.

Dr. Schueler suggested that members be asked to try to keep track of particular sites such as deep holes, erosion, deep water, etc. and report major changes to these areas. With that information he could perhaps ascertain negative or positive effects on habitat cataloged during the initial trail tour. He is in the process of writing a report on his findings and this will be made available to us when completed.

Brian Day replied and mentioned our (JAVTC) role in providing trails for safe and sensible ATV use and the future possibility of expanding our network into Limerick Forest. Regarding the major mud-holes, Brian suggested that perhaps we could provide detours for those users that do not wish to attempt to pass through them. He also mentioned that today's regulations require us to request permits and permission from the various government departments, such as the MNR, F&O, SNC and the local landowners before we make any changes to our trail systems. He also brought up the short-term urgent requirement to do something about the beaver population in our area and the long-term plan for some major trail repair and maintenance.

Sheldon Gill stated what had been done as major repair and maintenance during the past two years.

One of the members stated that the current beaver problem could be solved in a variety of ways such as hiring a trapper, lead poisoning, etc., as long as we get the proper permits before we take any action. [Please accept that the beaver population is essentially unchallenged by predators in this region and is only controlled by man, disease, or other natural impediments.]

The second presentation was by Geoffrey Owens from the SNC. Geoff started off by mentioning that ATVs and their operators generally had a bad name due to a few [drivers] who do not follow safe and sensible riding practices. He felt the JAVTC was on the right track to change this perception by working with LFAC and the SNC with the common goal of safe riding with minimal if any environmental damage.

He then gave some history of the various Conservation Authorities in general and the South Nation CA in particular. He provided some insight into the mandate to control and oversee development and watercourses in their area of responsibility. He then explained the regulations covering the altering of a watercourse, which must be followed anytime we try to fill, place culverts, or change the route of flowing water on our trails. The regulations are mainly there to protect downstream areas and to ensure that development does not cause undue hardships as a result. When we make application to complete some work on our trails, each request is "site specific" and there is no blanket authority available. He then stated that we had to be very careful of any work contemplated where there is flowing water that is or appears to be moving toward a stream or ditch which may eventually flow into the South Nation River. We need not be concerned about standing water in large mud-holes or stagnant swamp areas, as they do not form part of the watershed. [For clarity, Geoff provided a pamphlet that describes the regulations.]

If and when we need to carry out repairs or major maintenance in areas where we are unsure of, we should provide the SNC with the lot and concession number and if possible GPS coordinates. In reply to a question from Ann Gill about the cost of the permits and initial investigations, he stated that he would check with his superiors to see if there was some relief possible to the JATVC, as we would likely have a number of requests annually.

The third and last presentation was by Amie Boudreau who is involved in a pilot project to control the beaver population in a portion of the South Nation watershed. The area covered by this project does not, at this time, include the Black Creek area, with which we are most concerned, but if [the project] is successful, [the Black Creek area] will be included [next year as part of] the complete SNC area.

Amie displayed a topographical map of the SNC area highlighting the 12,000 flooded acres and explained that as much as 10% or 1,200 acres are flooded due to beaver activity.

There are also two classified wetlands in the area and these are protected from any sort of development and cannot be altered in any way.

She stated that during the current year they are targeting what they consider the most problematic dams and will be monitoring the impact of removing these plus a portion of the beaver population. The concern is what happens downstream of the dams when the additional water is released. These dams are pretty well all located along the South Nation River and will have little or no effect on our trail system. They have mapped the dams using GPS coordinates and besides breaching the dams they will attempt to cull the beavers with initial trapping in July and August and will continue trapping during the winter.

To date there are six "players" involved in carrying out and funding the project. These are the SNCA, DFO, MNR, MTO, Township of Edwardsburg and Leeds and Grenville County. The total budget is \$21.600 and additional partners are welcome.

Amie requested that we (JATVC members) record what we consider problem dams providing lot and concession and if possible GPS coordinates, and they will record them for future investigation.

Regarding local action for dams and beaver populations she stated that DFO has an "operational statement" for dam removal and she would get us additional information on this. The MNR is the authority for beaver population control and a permit must be requested prior to any trapping carried out in the area. There are "trap lines" granted to individuals by the MNR and these trappers could be contacted to help out with nuisance beavers. The problem here is that the timing is wrong for these trappers, as the value of a beaver pelt is very low when we want the beavers removed. It is permissible to breach a beaver dam at any time [after June 30th], keeping in mind that the beavers will likely rebuild it the next night. There is no need to notify the SNC, but it is recommended that we contact the MNR with the location any time we do breach a dam.

Brian Day then stated that it is very important that we work as partners with the SNC and by doing so we would improve the public image if the ATVs generally.

Geoff suggested that representatives of the JAVTC meet with the various owners of the land we cross and further enhance the relationship with them. The main complaint from some of these owners is the "hot-dogging" carried out by some of the trail users.

John Meester suggested that perhaps we could set up "Quiet" zones in the areas where the trails are close to or adjacent to private residences by using signs similar to "No Wake" zones on our waterways.

The special meeting adjourned at 8:50

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After the presentations and a question-and-answer session, the guests and members departed and the Directors held a short meeting. I am pleased to announce that we now have three new directors in the Club: Dave Dwyer, Rob Meester, and Rodney Hurlburt.

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June 29, 2006

On Wednesday, July 5 at 19:00 SHARP we will have a presentation and meeting with the [South Nation Conservation](#) at our clubhouse. This is an important meeting because the SNC has jurisdiction throughout most of our trail system and is responsible for enforcement of Ontario Law regarding watercourses. Our club must work with the SNC to obtain permits for some types of trail work no matter if it is on private lands or not.

As mention previously, the [SNC](#) is organizing a beaver population management project within the watershed of the South Branch of the South Nation River. This includes the Black Creek area which is just north of the clubhouse. Amie Boudreau will explain the project to us and answer our questions.

The meeting is open to all of the members of the JATVC. Please bring your membership card to the meeting. If you would like to join the club, you are welcome to pay your membership fee when you arrive.

### Agenda

- \* Call to Order
- \* Introductions
- \* Brief summary of EA describing our trail system: Dr. Frederick Schueler
- \* SNC Presentation: Geoff Owens
- \* Beaver Population Management Project: Amie Boudreau
- \* Q&A
- \* Close

Meeting starts on time at 19:00 SHARP.

Meeting adjourns by 21:30.

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June 18, 2006

The Trees for Peace rally was attended by 42 participants and a handful of volunteers. In the end, the organizers declared it a success. Due to the extensive advertising, there was much anticipation about the potential attendance. Plans were set for 250 people, but this being Father's Day weekend and with the heavy rains of Friday night overnight, the attendance was much less than hoped.

Nevertheless, everyone had fun. The trails, still being wet in places, were passable in most places. One ATV had to be towed back, after an encounter in deep water. As a result of the rains this

spring, the forest is verdant -- absolutely stunning.

We gained four new club members resulting in a member population of 230. Another 20 new memberships before the end of June and my objective will be achieved. Can we do it?

We sold 15 trail passes for the Trees for Peace rally and decided to donate the proceeds to the GLSC for their cause.

Now to discuss some spending plans. We must continue to raise money each month throughout this protracted membership year. If you are interested in the financial goals for each month, please attend the next Director's meeting. It isn't scheduled yet, but I'm aiming for next week.

#### The [South Nation Conservation](#)

is organizing a beaver population management initiative within the watershed of the South Branch of the South Nation River. This includes the Black Creek area. I discussed this with the SNC and offered to have the JATVC participate in this project. The offer has been accepted. The population explosion of beaver in this watershed has created many problems for land owners, Townships, and our club. This initiative is a two-year project that is intended to establish a tolerable beaver population in the region. The SNC will be coming to the clubhouse on an evening in early July to make a presentation to us and for discussion. We will present our EA to the SNC at this meeting. The meeting will be open to all club members. The tentative date for this is Wednesday, July 5 at 19:00.

The three bridge trail is still closed. We are having discussions with the Township and the snowmobile club in hopes of quickly reopening the trail. The Township is optimistic that resolution is close at hand. The Township Reeve has told me that the Grenville Snowmobile Club is prepared to repair the bridges and that they have already acquired the necessary materials, so I'd expect the repairs to be completed soon. Once the bridges are fixed, we may be able to go in with the tractor to grade the road.

Brian

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June 8, 2006

We had a good rally last Sunday despite the wet conditions. Thirty nine bikes rode the trails to enjoy the best weather day of the weekend.

Rodney has been very busy on the forum. He received an email from our new forum provider with compliments that our forum is one of the best they have seen on their hosting site. They wanted to know if they could point people to our forum as an example of what you can do with the phpbb forums. Good work, Rodney!

Our membership has reached 224 thanks to all of you -- and we continue to grow. Folks, this is really good for the club. You all know that this is an election year and that we have been after the governing councils to write some by-laws in line with the new ATV Act in Ontario. With your memberships and a looming election, we have a good opportunity to lobby for the needed changes.

I still continue to appeal to you for help to operate the club. If you can volunteer some time, please contact us to let us know. John Foot would appreciate some help for the Trees for Peace rally that's only a week away. [Please call him](#) if you can help.

We are now only 26 memberships short of my target for the end of June. We will sell memberships during registration for the Trees for Peace rally. Please help us to reach that goal.

The trails are still very wet, but you can get through if you go in small groups and help each other. Hopefully, the water will begin to noticeably drop soon. As always, be careful on side slopes. The mud is very slippery. If you are unsure of your skill or traction when on the lip of a rut or side slope, have someone spot your machine for stability as you drive through. Everyone loves to help, so be BOLD and ask for help when you need it.

June 2, 2006

## Environmental Assessment Trail Tour -- Saturday, despite the rain

On Saturday, June 3, John Foot and I will run the trails with Dr. Frederick W. Schueler. You are welcome to join us. We will spend the day exploring the major routes of the trail system. Dr. Schueler will be recording notes and GPS way-points in to be used in his written report. I hope to start at the clubhouse by 10:00 A.M. Please arrive by 09:30 if you wish to join us. John may need some help pulling my Argo out of the mud. My tires are all bald! Be ready for a rainy day and bring a lunch.

See you there . . .

Brian

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May 27, 2006

## Trees for Peace Rally

The Johnstown ATV Club, has been asked to facilitate the upcoming charity rally "[Trees for Peace](#)" on June 17th. John Foot is coordinating the rally for us, but in truth, this is a rally put on by the Grenville Land Stewardship Council (GLSC). The Directors of the JATVC have agreed to reduce the trail pass fee by 50% for the Trees for Peace rally. If you are not a member of the JATVC, the trail fee for the rally will be \$10.00. All other fees and proceeds will go to the GLSC and their cause.

In case you are not aware, the GLSC is a community-oriented group that links landowners, interest groups, and agencies to encourage responsible land care on private land. It is supported by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and is part of the [Ontario Stewardship program](#).

The funds raised in this rally are intended for tree planting activities. Please contact Matt Kinghorn (613-342-8528) for more information.

## Club Membership

Our membership is now at 217. The growth has slowed over the past month, but I account this to the wet trail conditions. I am still hoping for 250 members by the end of June. Ann Gill has kindly offered to sell memberships and trail passes at the clubhouse during the Trees for Peace rally registration.

We still need more members. I don't understand how it is that we only have 217 members when there are thousands of ATVs in the area. This club can only survive if there is a large membership to support the high operating costs. Please continue to encourage your ATV friends to join the club. We lowered the price of membership this year in hopes of increasing our membership revenues.

## Trail Conditions

In a word -- wet! We cannot do much about the weather, but we have managed to keep the trails open. As the water levels drop, the conditions will improve.

The Township of Augusta has closed the three bridge trail that runs south of Limerick Forest on trail J-100. John Foot has been in contact with the Township office about the condition of the bridges. The Township has acknowledged that they own the bridges and it appears that they are prepared to repair them. That is very good news for us. I'll let you know more about this as we learn it ourselves.

## Environmental Assessment

The directors have decided to hire [Dr. Frederick W. Schueler](#) to prepare an environmental assessment about our trail system. This is a very important activity for the club and is needed before we begin using the tractor on our trails. While I don't pretend to know what other ATV Clubs in Ontario do in preparation for trail maintenance and trail modifications, I do know that we must carefully plan our work activities. Permits and approvals are needed for certain types of work. If you have read the page about our trail system, you will know that it resides on former Champlain Sea dunes and deposits over a Limestone base. Furthermore, the majority of our trail system resides within the bounds of the South Nation watershed. If you've ever wondered about where and how the club funds are spent, please give me a call. I'll tell you about the high costs of a trail system.

Next Saturday, June 3, John Foot and I will run the trails with Dr. Frederick W. Schueler. You are welcome to join us. We will spend the day exploring the major routes of the trail system. Dr. Schueler will be recording notes and GPS way-points in to be used in his written report. I hope to start at the clubhouse by 10:00 A.M.

## New Club President

I'm sorry to announce that Garry Dewar has decided to step down as our President. Garry

expressed his desire to retire a few months ago. This was not a surprise to the directors, but it does diminish the directorship. Garry's departure comes at a time when the Club is growing; consequently, he can hold his head in pride of his accomplishment as our president. It is always good to be able to pass the torch, so to speak, when things are in good stead. I'd like to sincerely thank Garry for his past dedication to the Johnstown ATV Club. From all the membership, Garry, THANK YOU.

The successor was unanimously selected at the directors' meeting on Monday, May 22. I am now your new club president. It was not my desire to become the club president, because quite frankly I am content with my current responsibilities; nevertheless, no one else would accept a nomination and I was encouraged to accept.

## Open letter to the membership

As your new president, I'd like to offer some greetings and thoughts as we continue to grow and further support the sport of ATV adventures in our region. You will require the club password to download the letter from our membership page. The login and password are on the back side of your membership card.

[President's message to members 218 kB pdf file](#)

## Forum

Rodney is working to move the forum to a new server. He tells me that the forum is getting a lot of use and that more people are posting messages every day. Please enjoy the forum.

## Volunteer Needed

We are in need of a volunteer to monitor the clubhouse. It should be someone who lives close by and can visit the clubhouse regularly. If you can help, please [contact one of the directors](#) ASAP.

Thank you . . .

Brian Day  
Club President

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May 1, 2006

# WE HAVE 207 MEMBERS!

This is excellent news for the Club. Furthermore, many people are buying trail passes before they go out on our trails. We are on our way to 300 members.

[Habitat Awareness](#)

We, the management team of your Club, are very concerned about the local ecology and the habitats that endure our trails. It is important to recognize both the vulnerable and the tractable areas of the habitat. A trail that's been masticated by the biting tires of ATVs is visually striking, but that doesn't necessarily mean that the habitat is in jeopardy. Indeed, if managed properly, some ATV activities can actually create habitat! Opinions abound, but that won't change things. ATVs are here to stay. The snowmobile is now the foretoken of the gladsome swell of ATV popularity. ATV trail expansion is inevitable. Expansion and repair of trails will influence habitat; but habitats adapt, just as they adapt to natural authority. Nevertheless, there are some areas (or milieus) within the habitats that are particularly vulnerable and that require special consideration, and perhaps protection.

We are considering to hire a local consultant to write a report about the indelible and fragile milieus within our trail system. The information will be of particular value when we perform trail maintenance or modifications. It will cost hundreds of dollars for a full report, but we cannot quite afford it yet. [Editorial note inserted] I believe that this is a worthy thing to do and that it will be money well spent. We must be good neighbours, especially to the private land owners, and to the people who have guarded opinions of ATVs. We must do as well by them as we do by ourselves. [end of editorial note]

This is an example of an upcoming cost that will be requited by membership dollars. I'd like to have our membership at 250 before we spend the money. It will be up to you to help us reach that goal. Please continue to promote this club to your friends. Let's achieve a membership population of 250 before the end of June.

### **A note about the tractor**

The tractor has a lot of positive uses without even entering a habitat. For example, we can now ameliorate any eroded intersections where our trails meet public roads. We can be proactive instead of reactive when a particular shoulder has been abraded by the wheels of our vehicles.

### **Trail maintenance**

We are planning for some upcoming trail repairs. These particular repairs require budget and approvals. A full report will be provided once the planning is completed.

Thank you for supporting this ATV Club with your membership or trail pass purchases.

Bring a friend to the rally . . .

Brian

April 24, 2006

### **Next Rally**

The next rally is ~~tentatively set~~ [now confirmed] for Saturday, May 6. We will confirm the date to you once the trail is opened east of the tunnel. Check here for updates.

### **Forum**

If you use the forum, you should have received notice about a management change. Rodney Hurlbert is our new forum administrator. Rodney has made some changes that should bring

positive benefit for all forum users. The forum is now set up for partial public access. This means that people who are not members of the Club, but who want to participate in discussions may do so. If you have questions about the forum, please contact Rodney at this e-mail address: I am spelling this address out so that web crawlers don't pick it up. The name of the e-mail address is "forum". The rest of the address is the normal @johnstownatvclub.org.

### **Membership**

This is the single most important issue for the Club. In Canada, an ATV is sold every five minutes; and in Ontario, over 22,000 ATVs were sold in 2003.

It will be several years before the ATV clubs all join together to form a massive trail system throughout Ontario. Our experience with this two years ago nearly bankrupted this club. There are ways to improve the situation, but that can only be accomplished by strong, well managed clubs.

Our region is rooted over a limestone plain that is overspread by Champlain Sea dunes and deposits. We have wetlands. Some of these wetlands are categorized as ANSIs (Areas of Natural or Scientific Interest). This means that we must consider the ramifications of any trail work in these areas, and trail work in wetlands is expensive. There is also the management of waterways to consider, the interests of private land owners, and the habitat in general. All of this costs a lot of money. Our operating money comes from memberships and from revenue generated at the rallies.

We should be able to attain a membership of 600 or more, but many people seem reluctant to join a club. Perhaps they like to visit many areas each year and multiple club memberships are expensive. We address that with the sale of day trail passes, but there are thousands of ATVs in our region, yet only 200 members in this club. We need more members in this club.

We believe that we can increase that membership to over 300 fairly quickly. Many people have inquired about an extension to the \$100 membership fee promotion. There are many bills for many people at this time of year, and payment of \$100 for membership is not a high priority when the bills pile high. Therefore,  
**the directors have agreed to extend the \$100 membership promotion to the end of August.**

**The rates for the seventeen-month 2006-2007 membership year are –**

**If paid by August 31, 2006**

**\$100.00 for the first machine in a family and**

**\$70.00 for each additional machine in a family**

**The \$100 fee works out to \$5.88 per month. That's only one dollar more than the current price for a gallon of gas for your ATV!**

### **Tractor**

It's been no secret that we've had the idea to buy a tractor for the Club. That information has been posted on the postings page of this web site for a couple of years. Well, the right deal finally came along. We purchased a used four-wheel-drive tractor in March. The tractor purchase was made with exigence due to competition from other potential buyers.

Peter Drucker is a well respected consultant who has advised non-profit organizations throughout his career. Peter's advise (I take this straight from his book) is that there is a balance between opportunity and risk. In the case of our tractor purchase, we've increased our assets, but depleted

our bank account. We can sell the tractor if our membership does not continue to grow, but we took the risk because we believe in the Club and that you will continue to support us with increased membership dollars.

Peter also states that a pilot phase is needed for any new endeavour. To that end, we are now evaluating the suitability of this tractor in our trail maintenance operations.

I hope that you will think of this as something that is good for the Club. This tractor came at an incredible price. It may not be the ideal machine for our needs, but it sure looks to be capable.

If we are to keep this tractor, we need even more club members. I would like to get our membership up to 400 or 600. In order to reach such lofty goals, we need your help. Please promote this club to your friends and acquaintances. I pledge to you that if we achieve a membership count that is greater than 500 by the end of this membership year, we will be able to further reduce our membership fees for next year.

That's enough marketing for now.

### **Long Term Planning**

We are beginning the process of long term planning. As this club grows, we will have to adapt. Everything from the number of toilets in the clubhouse to trail system expansion will be considered. If you have ideas or would like to help, please give [John Meester](#) a call.

Thank you for your support.

Brian Day  
Club V.P.

April 11, 2006

### **Club Forum**

The management of the forum is changing. Your webmaster is passing the torch to another member of the Club. As part of the change, the forum will be partly opened to public access. We may still manage a private message board for Club members.

The new forum manager may decide to change to a different server, it will be his decision. The changes should take place by the end of the month.

I will continue to manage and update the web site.

Brian Day -- Club VP and Webmaster

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April 10, 2006

### **TRAIL STATUS**

The trammel of spring has delimited our wanderlust to the length of our driveways.

- The trails east of the tunnel are currently closed.
- The trails in Limerick Forest are currently closed.

**"Avast !"**, spouted Captain Ahab. We must stop and wait until the frost is done and the trail-masters reopen the water-logged lines that hereupon can only be visited by the run of our fingers on the surface of a map.

The closures this spring are expected to last a few more weeks. It all depends on the weather and the amity of the landowners. This web site will announce the reopening of the trails as soon as the news arrives.

### **Membership Count**

The Club population has now exceed 195 members. How can we thank you? Certainly by reopening the trails, but that will happen soon enough. *Thank you, thank you, thank you.*

**Why it matters: Your membership is critical to the future of the ATV trail system in our region. We know that you appreciate the hard work of the JATVC management team, but do you know that the work to organize the rallies is only part of the overall job of operating this Club.**

### **It's not about the trails.**

Perhaps that should be the motto this year. Your membership is critical to the success of the JATVC. Our trail system threads through some of the most valued habitat in Eastern Ontario. The Champlain Sea dunes and deposits have formed the landscape that is home to a wide variety of creatures and fauna. The Milkweed, for example, is absolutely critical to the survival of the Monarch caterpillar. We are privileged to have a trail system through this wondrous habitat.

There are many issues that must be considered in managing this club --

- landowner rights
- bylaws
- insurance
- trail maintenance
- club asset management
- recognition of ANSI wetlands and woodlands
- cooperation with government agencies and law enforcement
- advertising
- sponsorship
- rally operations
- revenue collection
- ATV rider qualification (or training)
- enforcement

It all costs money and it takes many volunteer hours to do the work. We will soon be planning the activities for this membership year. Here are some hints about things to come:

- seminars about habitat and the ANSIs
- ATV rider training and qualification
- many rallies

- potential partnerships (possibly with LFAC)

We need more volunteers than we have presently working in the management team. Please consider to volunteer. Call a director and have a chat with one of us. Learn how you can help make this an especial year for the Club.

In the end, **it is about the trails**. Your membership allows you to drive your ATV on the trails; but more than that, it shows the powers-that-be that there is a growing population of ATV users in this region. A healthy ATV Club with a large membership is something that the lawmakers cannot ignore. Your membership is as fundamental as fire-and-ice to the long term viability of the ATV trail system in this region. When we go to the councils, a large membership population represents many tax dollars and helps ensure that our voice is heard.

### **Next Rally**

The next rally will likely be rescheduled to May. We are planning to run this rally on a Sunday, which breaks our normal Saturday appointments.

### **Day Trail Passes**

Day trail passes are now available at the gas bar at 416 Esso (Angelos Restaurant) and in the box on the outside of the clubhouse wall. Passes are \$20 each. When the trails reopen, you will not have to go all the way to the clubhouse to purchase a trail pass for the day.

### **Clubhouse Access**

The door code for the combination lock on the clubhouse has been changed. The new code is printed on the back of your new membership card.

### **ATV Key Found**

An ATV key was found. Please contact Ann if you think it may be your key.

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March 30, 2006

We now have over 150 members confirmed for the new membership year and more cheques are in the mail. Thank you all for the renewals.

I have good news for you: The trails may remain open this spring. Nature abandoned our denuded forests this winter offering little more than a veneer of ice to satisfy the bibulous soils of spring. We'll need a tide from the heavens to flood us out now.

The Forest Manager of Limerick Forest agrees that his trails are also in fairly good condition and he has not yet decided to close the forest trails.

Our April rally is being planned with the expectation that the trails will remain open.

Be prepared for some issues at the forum as I reset your accounts.

The Club web site password changes this week.

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**March 19, 2006**

Over 110 people have already paid for the extended 2006-2007 membership year. The early bird sale ends in another week. Be sure to submit payment before the end of the month to take advantage of this offer.

An ATV key was found and turned in to the Club. If you are looking for a lost key, please contact Ann.

The March 18th rally was sponsored by BOB'S CYCLE of Cornwall. Fifty five machines were registered for this last winter rally of 2005-2006.

**February 18, 2006**

It is time to renew your membership. Please take a few minutes to complete your renewal form and mail it to Ann with payment. You can also obtain the form [at this link](#).

The Directors approved a change to the terminus of the 12-month membership year. To accommodate the change, the 2006-2007 membership year has been protracted, lasting 17 months. Our membership years will henceforth annually renew on the first of September.

The Directors have also approved a price reduction affecting the membership fee. The rates for the seventeen-month 2006-2007 membership year are –

**If paid by March 31, 2006**

\$100.00 for the first machine in a family and  
\$70.00 for each additional machine in a family

**If paid on or after April 1, 2006**

\$130.00 for the first machine in a family, and  
\$100.00 for each additional machine in a family

**Please take advantage of the initiatory price (which works out to \$5.88 per month).** This incentive is offered to quickly renew our memberships and to raise our accounts for upcoming insurance payments. Moreover, a new expense has been added to the books this year -- use of the Clubhouse is no longer offered as a gift; we must now pay a rent for use of the Clubhouse. We also anticipate trail maintenance costs.

If you are a current or past member of this club, you should receive a membership letter from Ann Gill. In the 2005-2006 membership year, your Club achieved the following --

- invested \$13,375.06 on trail improvement (a total of \$22,135.31 has been invested in the past two years!)

- renovation of the kitchen in the clubhouse
- administered a total of 11 rallies with 9 sponsors
- held a charity rally and raised \$3,297.96 for CHEO

Sheldon recently installed the men's washroom vanity that was kindly donated by Mike & Joanne Mulder. The vanity is up and running and the men now have hot and cold water in their bathroom. Please offer your accolades to Sheldon, Mike, and Joanne.

The rally for next weekend (February 25, 2006) is sponsored by Tibbens Equipment Limited. The rally will challenge your [map reading or GPS navigation skills](#). Please bring your membership renewal to this rally if you have not mailed it in.

We are already in receipt of some membership renewals for 2006-2007. Thank you for your continued support.

We received an invitation from Paul Cyre, a certified ATV instructor with the Canada Safety Council. Paul would like to discuss a certified training program for the members of our club. He offers to travel to our site to do the training. Take a look at [his web site](#) for more information.

The March 11<sup>th</sup> Rally has been rescheduled to March 18, 2006.

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February 5, 2006

The new membership year is coming up soon. We are making changes that we hope will be accepted as good news by all of you. The membership letters will be mailed soon.

### The **Annual General Meeting**

will be held at the clubhouse on Sunday, March 5, 2006. This is our most important meeting of the year because it is when we ask you to endorse the election of directors and when we present the 2005 financial report. Please plan to attend. This is *your* club.

For various reasons, five directors have recently retired: Dave Baker, Ron Nolan, Sheldon Gill, Mike Mulder, and Joanne Mulder. Most of these people will continue to help with the operation of the Club. The current directors are listed on the [Club Postings](#) page. John Meester has recently accepted a director position.

Our membership count has reached 187. Thank you for your support.

The **next rally** is set for February 25th. Details will be posted when they become available.

Enjoy the winter trails.

- travel safely
- constrain your speed to the Provincial speed limit or less
- beware of icy trail sections
- take a spare set of warm clothes
- don't travel alone unless others know of your plans
- take along a cell phone if you have one
- never drink and drive

brian day -- editor

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[News Archive 2005](#)