

Trails Ready for Opening Day

By Larry Gomes, Trail Master

Milan Trail Huggers

Pictures by John Higgins

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A crew of seven arrived at Gord's Corner Store ready for a full day of trail of trail signing to get ready for the 2017 season. Volunteers including Donna Estabrook, John Higgins, Leo Couture, Andy Thibodeau, Steve Kellet, Brian Lamirande and Larry Gomes.

The first order of business was handing out trash bags to the crew. In addition to putting out signs, the crew also cleans up trash along the sides of the roads that are being used for ATV trails. The goal is to make sure these roadways are just as clean as our woods trails. As most riders know, the woods trails have little if any trash along them, but the sides of the roads have a lot of litter.



Leo Couture, Larry Gomes and Brian Lamirande stand in front of the trash collected along the local roads that serve as ATV trails between West Milan and Stark. Not in the picture are volunteers Andy Thibodeau, Steve Kelley, Donna Estabrook and John Higgins who also helped.

This year the volunteers collected 12 bags of trash just between Gord's Corner Store and the self-serve gas station in Stark. This is much more than what has been collected in past years and shows a disturbing increase in the amount of trash being pitched out of car windows, especially in remote areas.

The crews split up into 4 vehicles, with 2 vehicles dedicated to trash pickup and the remaining two vehicles putting up signs and collecting trash. It took over 4 hours for these 4 vehicles to travel the 9 mile long road trail between Milan and Stark. Andy and Steve put up green ATV diamonds every 1/3 mile while Leo and Larry focused on intersections and directional arrows.

The road trails on Rt. 110A and Rt. 110B are scheduled to open on Tuesday, May 23rd and the road trail between Stark and Milan is scheduled to open on Friday, May 26th.

We ask all riders to please bring a trash bag with them and to pick up any cans or bottles that find along the way.