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February 16, 2010

Hon. Sterling Belliveau
P. O. Box 442
Halifax, NS B3J 2P8

Dear Minister Belliveau:

I write to you on behalf of Mr. Patrick Gray of Williamswood and a number of other residents that have concerns regarding ATV access to existing trails from Sambro through to Williamswood.

For many years responsible residents have used these trails to access their camps in and around Ragged Lake. As well, these trails have been used for many other recreational purposes.

However, without public consultation or public notice signs were recently posted denying this traditional access.

Could you please make arrangement for them to meet with members of your department so they can get at least minimal access throughout the winter months to their camps and recreational areas.

Yours very truly,

Stephen Adams
Councillor, District 18
Spryfield - Herring Cove

cc: Honourable John MacDonnell



NOVA SCOTIA
Environment
Office of the Minister

PO Box 442, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2P8 • www.gov.ns.ca/nse

our file number:

APR 28 2010

Mr. Stephen Adams
Councillor
District 18, Spryfield - Herring Cove
Halifax Regional Municipality
Box 1749
Halifax NS B3J 3A5

Dear Mr. Adams:

Thank you for your February 16, 2010, letter on behalf of Mr. Patrick Gray and other residents regarding all-terrain vehicle (ATV) access within Terence Bay Wilderness Area.

As you may know, Terence Bay Wilderness Area is one of 37 wilderness areas located throughout Nova Scotia, and was designated in 1998. Wilderness areas are significant natural areas designated under the province's *Wilderness Areas Protection Act*. These areas protect the natural environment while providing opportunities for education, research, wilderness recreation, camping, sportfishing, hunting, and community stewardship.

Vehicle use is generally prohibited in wilderness areas. Limited vehicle use may be licensed for access to private land inholdings (such as those at Ragged Lake), maintenance of campsite leases, research, or maintaining legal interests such as power lines. No authority exists under the Act to authorize general public vehicle access within Terence Bay Wilderness Area.

The department has yet to develop a vehicle access licensing program for access to private holdings and campsite leases. In the meantime, campsite lease holders and owners of private holdings in the Ragged Lake area may continue to access their sites by vehicle via the "Tractor Road," which connects West Pennant with Ragged Lake and Terence Bay. We are currently preparing information on this topic which will be shared with affected interests.

While the ATV riding opportunities that Mr. Gray and others enjoy cannot be authorized within Terence Bay Wilderness Area, other opportunities may exist on surrounding lands. Department staff have at various times encouraged local ATV riders to form a club to work with All-terrain Vehicle Association of Nova Scotia (ATVANS) to develop a managed ATV trail system in your area. The province supports, by various means, the development of a province-wide ATV trail system, but relies on the interest and initiative of organized ATV groups to achieve this vision.


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More information on the use and enjoyment of wilderness areas is available at: www.gov.ns.ca/nse/protectedareas/fag_wa.asp. Any further questions may be directed to Mr. Oliver Maass of my department's Protected Areas Branch at (902) 424-2123 or maassoc@gov.ns.ca.

As you know, Nova Scotia Environment staff met with Mr. Gray on April 14, 2010, to discuss his concerns.

Sincerely,



Sterling Belliveau
Minister