

## TMRS News Letter

October 2015  
Issue 1

### Presidents Message

Welcome to our first semi-annual newsletter. Tabor Mountain has been a well-known recreational area for many years. I have been exploring it's ever changing landscape since the early 1970's and it ceases to amaze me that each time I spend a few hours, or a few days on the mountain trails, how vast an area it covers. In Partnership with Recreation Sites and Trails BC we cover 37,000 hectares of land, over 250 kms of usable trails currently, many rests stops, lakes, and camping areas, it has truly become "The Destination Location for Outdoor Recreation" in Northern BC. What I am most proud of, is the fact that many user groups have joined forces to equally share in the preservation of this pristine playground, right here in our back yard. Since 2011, when the Provincial Government, under Recreation Sites and Trails BC, has granted TMRS stewardship over a total of 407 kms of trails and 27 staging sites, we have come a long way in refurbishing the trail systems, always considering safety for users, keeping the mountain environmentally sound for the next generation, and always working to make the mountain family friendly. Through the hard work and efforts of our northern citizens, many of them getting up there in years, we have logged over 9000 volunteer hours of time working on the many projects that are either completed, or on-going. Many of our projects have been funded through various grants and "in-kind" donations. We thank all who have participated so far to help us achieve a monumental challenge. The work has only begun! Projects continue to surface and we need your support. A good way to start is to check out our website, [www.tMrs.ca](http://www.tMrs.ca) and join the effort by becoming a member of "Friends of Tabor". For only \$15, you will receive a map of the trails and area, and your funds will go directly to maintenance of the trail systems. If you wish, you may support us with a larger donation through our [Pay Pal](#) option or mail the donation to [Tabor Mountain Recreation Society PO Box 1095, Prince George, BC, V2L 3L](#). Donations can go to motorized trails, non-motorized trails, or administration. For more information contact Randy Ellenchuk at (250) 981-1871.

#### Special Points of interests

- Safer and more environmentally sensitive **Burgess trail** improvements
- Great west Life Mobility Trail get praised from around the world
- North trail improvement environmentally friendly
- Success at **trade shows**
- Community support
- \$1,000's in **Grants** help with projects
- "**No shooting**" signs in place
- TMRS volunteers
- Why Join Friends of Tabor
- An Inventory gives us key information
- Committee s develop consistency
- Club activities

Please enjoy this first edition of the TMRS Newsletter, and give us some feedback as to what you would like to see happening on the mountain. We are open to all outdoor recreational disciplines that are willing to invest their time in helping to make Tabor Mountain Trails the Playground of the North.

Randy Ellenchuk  
President, TMRS

**TMRS News Letters** are twice a year and provide information on past and future activities undertaken on Tabor Mountain and TMRS member clubs. Visit [www.tmrs.ca](http://www.tmrs.ca) for additional information.

## **TMRS executive and Clubs represented on the Board of Directors**

To Contact Members of TMRS visit [www.tmrs.ca](http://www.tmrs.ca) or visit club websites

President	Randy Ellenchuk
Vice President	Ken Hodges
Secretary	Chris Pepler
Treasurer	Rick Brine
ATV Club	<a href="http://www.pgatvclub.ca">www.pgatvclub.ca</a>
PG Snowmobile Club	<a href="http://www.pgsnowmobileclub.com">www.pgsnowmobileclub.com</a>
Friends of Tabor	<a href="http://www.tmrs.ca">www.tmrs.ca</a>
PG Horse Society	<a href="http://www.pghorsesociety.com">www.pghorsesociety.com</a>
Caledonia Ramblers	<a href="http://www.caladoniarambler.ca">www.caladoniarambler.ca</a>
Caledonia Ski Club	<a href="http://www.caladonianortic.com">www.caladonianortic.com</a>
Sons of Norway Ski Club	<a href="http://www.tmrs.ca">www.tmrs.ca</a>
Horse Council BC	<a href="http://www.hcbc.ca">www.hcbc.ca</a>
Northwest Brigade Paddlers	<a href="http://www.tmrs.ca">www.tmrs.ca</a>

## **Trail Activities (Summer -2015)**

This summer there were several projects undertaken by TMRS and its members. The biggest project was the **Burgess Trail** upgrade and bridge installation. The key player in this project was the PG ATV club with George Hohnisch applying for the grant and working with Ken Pendergast in managing the field work. The ATV club, RSTBC and TMRS provided additional funds to meet the grant funding requirements. The ATV club did excellent work on behalf of TMRS.



[Burgess Trail to the bridge before](#)



[New Bridge on Burgess Trail](#)

The [Great West Life Mobility Trail](#) was officially open on September 19, 2014 with great fan fare,



Thanks to Bob Bullock; Project Manager the site has become a great success. We have had visitors from throughout Europe and North America with positive feedback and praise. With the addition of two Picnic tables installed this spring more visitors are enjoying the trail. This year we had the Chateau (senior's facility) visit the site. They were very pleased with what they saw and how the trail was developed. We did learn that the trail surface needed to change from the course material

to a finer compactable surface to facilitate the needs of wheelchairs and those with walking disabilities. A grant has been secured to expand the trail, improve the trail surface, additional benches and install a drainage crossing, which has started this fall with completion in the spring of 2016. We are hoping to install two gazebos next spring, depending on a successful grant. As more visitors walk the trail we are finding that young families are really enjoying the trail because it is safe, reasonable length, the presence of the trail guardians, the high standards along with the beauty and tranquility of the trail.

There were many other maintenance activities including draining water and unplugging a culvert on



the [VOR road](#). Thanks to Randy Ellenchuk for volunteering his tractor to clean and drain the holes. The work involved George Hohnisch (PGATV) and John Ruston (PGATV), Randy Ellenchuk and Ken Hodges.

An outhouse was also installed in the area. Thanks to John Ruston (PGATV) for refurbishing some 9 [Outhouses](#) on the Mountain.

[Cleaning out a drain to drain the water](#)

[Horse trails](#) at the end of Kline road were brushed out and a culvert was installed to encourage greater horse activities on the mountain. Activities led by Bob Bullock and Lois Bullock with in kind work by Ray Bachand and his bobcat resulted in a user from Alberta spending a week on these and other trails. The local horse club also used the trails for their activities.

Many [Ski trails](#) were brushed out this summer by the ski clubs, led by Norm Clark and Jim Weed. The



[Installation of a bridge](#)

clubs also installed small bridges across wet areas with residual material from other projects to allow ATV's and horses to use the trail and not cause environmental damage. Part of the process included installation of culverts and riprap where streams and drainages existed. Just recently the club brushed out and bladed the Troll Lake trail for winter skiing. The Sons of Norway Ski Club located and purchased a mower on behalf of TMRS to manage the grass levels on the north side of the mountain. The mower has been put to good use this summer.

The [Schlitt trail](#) had a fair amount of maintenance and the installation of a five foot culvert that was needed to repair a washout that occurred last year. The washout occurred as a result of too small of a culvert. Funds provided by PGATV, ATVBC, TMRS and RSTBC for repairing the washout and do maintenance on the trail. George Hohnisch (ATV club) organized the funding and led the work on the trail with assistance from Bob Bullock (PG Horse Society) and Lyndon Burgess (PGATV). The result is a safer and more environmentally friendly trail.



Washout prior to repair



Culvert being installed

The ATV club did maintenance on the Strom trail and water holes on Elise Trail. Quietwood Logging donated equipment to complete the repairs along [Elsie's Trail](#). The trail is much safer to ride and environmentally friendly.



Elsie's Trail Waterhole before



Waterhole repaired

[Signage](#) installed at various gravel pits re no shooting. The intent is to reduce shooting by the public in areas that recreationalists use TMRS trails. This is a major safety issue for all recreational users and those wishing to use their firearms appropriately. If you notice someone shooting please advise the RCMP. TMRS have approached the RCMP, the Ministry of Environment Conservation Officers, and the Ministry of Forests C&E section to enforce the signage of no shooting.



## Trade Shows

This year TMRS attended six trade shows to promote who TMRS is and what we are about. To



promote TMRS we had banners and flyers designed and produced. As seen by the picture, our booth looks fantastic. The picture is at PG exhibition Seniors Exhibition with Bob Bullock manning the booth.

It is important to note that there is a greater need for volunteers for these trade show events. Next year we will be sending out dates for the events and we will have the club representatives forward the information to all their members. We hope to have

interest by club members for next year. This year was a learning experience for TMRS but yet many contacts were made and many people now know who TMRS is and what they represent. During all of the events we handed out many pamphlets, which TMRS had developed and printed. There are three pamphlets; one includes a list of all clubs that are members of TMRS and their contact information, the second is on being a Friend of Tabor Mountain with an application form included and a third pamphlet on the Great West Life Mobility Trail. Note, that each of the clubs are more than welcome to add any brochures or pamphlets to the booth.

The trade shows we attended this year and those who participated include:

1. Northern Resource Expo CN Centre (2 days) – Bob Bullock, Lois Bullock, Orville Smith, Randy Ellenchuk, Norm Clark, Diane Clark, Ken Hodges
2. PG Pulp Wellness Day - Bob Bullock, Ken Hodges
3. Intercon Pulp and Paper Wellness Day - Bob Bullock, Randy Ellenchuk
4. Spinal Cord Injury Group celebration day – Bob Bullock, Ken Hodges
5. Pine Centre Active Living Market (2 days)- Bob Bullock, Randy Ellenchuk, Norm Clark, Ken Hodges
6. PG Exhibition Seniors Exhibition – Gys Coops, George Hohnisch, Bob Bullock, Ken Hodges

## Supporting Cast

TMRS's success would not happen without all the volunteer hours put in by many members of the many members of the various clubs. Many of the clubs have utilized their contacts to develop a great relationship with many businesses and organizations. TMRS would like to acknowledge these companies and individuals who donated time, in kind work or materials. This season as in past season we would like to say thank you to the following:

- McElhanney Engineering
- Regional District of Fraser Fort George
- Canfor
- Carrier
- Tourism Prince George
- Recreation Sites and Trails BC
- Quietwood Logging
- Horse Council BC
- DWB Consulting Services Ltd
- Great West Life Assurance Ltd.
- Northern Development Initiative Trust
- Ray Bachand
- John Ruston
- ATV BC

## Grants and Funding

TMRS and its members have applied for several grants to manage the trails and obtain equipment. Without the grants and the volunteers who put the efforts into applying for the grants and those who do the field work the work would not be done. TMRS wishes to thank those individuals like George Hohnisch for the effort and support of the ATV club in obtaining a grant to improve the Burgess Trail and the installing the Burgess Trail Bridge (\$7,552) plus fund from the ATV club, TMRS and RSTBC totalling \$17,552). Randy Ellenchuk for applying for the Great West Life grant to development and improve of the Great West Life Mobility Trail (\$25,000 over two years). The Regional District of Fraser Fort George also provided significant funding for the development of the Great West Life Mobility Trail. Bob Bullock Project manager has been and will continue to take on the responsibility of work and activities on the Great West Life Mobility Trail. Bob Bullock was successful in obtaining funds from RSTBC to undertake regular maintenance of the GWLMT and campsite located at the Dougherty Creek recreational area. Norm Clark obtained a grant from Horse Council BC to improve the north trails that improves trails for hiking, x-country skiing, horse riding and protection of wet areas from summer activities. Norm was also instrumental in organizing worker and a contractor to do a lot of work on the North trails this summer. We also were successful in obtaining a grant to expand the Great West Life Mobility Trail, improve the trail surface and purchase additional benches (\$30,000). The PGATV Club and ATV BC provide a \$1,000 each to repair the Schlitt trail. The Prince George Backcountry Recreation Society donated a \$1,000 for trail improvements for the north hiking and x-country ski trails.

Thanks to the board for the development and approval of the grant policy that allows TMRS to receive funds for administration management where opportunities exist with grants and donations. The Policy asks that when groups apply for grants that prior to apply for the grant the proposed work be brought to the board for approval. This allows the board to have input into the standards and the work priorities on the mountain that should be consistent with the needs based on the trail inventory and or key safety issues. The Board can assist with developing the grants and/or assist in finding addition grant sources if requested by a club.

## Gates and Signage

Now that the trails on Tabor Mountain are legally established as recreational trails, that means motorized and non-motorized activities. Motorized specifically excludes highway vehicles of all sorts, including off road trucks and jeeps. In the past many of the trail were used by off roaders but that can no longer happen because of the trail designation and the liabilities attached to the bridge structures that are unrated. In order to manage the trails accordingly gates have been installed at key points and more are coming this year. Unfortunately many of the signs noting the reason for the gates were late being installed. We are also installing signs at the open end of a trail that has no exits for vehicles over 750kg due to a gate at the other end and non rated bridges. In some cases people have ignored gates, barricades and signs and travelled into sensitive areas or damaged barriers which costs time and money by the society. It is important to note that the entire funds raised are committed to trail improvements. There are no funds that go to salaries or an office





and when damage occurs we need to find additional funds to repair the damage. Funding is being addressed to build and install more gates to protect TMRS investments and manage our liability when it comes to unrated bridges.

The second and most important set of signs are the no shooting signs at the Pinko pit, Grove pit and the Spey pit. Shooting has been a common practice in these three areas in the past. However, with the increase in recreational traffic on trails adjacent to the pits shooting must stop before someone is killed or badly injured. The RCMP, Conservation Officers and MOF Compliance and Enforcement will be visiting the sites on a regular basis to enforce the no shooting signs.

## **Volunteer Hours–2015**

Without the dedication of the members of the clubs, TMRS Board of Directors who volunteer hundreds of hours every year TMRS would not survive or create such a great set of trails for outdoor recreational activities that are safe and environmentally friendly. To date (January – September 2015) volunteers have put in over 2,200 hrs on trails and management activities. They have also donated in-kind equipment and materials totalling over \$14,000.

By tracking all our times and equipment we are better able to demonstrate to those providing grant opportunities that TMRS and its members are heavily involved in the work and running of the organization, which make our applications for funding more desirable than those without the tracking system.

**TMRS would like to thank all those who volunteer their time, expertise and equipment in making TMRS a success over the past year.**

**There is a greater need for Volunteers** in the field to manage some of the projects and assist with the maintenance of trails. If you are willing to assist in these and other opportunities to improve trails and thus your outdoor experience contact one of the board members.

## **Friends of Tabor**

Friends of Tabor are an organization within TMRS whose members do not belong to a club but yet want to enjoy the recreational experience. Many of the clubs various members belong to FOT and to their organization, whether it is the ATV club, Horse Society, Snowmobile club, etc. The real benefit in belonging to the Friends of Tabor is your involvement in the decision making at meetings and greater participation opportunities with TMRS including participation on committees. Even though the clubs pay a membership fee they have only one voice. We encourage all club members to become a member of Friends of Tabor. The fee is \$15 per year which supports the club and provides access to the mountain. If you would like more information on Friend of Tabor contact Randy Ellenchuk at [www.tmrs.ca](http://www.tmrs.ca) .

## Inventory

The trail and staging area inventory has been planned since 2012. The main issue was funding and finding a group that would undertake the project. This spring TMRS met with Canfor and presented a case and strategy for completing the inventory. After the meeting Canfor was committed to undertaking the inventory of trails and staging areas. In June of this year Canfor field staff, all 26, took part in a day of field work with TMRS members as guides and covered 160km of trails. The south and main trails used ATVs while the north trail involved hiking the



trails from top to bottom. Using a field card developed jointly with Canfor and a procedures policy for filling out the cards the data was collected and entered into a set formatted document that would then be entered into a data base and used to determine what work is needed and where. This data will assist TMRS in setting priorities, allow all Board members to have a better feel for the entire mountain, update maps, cost out needed work and thus have set areas ready to go when applying for grants or other forms of funding. After a hard day in the field all were well fed with a BBQ hosted by Canfor. TMRS wishes to thank Canfor, especially Peter Baird, Sara Cotter, Chris Schacke and all the summer staff in undertaking the first steps in completing the trail inventory on Tabor Mountain. TMRS would also like to thank all those who volunteered there day to assist in trail inventory activities.



## Committee Work

This past year TMRS has established several committees to assist in the management of the organization. The current focus has been the development of policies procedures and protocol to provide better structure and consistency in undertaking work and activities either administratively or when working in the field for the organization. The strategy is to provide direction and not prevent work by those willing to undertake the work.

To date the following committees have been established.

- Governance Committee – responsible for writing policies for board approval The members are:
  - Ken Hodges - Chair –Vice President
  - Bob Bullock – PG Horse Society
  - Orville Smith – Horse Council BC
  - Dave King – Caledonia Ramblers
- Grant Committee – responsible for locating, writing and submitting grant applications, as members of the clubs are part of this group this committee will assist the clubs in finding grants opportunities and guiding the clubs in applying for grants. The committee will also be familiar with the trail inventory and priority trail work. The members are



- Randy Ellenchuk – Chair - President
- Ken Hodges - Vice President
- Norm Clark - Sons Of Norway Ski Club
- George Hohnisch – PGATV Club
- Nomination Committee – responsible prior to the AGM election of officer by searching for individuals wishing to run for an executive position. The chair is responsible for leading the election process at the AGM. In the event of a vacant position they are responsible for approaching members to fill the position. The members of the committee are:
  - Bob Bullock – Chair - PG Horse Society
  - Orville Smith – Horse Council BC
  - Ken Hodges - Vice President
- Constitution & Bylaw Committee – with the changing in legislation of the *Societies Act*, this committee will be responsible for the updating our constitution and the bylaws. The members are:
  - Bob Bullock– Chair - PG Horse Society
  - Orville Smith – Horse Council BC
  - Sandra Kinsey – Friends of Tabor – PG Naturalist Club
- Finance Committee
  - Rick Brine Chair – Treasurer - Northwest Brigade Paddlers
  - Randy Ellenchuk - President
  - Bob Bullock- PG Horse Society - Major Projects
  - Ken Hodges - Vice President
- The News Letter is written and designed by the vice president and the secretary with input from all the clubs. The news letter members are:
  - Ken Hodges Vice President
  - Chris Pepler - Secretary

## **Member Club Upcoming Activities & Monthly Meeting Time/Location**

- **TMRS**
  - General meeting every third Thursday of the month at 7:00 in the agroplex next to Kin 1
  - Annual General meeting –Occurs in the spring, general in April. Stay tuned for the date prior to the meeting. For more information visit our website at [www.tmrs.ca](http://www.tmrs.ca) or mailing address at **Tabor Mountain Recreation Society PO Box 1095, Prince George, BC, V2L 3L0** or contact Randy Ellenchuk at [\(250\) 981-1871](tel:2509811871)
- **Sons of Norway Ski Club** lead a ski outing along our trails every Wednesday and Sunday during the Winter (weather permitting). The 43 annual Birchleg ski event will be held on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The meeting area will be at our Hickory Wing parking area (old boxcar) 5 km East of Tabor Mountain Resort. Stay tune of the AGM date. For more information contact Norm Clark at [n\\_dclark@telus.net](mailto:n_dclark@telus.net)

- The **Prince George Horse Society** is made up of 11 clubs representing all disciplines with horses and one dog club. For additional information visit our web site [www.pghorsesociety.com](http://www.pghorsesociety.com) and look under calendar you will see that the indoor riding area is busy all winter. General Board meetings held every third Thursday of each month at 6:00 at the Agroplex.
- The **Caledonia Ramblers** have supported activities on Tabor Mountain by working with Sons of Norway and Caledonia Nordics ski clubs in the management of the North Trails. Many of the Caledonia Rambler members are members of one or both of ski clubs. Recreational use for the Caledonia Ramblers on Tabor Mountain is primarily winter snowshoe trips utilizing the North trails and the occasional off trail excursion.  
The Ramblers carry out maintenance on a variety of trails for both Recreation Sites and Trails and BC Parks throughout the Central Interior with recent work done on the Alexander Mackenzie Heritage trail, Erg Mt Trail, Tacheeda Mountain trail and the Driscoll Ridge Trail. Recent activities have focused on the Ancient Forest Trail (AFT) east of Prince George. The Club, in conjunction with UNBC professors and the Lheidli T'enneh has been working on establishing a provincial park consisting of the AFT and surrounding rainforest. For more information and pictures visit the website at [www.caledoniaramblers.ca](http://www.caledoniaramblers.ca) or contact Dave King at 250 564-8887
- The **PGATV Club** is the largest ATV club in the province, with over 260 members with affiliated to ATVBC. Our primary riding area is the Tabor Mountain recreational trails. There are family rides on Tabor Mountain through the spring to fall months, as well as our annual PGATV Club Poker Ride in September.  
Members receive a discount of liability insurance, and the Canadian Rider Training Course." The ATV club hosts a yearly weekend summer ride from Tabor Mountain trails to Wells, BC, usually late July.  
For more information on the PGATV club visit our website at [www.pgatvclub.ca](http://www.pgatvclub.ca) or John Ruston at [jruston@telus.net](mailto:jruston@telus.net)
- The **PG Snowmobile Club** plans to be very active this year on Tabor Mountain and other areas such as the Torpy River valley and Kakwa areas. The PGSC has plans for a Poker Ride late winter and other various snowmobile rides and activities scheduled. For more details visit the PGSC website at [www.pgsnowmobileclub.com](http://www.pgsnowmobileclub.com).
- **Northwest Brigade Paddling Club** has diverse interests from river, lake and ocean kayaking, to canoeing and stand-up paddling. No matter what your skill level, we have instruction available for flat water and whitewater skills development along with safety, rescue, first-aid and survival skills. The NWBPC has published the "Central Interior of British Columbia" paddling guide book with detailed information and map references. It can be purchased at Books & Company on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Our current project with support of TMRS is a new Recreation Site and corridor trail system on the Willow River. For more information visit our Facebook or phone Rick at 250-964-7400.