



NTC·CNS

NATIONAL TRAILS COALITION COALITION NATIONALE SUR LES SENTIERS



November 20th, 2009

OLYMPIC SPIRIT

Jonathan Hicks was your typical happy go lucky little boy. He loved being outside in the fresh air playing with friends in his home town of Conception Bay South and participating in community events. Some of his neighbors are avid ATV riders belonging to the Avalon Trailways Corporation and they would often chat with Jonathan while they were getting ready for a ride on the Newfoundland Trailways. Jonathan's exuberance for the outdoors and curiosity to learn helped him form fast friendships with members of AVTRAC and they would often take him along on events. Rick Noseworthy remembers how devastated the close knit community felt when they heard Jonathan at the age of 11 had been diagnosed with a brain tumor. "We are a community that does everything together and discovering that Jonathan was sick was a terrible blow," explains Rick.

Jonathan's friends and family watched his body deteriorate but not his spirit as he underwent treatments. His family had to move away for a while to be closer to the hospital. That is when the members of AVTRAC jumped into high gear. Wanting to help his family endure the costs they organized a Trail Ride for Jonathan to raise money. "This event was a huge success with a tremendous turn out," explains Rick. "Yamaha was an important part of this event and helped make it a great day."



Now Jonathan is a 17 year old honour student who is extremely popular in his school and has a long list of accomplishments to his credit. He is getting stronger everyday and letting his triumphant spirit shine through. When the opportunity came around for someone to carry the Olympic Torch in his neck of Newfoundland, the students at his school got behind him and made sure that he would do the honours. High on Jonathan's priority list was bringing the torch to show his friends at AVTRAC. "Jonathan is a tremendous young man and we were so pleased to share this special moment with him."

What a bond a trail makes!



PROJECT PROFILE

Burin Peninsula-Heritage Run

The Burin Peninsula is a unique piece of geography and history. Hundreds of small bays, inlets and coves are etched into the coastline. The panoramic barrens are strewn with glacial erratic rocks and boulders that were dropped by melting glaciers over 10,000 years ago. The high vantage points were crucial in determining the whereabouts of ships and for predicting weather. Captain Cook's Lookout has been visited for centuries. The Heritage Run provides many opportunities to experience nature at eye level. Locals and visitors are drawn here to whale watch, view colonies of the rare Manx Shearwater and the Leach's Storm Petrel. They also know to keep a lookout for rough-legged hawks, Midland caribou, black bear, coyote, moose, fox and bald eagles.

ATV enthusiasts on the Burin Peninsula in Southern Newfoundland starting building ATV trails about 15 years ago. This was in response to a Provincial Government regulation, which dictated that ATV use be designated to approved trails only. The trails already available were short and had very little tourist interest. A quick look at a map indicated that linking the several shorter trails together to create a continuous loop of 200km would open up this picturesque region and draw locals and tourists alike. The ATV trails also draw a large number of snowmobile riders looking for a change of scenery.

A proposal was drafted by Heritage Run Tourism Association to seek funding from Canada's Economic Action Plan through the National Trails Coalition to build new trail to link the Garnish-Point Rosie Trail and the Powderhorn Trail. Work is now underway on the new Burin Peninsula Trailway. This 160 km trail encompasses Garnish in Fortune Bay, the resettled' community of Point Rosie, Boat Harbour and the coastline of Placentia Bay to Jean de Baie. Trail users will experience a coastal ride like no other. It weaves through shoreline and mountainous regions. It offers great places for hiking, picnicking and camping. It is also a photographer's paradise.

There is no other trail loop in eastern Canada that offers a multi-day outing with such a wide variety of scenic and



cultural experiences. The Heritage Run Tourism Association knew that if they built it the people would come.