

# **Environmental Assessment Registration Form**

## **NAME OF UNDERTAKING:**

The upgrading of an existing 45 Km trail, the addition of a new access route, and the joining of this new access route to the existing trail so as to form a continuous loop suitable for ATVs and snowmobiles.

## **PROPOSER:**

- (i) Name of Corporate Body: St. Lawrence Area Trail Association Inc.
- (ii) Address: P.O. Box 445, St. Lawrence, NL, A0E 2V0.
- (iii) Chief Executive Officer: Not applicable – not a corporation.
- (iv) Principal Contact Person:

Mr. Phonce Cooper, P.Eng.  
President  
St. Lawrence Area Trail Association Inc.  
P.O. Box 445  
St. Lawrence, NL  
A0E 2V0  
Tel: (709) 873-3331, Fax: (709) 873-3335

## **THE UNDERTAKING:**

- (i) Nature of the Undertaking:
  - a) The upgrading of an existing 45 Km trail (yellow on the attached map 1).
  - b) To provide a new access point to the above trail as requested by The St. Lawrence Town Council and The Dept. of Environment – Watershed Management Division (blue on the attached maps 1 and 2).
  - c) To join the existing 45 Km trail to the new access route by upgrading a trail adjacent to the Newfoundland Power pole line so forming a closed loop (green on the attached maps 1 and 2).
- (ii) Purpose / Rational Need for the undertaking:

The change of current access point (pink on map1) to north of St. Lawrence opposite the Telecom building (blue on maps 1 & 2), will take the trail away from the municipal water

supply (where it currently crosses the canal and passes alongside The St. Lawrence Town water reservoir). It will then comply with Water Management Regulations. The new trail will minimize the risk of damage to the St Lawrence watershed area, and will offer less risk to the environment and wildlife than that which presently exists.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING:**

### **(i) Geographic Location:**

See attached map number 1 (a combination of St. Lawrence 1L/14 and Marystown 1M/3 maps). The proposed new access to the trail begins immediately west of the Town of St. Lawrence on Route 220 opposite the Aliant telephone building (map reference: 21 621100 m E, 5197905 m N).

### **(ii) Physical Features:**

The trail, as indicated on the maps provided, will be approximately 45 Km in length and will be constructed to a maximum width of 4 m.

### **(iii) Construction:**

The trail is to be built in such a way as to protect the wetlands, streams and wildlife but provide maximum comfort and safety to the users. All major streams will be bridged using untreated timber and where necessary bogland will be corduroyed. Where the trail goes through woodland it will be constructed using manual labour with chainsaws.

The trail, as originally approved in 1994 and shown in yellow on the attached Map 1, is to follow an existing ATV trail however it will require significant new construction to permit closing of the proposed loop. Since most of the trail is located in the St. Lawrence watershed area some of the existing trail will have to be relocated to drier and more suitable ground.

A portion of the trail, on its eastern side, follows an old “woods” road once owned by NF Power (part of a power generation system) to access Strouds Dam. It was abandoned during the 1960s. This section will need boulders removed and general leveling of the road surface. Another section of the trail on the western side of Burnt Woods will be re-located to the woods to get away from wetlands. In many areas the existing trail is extremely muddy and is progressively getting wider as bikers look for drier and more stable conditions to maneuver. Of concern also is the closeness of some portions of the existing trail to wet areas that flow with water during heavy runoff. Many of these areas will be avoided by the proposed modifications.

60-70% of the proposed trail, including the old access roads, is located on dry, rocky ridges and will require the use of an excavator to turn over “moss”, remove boulders and level the bedding. A local contractor with experience in building all-terrain roads has agreed to carry out this work with the help of some volunteer labour. The trail will be

constructed according to provincial laws and follow all environmental and forestry regulations. Permits will be obtained as required.

Work on the trail is to proceed in stages and progress will be governed by funds available.

(iv) Operation:

The trail will provide orderly access by ATV and snowmobiles for recreational riders and existing cabin owners along the route.

(v) Occupants:

The trail will be used by the Proponent (Association membership).

(vi) Project-Related Documents:

A Permit to Occupy for that part of the trail shown in yellow and pink on attached Map 1 (LTO no. E101271, file 1/21789-0, September 23, 1994).

The proponent will require, and has received, permission for thirteen stream crossings (File Reference Number 524, Permit Number ALT1880 – August 12, 2004).

## **APPROVAL OF THE UNDERTAKING:**

The proponent will require (approval pending) a Crown title for the section of trail from Highway 220 to the existing Steel Bridge (File Reference No. 1030456, Application Number 125823 - Permission to Occupy). Approval for the trail and its new extension has been received from the St. Lawrence Town Council.

Other departments of government agencies to which the Lands applications has been forwarded:

Dept. of Environment & Conservation (Lands & Envir. Assessment)  
Dept. of Government Services  
Dept. of Natural Resources (Forestry & Mineral Lands)  
Dept. of Municipal & Provincial Affairs (Urban/Rural Planning)  
Fisheries & Oceans (Fish Habitat Div.)  
Dept. of Environment & Conservation (Water Resources)  
Historic Resources

## **SCHEDULE:**

### **Schedule of Work Proposed**

Step 1: Upgrade the existing “NF Power” road from the dumpsite to the main dam (outside the watershed area and not a part of the trail per se).

Complete: 2004

Step 2: Construct a new trail from Highway 220 (Telephone Building) along western side Ryan’s Hill to the Steel Bridge.

Complete: 2004

Step 3: Upgrade the old “NF Power” road from the main dam towards Strouds Pond.

Complete: 2004

Step 4: Upgrade existing trail from Steel Bridge to southern end of Burnt Woods to new section.

Complete: 2005

Step 5: Cut and construct a new trail through western side of Burnt Woods to the ridge opposite the southern end of Tilt Hill (near Lower Tilt Pond).

Complete: 2005

Step 6: Build new bridge(s) across St. Lawrence River near Strouds Pond

Complete: 2006

Step 7: Construct new trail from Strouds Pond area, along Strouds Ridge and Strouds Hill, to Brown Ridge/Schooner Pond (north end of Wall/Canoe Pond).

Complete: 2007

Step 8: Construct new trail from Wall Pond (north), south along Eastern Rocky Ridge and Bench Moore Pond, to north end of Tilt Hill.

Complete: 2007

Step 9: Construct new trail south, along Eastern Tilt Hill to join the trail at western side of Burnt Woods Ridge (near Lower Tilt Pond). Also, trail from south end of Tilt Hill north along the Western side of Tilt Hill and upgrade old Burnt Woods trail.

Complete: 2008

## **FUNDING:**

The total cost of constructing this ATV/snowmobile trail will be paid by the proponent.

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Date

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Signature of Chief Executive Officer