



April 29, 2020

A message to all QuadNB clubs:

Let's face the facts:

Premier Blaine Higgs's Special Cabinet Committee on Covid-19, did not recommend the re-opening of QuadNB's trails in this first phase of outdoors activities because they do not trust that every member of QuadNB will obey the rules by not riding in large groups and not respecting the two (2) meter distancing between them when they stop for a break. They received proof of that on April 16th when the trails were opened for two days. Quads were spotted gathered in large groups and some were seen taking breaks while not distancing themselves from one another. This is not good because I got a call from the Premier himself, telling me to close our managed trails.

While going for a ride, quad riders are asked that they not leave any garbage behind and to bring it back with them on the ride home. But many don't do that and leave their garbage behind on the ground. For your information, a pop can is considered garbage and it is your responsibility to take it back with you. Don't leave it on the ground thinking that someone else will pick it up. It is not their responsibility; it is yours! This is called littering and it is against the law. In the past, we have lost access to many trails on private land because of this and it is still happening today. In the Sussex area, we are on the verge of losing another trail if garbage keeps being left behind.

Let's get real. When things go back to "new normal" and QuadNB gets the green light to reopen the trails, every club member will have to take on a new role and not turn a blind eye anymore when we see something going on that is not right. We are all going to have to step up and say something to make quad riders assume their responsibilities, and if that does not work, we will have to report them. This is to make sure that we do not have to close our trails again, or even worse, that we do not end up losing large sections of trail because of a few idiots who are causing problems on our trails and giving us a bad reputation.

Some will say that it is not our problem and that it is up to law enforcement to do their job. Yes, it's true. But if a landowner sees his property damaged and filled with garbage and he decides to close the trail and withdraws his permission to let us pass on his land, that concerns us all. The law enforcement people cannot be everywhere at the same time and, unfortunately, they may not be there to catch the people red-handed who cause damage to the property or leave garbage behind. But you as a member, if you're right there when it happens, can do whatever it takes to prevent these bad deeds from happening. If everyone had the same attitude concerning this, it would help a lot. But if we keep turning our heads the other way and pretending that we haven't seen anything, it shows a lack of respect for our volunteers who work hard at maintaining our trails for everyone's safety. If we cannot give our time to maintain our trails, the least we can do is support them by uniting and doing our part to keep our trails open. It would greatly help us to stop these idiots who are ruining our trails and our reputation. Help us hold them accountable for their actions.

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The time has come for us “members” to take control of our trails and for us to start building confidence within ourselves. If we see someone without a trail permit, approach them and remind them that they are on a managed trail. Most people have a good conscience and may feel annoyed but they will probably get a trail permit for their next outing. If you see someone doing something wrong, take all the pictures you can, in particular of the licence plate, the vehicle and of the people themselves. We can’t depend on law enforcement to be everywhere all the time so we have to take it upon ourselves to do what we can to keep our trails open and for us to get rid of those bad apples. We can’t stand by and do nothing anymore; it is up to us to save our trails and our reputation.

Sincerely,

The President

Roger Daigle