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Open Letter to the Beaver Bank ATV Club

March 17, 2022

From: David F. Barrett owner with brothers Keith & Hugh Barrett of Barrett Lumber Co Ltd.

I want to apologize to the president of the BBATV Club, Mr. Corey Osborne, for losing my temper and directing it onto him. This was one of the few times in my life where I completely lost my temper in such a manner where so many of my emotions came out. I would like to explain why I lost my temper.

In 2020 I spent approximately \$30,000 and about one and a half months of my time repairing our forest extraction road on Roy Nick's property. \$15,000 of which was destruction caused by irresponsible OHVs by using the road when the frost was coming out between March 1 and April 30 and driving too fast.

Between August and September of 2021, I had to make the same repairs on the Sandy Lake Forest Road. At my age (83 years old) I prefer to only work 4 to 5 hours per day and this requires so much more. When graveling our wood roads, I have to work 12-hour days in order to complete the work and this can be very exhausting.

For over 40 years I have worked with the Powell family for loading and hauling the gravel, which I personally level, on our roads. The Powell's are very cost effective, they load the first load of gravel at 7 am and the last load at 5 pm. I worked three 12-hour days in a row from that Tuesday to Thursday, ditching and leveling gravel, so I asked that we take a break on Friday so I could get some rest over the weekend.

I arrived on the site at 7 am on Monday morning and discovered that our dozer had been vandalized. I lost control of my temper because this drained me both emotionally and physically! Unfortunately, Corey was on the receiving end of my temper when I called him. I apologize to Cory for that.

Responsible members of the BBATV Club have been a tremendous help. In no way, does moving to the use of a sworn legal affidavit (effective by February 28, 2023) to access BLC timber limit mean that I do not respect or appreciate all that these BBATV members have done for us. This is my only option now and I have no other choice. All the responsible members of the BBATV club and volunteers have helped keep our timber limit open and safe for families in the greater Beaver Bank community for the last 11 years and longer. I welcome the responsible ATV families to be part of the new BLC sworn legal affidavit agreement.

The responsible BBATV members have:

- Spent money and time cleaning up illegal garbage dumped on various sights of BLC timber limit;
- Painted and added signage to various forest extraction road gates;
- Installed and paid for a gate on private land since the owners made their property part of our BLC family forest stewardship agreement to help stop irresponsible ATV users from driving on their lawn.
- Twice in two different years removing abandoned cars in the Sandy Lake area at great expense to them.

I especially want to thank Dawn Maxwell and Bud Hickey for their personal involvement in the removal of these abandoned vehicles.

In 2018, the BBATV club reported to me that the gate at Roy Nick's property near the Villa had been torn down by a monster truck. I asked them to report the broken gate to the RCMP, which they did. The RCMP officer that they spoke with would not take the report because the officer said that the BBATV club did not own the gate. **THE OFFICER ONLY HAD TO CALL ME,**

where I could be contacted any time of day, and I would have backed the report from the club. This lack of RCMP support only continued to increase my anger.

There are many things that the BBATV club members have done over the years to help keep our timber limit safe and clean in the greater Beaver Bank area. I have attached a part of a 2019 letter I sent to the Premier of Nova Scotia and others. I am also sending a copy of this letter to them.

The BBATV club has offered funds to upgrade and repair some of the OHV damage caused to BLC forestry roads. It is because of human nature that I have never accepted any OHV funds to repair the roads. I believe that if BLC were to use OHV funds to repair woodland damage caused by OHVs, then a large number of the OHV users would feel a sense of entitlement and less likely to respect the rules. They would be more likely to speed and go on our timber limit at any time of the day or night. This would especially be the case for the renegade and destructive OHV users that are irresponsible and never respect the rules.

Back in 2011, at the age of 72, after working for over 50 years to protect our forest lands in the greater Beaver Bank area from off road vehicles (the problems are getting worse). I made a contract with the Beaver Bank ATV club so that only the BBATV club could give permission to ATVs to only travel on BLC ditched, culverted and gravel forest extraction roads and nowhere else.

It was my hope that this responsible club, whose executive I greatly respected, would use their peer pressure to control the irresponsible ATV/OHV users. I should have known that after my 50 years of working on this, I was asking too much. Especially since the Nova Scotia Provincial Government disbanded the OHV enforcement group. The Nova Scotia Government also insists that OHV users who take the OHV course (ATV users on patrol) have no power what so ever, they can only observe and report (in other words, almost useless).

For over 60 years I have tried to keep our forest land open to the public by various means and agreements. I feel that I have failed because our land is being disrespected more and more each year by a certain segment of the users. And thus, I feel let down by those who do not report the users causing the damage.

I am moving to and enforcing a sworn legal affidavit with the help of the RCMP, lawyers, NS Government, courts, etc. because I want my legacy to continue. I want to maintain a large portion of Beaver Bank in forestry where authorized families will take pride in the land and help the next generation of the Barrett family protect our forest land for multi use including forestry and responsible community usage.

The destructive path that I have fought against for over 60 years, needs to be resolved by the greater Beaver Bank community with this new sworn legal affidavit. If not, the next generation of the Barrett family will have no choice but to sell our forestry land for development as there will never be another crop of timber.

I know that we at BLC are a rural industry in an urban environment. With the entire greater Beaver Bank area helping it's possible that we can continue the practice of multi use BLC timber limit. If not, we will be forced to sell the land for development. We are getting offers from developers to buy the entire company.

It's up to you, the greater Beaver Bank community, do we stay in forestry or do we sell to developers? This is already happening for I am selling some of our timber parcels due to the large amount of destruction on these timber parcels, which is preventing any possibility of a new timber crop. For as you may know, it takes 40 – 100 years to grow a new crop of timber.

I also apologize to the BBATV club for expecting them to solve the problem of renegade OHV users and others, a problem which I have been working to resolve for over 60 years.

I want to wish everyone including walkers, car drivers, OHV/ATV users and others who are almost hit by speeding OHV/ATVs to immediately report to the Sackville RCMP dispatch at 902-490-5020 so the RCMP and other enforcement agencies will know which areas to have an enforcement blitz in the future.

Copied to S/Sgt. Morrison of Lower Sackville RCMP.

Respectfully yours,



David F. Barrett

Part of a 2019 Letter I sent to the Premier of Nova Scotia

Follow up letter by way of a Thank You letter to the Beaver Bank ATV Club. "It takes a community to raise a child" I would add "a community is only as safe and secure as practiced by its dedicated citizens"

Case In Point

- Here in Beaver Bank, we have some of the cleanest and safest forest extraction roads in Nova Scotia which are used by thousands of Nova Scotian families, even mothers with baby carriages.
- Last December someone broke our forestry gate located on one of our roads in North Beaver Bank and the vice president of the BBATV club, Corey Osborne reported it to me and also took it upon himself to report the damage to the RCMP. Before I had a chance to repair the gate, someone went through and dumped garbage on the property. The BBATV club, with the help of the RCMP found out who dumped the garbage and had them clean it up.
- Last Spring (2018) someone dumped a car in Sandy Lake. The BBATV club not only reported it, they again with the help of the RCMP had it towed out of the lake and disposed of the car.
- Last Summer (2018) in the evening (our roads are closed at night) I received a call about a group of people going in back of Green Forest. I called Jonathan Calvin, at that time the president of the BBATV club, who came with me (I was 80 years old at the time) wearing his citizens on patrol uniform. We informed the group, who were putting up a camp, either leave or we would call the RCMP. They left.
- I like the way the BBATV club is trying to use peer pressure to straighten up those ATV's who are causing complaints from Sandy Lake Road and the Green Forest Subdivision by making these problems part of their April report in the Beaver Bank Bulletin.
- I like the signs the BBATV club are putting or helping BLC put on BLC's forest extraction roads like:
 - ATVs with written permission only.
 - Keep on the graveled roads.
 - 20 km/hr speed limit.
 - No driving around BLC Forestry gates.
- I feel if our governments only gave ATV members of responsible clubs like the BBATV club permission to travel crown land, the various OHV clubs would help by means of peer pressure, self-policing and curb most of the destruction on crown lands.

Copies to: Nova Scotia MP's
Nova Scotia MLA's
Mayor of Halifax
HRM Councillors
HRM RCMP
BBATV Club
Media