

**Media Release – March 25, 2008**

## **ONTARIO ATV CLUBS FORM ALLIANCE TO BENEFIT RIDERS**

Two of Ontario's largest atv clubs have joined together in Alliance. Haliburton ATV Association and Kawartha ATV Association are joining forces and atvers are excited about the move. The Alliance will be managed by a committee reporting back to the respective Boards, of both organizations. The members of both organizations will have full access to each others trails during the atv riding season May1<sup>st</sup> – December 1<sup>st</sup>. Together the two organizations represent a sizeable membership and the collective trails of these organizations cover a large swath of Central Ontario.

While both clubs will still maintain there own club brands governed by their own bylaws the Alliance Committee recommendations would be joint recommendations applying to both organizations in lockstep. Non member riders would still buy temp passes from the local club areas they are riding in. Members would travel freely between the two organizations and would carry their membership card and/or decal identification as proof of membership. The yearly membership rate will be \$95 individual and \$190 family. Memberships are anniversary dated so they are good for a full year from the date the membership is issued.

One of the premises of the agreement is both clubs believe atv club members and riders should control their own destiny rather than have non atv interests dictating outcomes and siphoning off resources. "We wanted to show leadership and believe atv riders throughout the province need to work together to insure long term survival," states Steve Lane President of KATVA. "It's a natural fit because it is in the best interests of neighboring organizations that atving remains sustainable against the many external threats that are not positive to atving"adds Hugh Trask President of HATVA.

In addition to riding on each others trails the members will help each other to maintain trails collectively. Both clubs are careful to point out that the Alliance is much more than two clubs reciprocating. "Last year we did two major bridge projects on the rail line in Haliburton. The one trestle over 100 yards long was completely stripped and redecked with 2" hemlock. Obviously projects of this magnitude require many volunteer helpers so blending resources for maintenance makes sense and will further trail riding opportunities for both clubs" says Mark Coles who founded the HATVA organization. "Both clubs will cross insure each other and we both use the same insurance carrier and we may even do some interclub events" adds Mark Stewart VP KATVA.

Full details will be posted soon on the HATVA & KATVA web sites.