



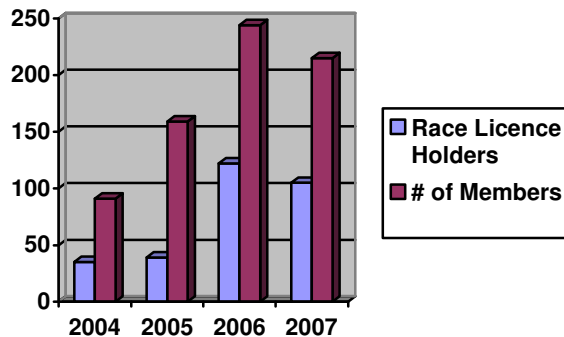
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President's Report
 BNL Annual General Meeting
 Mt. Pearl, Newfoundland and Labrador – December 6, 2007
 &
 Canadian Cycling Association Annual General Meeting
 Calgary, Alberta – December 2, 2007

The 2007 season was a mixture of good and bad. Our memberships numbers have leveled out, possibly due to our young people leaving for greener pastures (green as in money), but we have succeeded in other areas of event growth and cycling advocacy.

First, Bicycle Newfoundland and Labrador (BNL) have managed to keep membership numbers above the 200 mark. While the total membership numbers were down, we did have a lot of people come out and try competitive cycling for the first time (higher than normal one-day event licenses sold, particularly at the Tour de Shore). Second, participation in the Mud Up Cup cross country mountain bike race series decreased this season, but overall participation in other mountain bike events remained high due to the positive levels of interest expressed in the Downhill and Short Track MTB Series. Third, competitive road racing saw its rise to the main stage continue with events on both coasts and the Tour de Shore designated at this year's Atlantic Championships..



The Mud Up Cup events during the 2007 season saw a decline in the number of riders per event. Sanctioned events were again held in a number of locations on the island portion of the province (event locations included St. John's and Corner Brook). Interest in cross-country mountain bike racing this has been coming from the Short Track MTB Series. With upwards of 30-35 participants taking part, a lot of the interest has been coming from new riders are trying competitive cycling for the first



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time. The Short Track MTB Series has turned into a great family event with fathers and sons, mothers and daughters racing together.

The Provincial Downhill Mountain Bike Series was put on hold for this season. It was felt by the Mountain Bike Committee, and endorsed by the Executive, that by allowing other clubs to run their own events/series that they would gain valuable experience that will hopefully lead to a vibrant downhill racing series. Freeride continued their series, which saw an average of 35 participants, while Pedal Force and Tn'T combined to offer events as well on some new tracks. Hopefully, the Mountain Bike Committee can work towards next season to bring together all of the shops and create an enjoying 2008 DH series.

This year's edition of the Provincial Road Series had 4 events in total, taking place on both the East and West coast. Highlights of the past season included the ever popular Tour de Port au Port and the second running of the Tour de Shore, still the richest amateur cycling event in the Atlantic region. The Tour de Shore was also recognized as the 2007 Atlantic Championships, which saw participants from British Columbia, Alberta, Nova Scotia, and our own province compete for \$10,000 in prize money.

Coaching and commissaire courses were in short demand this season. Only one course, Level 1 Road, was offered during the winter months. There were six participants.

On the ever present issue of trail advocacy, BNL, initiated a Cycling Master Plan with the City of St. John's which discuss ways by which the city can become more cycling friendly. The city stepped forth with \$50,000 to hire a consultant to undertake this task. Over the next month or so, the city and the consultant will be holding a public forum to present its report, before making a final presentation to council for approval and adoption.

BNL, once again, has witnessed some great performances by several of its members at National and International events this season. BNL members have performed well at the Road Nationals in Quebec, road events in B.C., Quebec and the Atlantic region. One of the major highlights was Zack Garland winning the u23 ITT at the B.C. Provincial Championships.

As in past years, the greatest challenge that BNL will face in the year to come relates to volunteer support. Over the past few years, BNL has relied on a very small number of volunteers to ensure the effective operation of the organization. BNL needs the assistance of new volunteers. Without the support of new volunteers BNL will not be able to successfully promote the sport of cycling in Newfoundland and Labrador. As a result, BNL will be holding another volunteer appreciation night in the upcoming months, to show its thanks.



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Some of the goals set forth for the 2007 season didn't come to fruition, but I still would like to provide updates and set some new goals for the next executive to try and accomplish. These include:

- *Sprockids – work with other organizations, such as YM-YWCA to offer courses in Grand Falls-Windsor and Corner Brook* – Due to time constraints on our volunteers, we did not offer a full course this year. In the fall, several of our leaders held a two day mini program (over two weekends) to determine interest, and we had 16 kids show up which is a great sign for 2008.
- *Keep expanding our efforts in developing grassroots cycling throughout the province* – We provided almost \$2000 in athlete grants this season, great considering we only receive \$4000 in provincial funding. One of our members also presented the Sprockids program to a conference of Physical Education teachers to determine interest in offering in within the school curriculum.
- *Work with the Atlantic Cycling Centre to identify new talent and help to develop our coaching base* - The new provincial tier program developed by the Atlantic Cycling Centre will be rolled out during the upcoming season to also help in athlete development.
- *Continue to offer commissaire clinics throughout the province* – We dropped the ball on this one, and hopefully we can offer both a road and MTB course in the 2008 season.
- *Offer Road coaching courses throughout the province* – We offered one during the winter months and now have six new Level I coaches.
- *Locating major sponsors for all of BNL's cycling activities* – members of the executive have been successful in locating a major sponsor, that hopefully will be announced in the next few months.
- *To continue providing opportunities for local cyclists to compete at National and International events* – We continue to provide funding for individual athletes, but we do need to start getting teams to these events, not only for the athletes benefit but our coaches as well.
- *To generate renewed interest in the MUD UP Cup Mountain Bike Series* – This is still an issue. Maybe a rebranding of the series is in order.
- *Work on promoting more cycling events in new regions of the province* – This will always be an ongoing task. There is some talk of holding a road event on Bell Island, and downhill in Clarenville and Gander.
- *To establish a cycling club in Labrador* – There is interest there, but there has been some difficulty in identify at least one person with the desire to throw themselves into this task.
- *To work with various municipalities to make the island more cycling friendly, with the ultimate goal of establishing a minimum of one mountain bike park in the province* – The City of St. John's will be completing their plan within the next two months. We hope this will provide the framework for other municipalities to follow suit. The provincial government has also expressed interest in this plan as well.
- *Work on getting cycling as part of the Newfoundland and Labrador Summer Games* – One word, Politics.
- *To work with the Canadian Ski Patrol to educate and train race marshals for mountain bike events* – This goes back to the need for volunteers.



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My special and sincere thanks to the BNL Executive for a job well done during the past cycling season:

Gwyneth Pryse-Phillips, VP - Administration
Amy Pryse-Phillips, VP – Marketing and Communication
Kevin Baldwin, VP - Road
Ross Young, VP – Mountain

I also want to thank all of the people; both within the province and nationally, that I have had the pleasure of working side by side with during my time on the BNL Executive. There are too many to name individually, but you all know who you are. Without these people, cycling in Newfoundland and Labrador would not be what it is today; alive, vibrant and growing towards the future.

Respectfully yours in Cycling,

Leon Organ, President



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