

National Capital Mountain Bike Association

Status Report



September 2000



Our Mission

To promote sustainable trail access for Mountain Bike riders, and to maintain the trails on which we ride. We support the conservation of natural spaces and are committed to educating mountain bike riders to ride responsibly in order to protect the natural environment and the experience of other trail users.

In order to accomplish our mission we have established the following goals:

1. To develop, promote and provide activities and programs that create opportunities for our members and the general public to steward, care for and enjoy open spaces in the National Capital region. We offer:
 - Trail maintenance and building workdays
 - Education for riders and other trail users
 - Effective and unified communication channels including regular meetings and the internet to allow the formation and implementation of our services
 - Information packages for our members and the community
 - Bicycle patrols
 - Group activities and events that promote fun and responsible use of open spaces

2. To provide leadership in the protection and preservation of the environment by:
 - Advocating the development of informed public policy
 - Encouraging the establishment and management of protected land and water areas within the NCMBA's geographical area.

3. To provide an organization of volunteers and professionals who will:
 - Ensure the NCMBA services encourage active membership in the region
 - Generate and acquire sufficient funds to sustain our programs and activities in the long-term
 - Effectively manage the NCMBA's facilities and programs
 - Encourage respect for the environment and mountain biking
 - Offer the NCMBA's expertise to others
 - Develop partnerships with other organizations in our geographical areas to encourage participation and communication in achieving common goals
 - Support individual contributions in realizing the NCMBA's goals



Background

The Ottawa area currently enjoys a vibrant mountain bike community, relatively free of any of contentious land use issues currently faced by many American and indeed Canadian Cities. Elsewhere, land managers and the trail systems they manage are under tremendous pressure to reconcile the often conflicting priorities of economic growth, or contentious trail sharing issues among various trail users and interest groups. Invariably, some trails become closed to Mountain Bike riders.

The atmosphere currently enjoyed by Ottawa area trail users is sure to come under the same pressures as other cities as the Ottawa area grows. Indeed, some cracks in this fragile situation are already showing in the west end of the city where land development is proceeding at record rates. Further, the Gatineau park and it's trail network will face ever increasing demands as the growing population seeks refuge in it natural beauty.

If left unchecked, the trail network in the Ottawa area may find the same fate as those in other cities.

History and Current Status

The National Mountain Bike Association began in July 2000 with a series of informal meetings geared to explore the feasibility for such an association.

Following these early meetings, and fueled by positive feedback from the mountain biking communities, local businesses and community leaders, the group began more structured discussions aimed at developing a formal association and operational objectives,

At this time, the association is in the process of establishing a formal incorporation as a not-for-profit organization. To that end, we have established our draft by-laws, have elected an interim board of directors to lead the development process, and are formalizing our short term development plans, and year one operating objectives.



Who We Are

The National Mountain Bike Association are a group of mountain bike riders who are concerned for the local future of our sport and of the trail network that it relies on. We are conscious of our environment and aware of trail use and sharing issues. Moreover, we are eager to proactively work with local land managers, business and the entire community of trail users to support our mission.

On September 14th, 2000, an interim Board of Directors was elected as follows:

President:	Bryan Flannigan
Vice-President:	Denis Rochon
Secretary Treasurer:	Peter Theysen
Director:	Isabelle Flannigan
Director:	Vicki Schouten
Director:	Yuri Kuzyk
Director:	John Purkis

The Association does not as of this time have a formal membership structure in place, but does have a group of more than 100 individuals following our progress in anticipation of eventual membership. Further, the group has an audience of some 245 members of the mountain biking community through our participation in the "AMIES" internet forum (<http://www.vicinities.com/ottwedmtb>). Our activities may be followed by joining.

Our Services

We anticipate formal delivery of services to members and the community by the spring of 2001. At this time we are currently forming sub-committees to further develop our operation and to define specific objectives. The sub-committees will be formed in the following areas:

- . Sub-Committee on Trail Use and Maintenance Services
- . Sub-Committee on Education and Outreach Services
- . Sub-Committee on Member Services
- . Sub-Committee on Marketing and Promotion
- . Sub-Committee on Finance and Administration

The anticipated activities of each sub-committees follows.



Sub-Committee on Trail Use and Maintenance Services

- . Work with Municipal, Provincial and Federal orders of government, as well as private land owners to conserve and maintain and in some areas (where environmentally appropriate) expand exiting trail networks
- . Organize volunteer trail maintenance and building days
- . Create comprehensive trail maps and develop trail management plans

Contact: Peter Thyesen
Thyesen@Yahoo.Com

Sub-Committee on Education and Outreach Services

- . Organize a bike patrol for the purposes of educating trail users on mountain biking and their potential impact on the natural environment, providing emergency services as required, and as a liaison to land managers on trail conditions and activities.
- . Organized mountain biker, hiker, and equestrian awareness days and/or workshops.
- . Conduct bicycle clinics to assist in developing riders' safety and handling skills. Could potentially have a bicycle maintenance clinic as well.
- . Work with other community groups to promote mountain biking issues

Contact: Denis Rochon
Deroyo@BikeRider.Com

Sub-Committee on Member Services

- . Organize services for the NCMBA membership. This may include store discounts, insurance for local races and events throughout the season.
- . Maintain a vibrant member community, including tracking and communicating member needs.

Contact: Isabelle Flannigan
NCBMA@Bikerider.Com

Sub-Committee on Marketing and Promotion

- . Promote the association to the community at large through promotional material, news releases, and events
- . Raise funds for the association
- . Develop and maintain the Association web site

Contact: Yuri Kuzyk
ykuzyk@magma.ca



Sub-Committee on Finance and Administration

- Establish association infrastructure including incorporation, finance and legal services.

Contact: Peter Theysen
Theysen@Yahoo.Com

How Can You Get Involved?

We are currently soliciting support in the following areas:

- **Sub-committee members.** We require individuals who can assist in delivering the association mandate by volunteering their time to participate in the various sub-committees listed above. Contact the sub-committee chair listed above for the committee you would be interested in.
- **Members:** We need to build a strong membership base to effectively voice the mountain bike rider concerns. The larger our group, the more influence we will have, and the more resources we will be able to deploy. As indicated above, we cannot accept formal memberships until we are incorporated, however, we are building a database of interested persons. We will send updates of our progress to those listed on the database, and will offer them memberships as soon as we can. TO get your name on the list, contact Isabelle Flannigan, Director, Member Services at NCMBA@BikeRider.Com
- **Corporate Sponsors:** We are in need of corporate sponsorships and/or donations to effectively build the association and develop our services. If your organization would be interested in these opportunities, please contact Yuri Kuzyk, Director, Communications at: ykuzyk@magma.ca

CONTACT US

We can be contacted by E-mail at: NCMBA@Bikerider.com