

**BYTOWN MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION**  
**2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**ALFRED TAYLOR RECREATION CENTRE**  
**NORTH GOWER, ONTARIO**  
**JANUARY 26, 2025**  
**ATTENDANCE**

NAME	NAME	NAME
1 Jeff Ackert	25 Roy Forestell	49 Savannah Michard
2 Grant Anderson	26 Mark Fournier	50 Ed Miller
3 John Artymko	27 Eric Gravelle	51 Brian Moore
4 Brian Barry	28 David Henry	52 Chris Moyle
5 Danielle Beledere	29 Mike Hillier	53 Larry Murray
6 Greg Beledere	30 Andrew Jayne	54 Ryan O'Meara
7 Ron Bell	31 Jean-Francois Jobidon	55 Rod O'Meara
8 Shane Bergeron	32 Charly Jomma	56 Tom Riddle
9 Stacey Bergeron	33 Chris Lacasse	57 Darrin Rideout
10 Prestyn Bergeron	34 Steve Lachance	58 Paul Roy
11 Jonah Biss	35 Ryan Lariviere	59 Flaubert Santullo
12 Jeff Breedon	36 Sylvain Lavoie	60 James Sheniver
13 Patti Brown	37 Katia Lefebvre	61 Mike Spear
14 Ryan Burns	38 Robert Lefebvre	62 Denis Theoret
15 Mike Buward	39 Marc Levesque	63 Tom Tsanovchas
16 Katrina Byrd	40 Steve Lowe	64 Ash Warden
17 Steven Cameron	41 Tom Lynch	65 Chris White
18 Richard Cass	42 Steve McConnel	66 Ross Whitehead
19 Doug Clisch	43 Mike McCreary	67 Sylive Whitehead
20 Joel Crawford	44 Jason McDonald	68 Martin Wolfe
21 Cameron Curtis	45 Wayne McGoey	69 Faron Young
22 Ron Dohmer	46 Paul McHugh	70 Caroline Zipfel
23 Tim Dumoulin	47 Doug McNeil	71 Steve Zipfel
24 Mark Ferris	48 Eric McSweeney	

## **Meeting Minutes – BMA Annual General Meeting**

**Date:** January 26, 2025

**Time:** 12:05 PM

**Location:** Alfred Taylor Recreation Centre 2300 Community Way, North Gower, Ontario, Canada

### **Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order by Andrew Jane, President of BMA, at 1:05 PM.
- Introductions and welcome to the attendees. The session aimed to move quickly to focus on questions.

### **Approval of the Previous Minutes**

- Andrew asked if there were any concerns or questions about the minutes from the 2024 AGM. There were no concerns.
- A motion was presented by AJ to accept the minutes

1<sup>st</sup> Motion: Chris Moyle

2<sup>nd</sup> Motion: Stacey Bergeron

#### **Vote:**

All in favour of accepting the 2024 minutes.

Motion passed.

### **Communications Update**

- Andrew thanked Sylvie Whitehead for her work on communications, noting improvements in membership numbers.
- The BMA has seen a wider reach, including areas outside of the usual region.
- Members were encouraged to submit suggestions on improving member engagement and communication.

### **Sponsorship Update**

- Andrew shared that the BMA had implemented a tiered sponsorship system, which has worked well for two years.
- Sponsors contribute at different levels for exposure through events and the website.
- Major sponsors have returned year after year, which has been beneficial for the organization.

### **Membership Update**

- Membership has increased to 1169, though still not at the pre-pandemic levels.
- Event participation was strong in 2024, with all planned events successfully completed.

## Volunteer Hours & Incentives

- Andrew emphasized the importance of recording volunteer hours for accountability and recognition.
- Members who record 5 hours of volunteer work will be entered into a prize draw with a total of \$5000 allocated for prizes.
- Volunteer hours need to be specific to the event, and submissions must clearly state how many hours were spent on each task.
- **Additional Note:** Volunteers are encouraged to clear trails in groups of 3 for safety.
- Members can record volunteer hours on the website for verification.

## Gas Reimbursement for Trail Clearing

- Andrew confirmed that members who volunteer to clear trails in distant areas can be reimbursed for their gas and equipment expenses.

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

- Volunteers can participate in various events posted on the BMA website.
- A new system for recording volunteer hours is being explored, as the current method (using the old system) has limitations.

## Discussion and Questions

- A few members raised concerns regarding the difficulty of tracking volunteer hours through the current system.
- A suggestion was made to use a Google form for easier management and tracking.
- Further discussions will take place on how to improve the volunteer sign-up system for future events.
- Members were reminded to continue recording volunteer hours and participate in the upcoming events.

## Financial Report

AJ presented the financial report and addressed all questions in the absence of Tim Ming. The key points discussed include:

- The organization's cash balance as of January 3rd: **\$127,000**
- Total revenue for the year: **\$103,000**, down slightly from 2023 due to decreased membership numbers.
  - Membership fees contributed **\$39,000**
  - **\$44,000** from OFTR membership remittance
  - **\$7,700** from sponsorship
  - **\$10,000** from trail funding
  - **\$271** from other income
- Administrative expenses: **\$47,000**, an increase from the previous year.
  - **\$3,500** spent on banners and flags for advertising
  - Increased spending on meetings

- Insurance costs increased by **\$7,000**, but overall costs were lower due to a new provider through OFTR.
- Land use costs: **\$6,500**
  - Members pay fees for trail access.
  - Ongoing discussions with OFTR to cover a portion of the costs.
- Equipment expenses included purchasing new chainsaws and other tools for specific areas.
  - Area 30 (Lemberg) now has its own equipment for ease of access.

## Trails and Events

- Increased spending on road maintenance and trail work.
  - Significant work in Area 31 and Calabogie.
  - **\$1,800** allocated for leveraging additional assets.
- **\$37,000** spent on trails and events.
- Efforts to generate revenue through rides and events included raising participation fees to cover costs such as free lunches.
- **\$27,000** spent on event logistics, including accommodation and GPS setup.
  - Mixed feedback on GPS usage versus physical trail markers.
  - Plan to continue using GPS with fewer trail markers.
  - Added support services, including a gas truck and portable washrooms, which were well received.

## Financial Summary

- Total expenses: **\$110,000**
- Total revenue: **\$103,000**
- Net deficit: **\$7,200**
- AJ noted that this was the first year the organization had operated in a deficit, which aligns with the goal of reinvesting funds into the organization.
- The organization is allowed to retain funds but must ensure compliance with nonprofit financial regulations.

## Motion present by AJ to Accept Financial Report

- **First by:** Mike Spear
- **Seconded by:** Ron Bell

### Vote:

All in favor of accepting the 2024 minutes,  
Motion passed.

## GPS Rides

- Participants use a mix of phone-based and Garmin GPS devices.
- General consensus: those participating in GPS rides should have their own devices.

## Introduction and OFTR Update

- **Mark Fournier** from OFTR to provide an update on the organization's financial situation and goals.
- Details shared about a **\$75,000 grant** received for the year, which will be distributed over three years (\$25,000 per year). The grant was received with **\$50,000 paid upfront**, and a shortfall is expected in the third year.
- Two new chapters have joined this year, and there are plans to expand these clubs. **New trails and events** are planned for 2025, particularly in Muskoka and Renfrew County.

## Membership and New Systems

- Membership is up **3%** across Ontario.
- The new **membership system** launched recently, receiving positive feedback. As of January, **74 adult members** and **6 youth members** have signed up. Notably, **82% of members** have paid via **credit card**, while **17.5%** used **Apple Pay**.
- Feedback on the system has been positive, with **no technical issues** reported. Most members are using **desktop computers** to sign up.

## Insurance and Financial Updates

- **AJ** discussed the **insurance changes** made last year. After shopping for quotes, the organization secured a new insurance deal that provides **the same coverage** at a **lower cost** than the previous insurer, **Oasis**.
- **It was** confirmed that the increased coverage has not raised costs significantly, but there are still **insurance charges per person**.
- The **2025 membership fee** will be **\$75 per adult member**, with **15% committed to trails funding**. This fee will support trail maintenance and advocacy work.

## Trail Funding and Budget

- **Trail funding** for 2025 is expected to be **\$80,000** (15% of membership fees). The **current trail funding budget** is around **\$70,000**.
- Each **adult membership fee** of \$75 will allocate roughly **\$15 to trail maintenance and advocacy**.
- Clubs can submit receipts for trail work, with **up to 50% of expenses** eligible for reimbursement. However, not all requests will be fully funded due to budget limitations. If a club spends **\$50,000** in a year, the organization may only be able to reimburse a portion of the request, depending on available funds.

## Questions and Discussion

Is trail funding automatic by club? **AJ** clarified that clubs must submit receipts to receive reimbursement, with the amount dependent on the work completed and the funds available.

- **It was** reiterated that **strong clubs** with good project records are more likely to receive funding.

## **Membership and Clubs**

- It was noted that over 80% of the membership is divided into three clubs: SCORRA, BMA, and Northumberland.
- These clubs focus on land agreements, which serve as a key driver for membership growth.

## **Advocacy for Riding Areas**

- AJ emphasized the importance of advocating for riding areas, particularly through political support to protect access and prevent restrictions that could limit these spaces.

## **Collaboration with Other Groups**

- It was mentioned that there has been engagement with the parks office and noted that the ATV club has already taken steps in this regard.
- The suggestion was made to work collectively with the 18 clubs to strengthen their position through numbers.
- The loss of Crown land for riding was highlighted as a key concern.

## **Crown Land Riding Access**

- There is a necessity of having designated paths to ride on Crown land.
- There was mention of possible interference in ensuring continued access.

## **K&P Trail Access**

- AJ noted that members are already permitted to ride on the K&P Trail.
- Members raised concerns about potential issues with this access.

## **ATV Usage and Regulation**

- Larry M highlighted that approximately 15,000 ATVs use the trails in the area annually, but only 7,000 have memberships. OFTR has similar challenges.
- There was a discussion about riding restrictions and how some areas have more restrictive policies.

## **Action Items**

- AJ acknowledged the complexity of the issue and proposed further investigation.
- The team will look into the matter and provide updates on possible solutions.
- Larry's concerns were noted, and further research will be conducted to address them effectively.

## **Navigating Political Landscape in ATV Club Development**

- Recent developments involve relationship market expansion and multiple moves.
- The OFTR is monitoring, not supporting, the situation at Queens Park; the situation is described as political.
- Ongoing developments and implications may or may not materialize; a reading is scheduled for March.

## **BMA 2025: Investment and Event Plans**

- The BMA's 2025 vision remains stable, with a commitment to reinvesting in the sport.
- Plans include increased volunteer appreciation and continued stewardship of trail lands.
- Scheduled events for 2025 include trail improvements and trail navigation (subject to confirmation).

## **Annual Fitness Event Recap and Next Year's Plans**

- Last year's event focused on fitness activities.
- Plans for a similar event next year are underway, potentially including crossfit-style activities and core strengthening exercises.
- Sponsorships are being confirmed, with some returning from the previous year.

## **Forest Expansion Project Update**

- A new forest manager was unaware of a pre-existing agreement.
- The agreement concerns the expansion of a drill network.
- Expansion will occur over the winter, starting with bridge construction.

## **New Area Regulations and North Frontenac Initiative**

- Annual rule updates necessitate adaptation to a new area.
- Road pass purchase is optional for OFTR members, requiring proof of membership.
- Card passed are being replaced with digital copies. Stickers are required for bikes or copies of membership should be carried if stickers are absent.

## **Collaborative Problem-Solving Regarding Off-Road Vehicles**

- Concerns exist regarding off-road vehicle usage.
- Discussions are underway with a research school to address land use agreement issues and potential solutions.
- A positive step involves collaboration to resolve problems related to off-road vehicle activity.

## **Trail Maintenance and Development Project**

- A project to maintain and create new trails is under consideration.
- Volunteers with trail-building knowledge are needed to help with the project.
- The goal is to prevent the repeated loss of trails and ensure their long-term availability.

## **Balancing Geographic Distribution**

- Uneven distribution exists, with concentration on the north side and sparse presence on the south.
- The challenge involves finding a balance to avoid over-concentration in one area.
- A solution focuses on providing diverse areas to encourage a more even spread.

## **Land Use Agreements and Trail Access**

- Riders in Calabogie must stay on designated trails and off private properties where there are no trespassing signs.
- Land use agreements exist with some private landowners, allowing trail access.
- Maps clearly show permitted trails, such as those on Bill Duncan's property.

## **Navigating Trails and Private Property**

- The importance of respecting private property boundaries while using trail maps was emphasized.
- Warnings against entering areas marked with 'no trespass' signs were discussed.
- The use of maps and cautionary signage to avoid trespassing was highlighted.

## **Trail System Navigation Challenges**

- Difficulty in identifying trails due to lack of proper signage.
- Uncertainty about the nature or difficulty of a dirt bike trails on the MAPapp.
- Inconsistencies in trail naming and safety concerns requiring collaboration with the ATV club.

## **Board Nominations and Appointments**

- Safety and Security: Roy Forestall.
- Land Use Deputy: Chris Lacasse
- Calabogie South Side Re: Doug McNeil
- Volunteer Coordinator: Jay McDonald

A motion was presented by AJ to nominate these new board members

1<sup>st</sup> Motion: Ryan Lariviere

2<sup>nd</sup> Motion: Doug Clisch

**Vote:**

All in favor. Motion passed.

## **2025 Financial Plan Overview**

- The 2024 budget shows a deficit of \$7148, with a planned \$4000 deficit for 2025.
- The proposed 2025 budget aims for a profit, allocating funds proportionally across administration, trail events, and bookings.
- A third of the budget is allocated to trails and events, maintaining club running activities.



### **Financial Report Discussion and Decision**

- A decision was made not to appoint a public accountant for the upcoming year.
- The current financial state was reviewed, and no discrepancies were found.
- A motion was presented by AJ to not appoint a public accountant

1<sup>st</sup> Motion: Jeff Breedon

2<sup>nd</sup> Motion: Marc Levesque

**Vote:**

All in favor of not appoint a public accountant

Motion passed.

### **Annual Awards Ceremony**

- Bob Guzzo: Alex Vanchuck
- Roy Sheppard: Ryan Lariviere
- BMA Advocacy: Stacey Bergeron
- Top Volunteer Hours: Ed Miller
- Best New Volunteer: Mark Robsin

Meeting adjourned at 13:30 hr