



The inaugural season for Off-Road Ontario (OO) was 2010. The seeds for the creation of OO were sewn throughout the early years of this millennium, but finally germinated in the fall of 2009. To 'get' where OO came from, it is helpful to know what existed before.

For decades, all things motorcycling in Canada fell under the Canadian Motorcycle Association (CMA), which was the national sanctioning body for most any form of motorcycle racing. For purposes of administration, the country was, and still is, divided up into regions – some just one province, like Ontario or Quebec Region and others like the Atlantic Region, consisting of all Maritime Provinces.

The National office and the Ontario Region were operated out of Hamilton. The CMA BOD consisted of elected volunteer directors from each region, and one of those directors was chosen by the Board to be the President. There was a paid National General Manager and very small staff. Within the regions, there were volunteer committees to direct the motorcycling agendas of those regions. Competition in Ontario was overseen by the Ontario Region Competition Committee. On that committee, there were elected or acclaimed representatives from the various racing disciplines such as dirt track, trials, motocross, road racing and off-road.

Commencing in the late 1970s, promoting clubs and riders alike began to sense a degree of dysfunction in the way regional and national racing was governed. Those with expertise in specific genres of racing felt restricted by the generalist nature of CMA leadership and its racing model. One by one, not in conjunction with each other, and sometimes years apart, motocross, then road racing, trials and some dirt track organizations formed their independent organizations.

The Ontario off-road clubs were reluctant to abandon the CMA, which has a proud and respected history, which includes years of ISDE and formerly ISDT participation. These clubs, who had traditionally hosted CMA hare scrambles and enduros had witnessed reduced enthusiasm for, and participation in, both types of off-road competition. At year-end review meetings of the CMA promoting clubs in both 2008 and 2009, the feeling was expressed that change was required to inject some life into our Ontario series. Some tweaks could be made by the individual clubs hosting events, but most clubs felt there needed to be some administrative changes in the CMA/club

relationship to help promote our racing. When almost divine intervention was required to get the CMA to accept the term "Cross Country Race" instead of "Hare Scramble", we knew that we didn't have much chance of getting CMA buy-in for some of our other suggestions.

The big difference between the fall of 2009 and previous years was that one club, the Oshawa Competition Motorcycle Club (OCMC), showed up at the fall CMA review, with an alternate plan, should the CMA again reject our suggestions. When CMA leadership advised us that our requests, with the exception of the hare scramble name change, could not be accepted, Off-Road Ontario was formed. Without the forethought and groundwork of Bill Watson, supported by his club, OCMC, OO likely could not have taken flight for the 2010 season.

Below, copied from the FAQ section of this website, is the mandate, or mission statement, or raison d'être of OO. It has existed from the beginning, with minimal change.

Off-Road Ontario is a not-for-profit cooperative of local clubs and race organizers throughout the province working together to bring you top caliber off road racing.

The objective of Off-Road Ontario is to offer a Provincial Series of family friendly off-road motorcycle racing events. Our class structure is designed to facilitate learning and enjoying the sport at any age, gender or level of experience.

The competition is designed to create just the right challenge for anyone from Trail Rider to Pro racer.

We are still a club based organization, but we have tried to make room for independent promoters, while operating primarily on volunteer manpower. Where we go from here is largely up to our members, at least the ones prepared to invest their time in the organization. In the words of a very good friend, "The world is run by those who show up." So if you would like to help guide OO in to the future, let the current executive know. Opinions are good; workers are even better!