



The Junction Journal

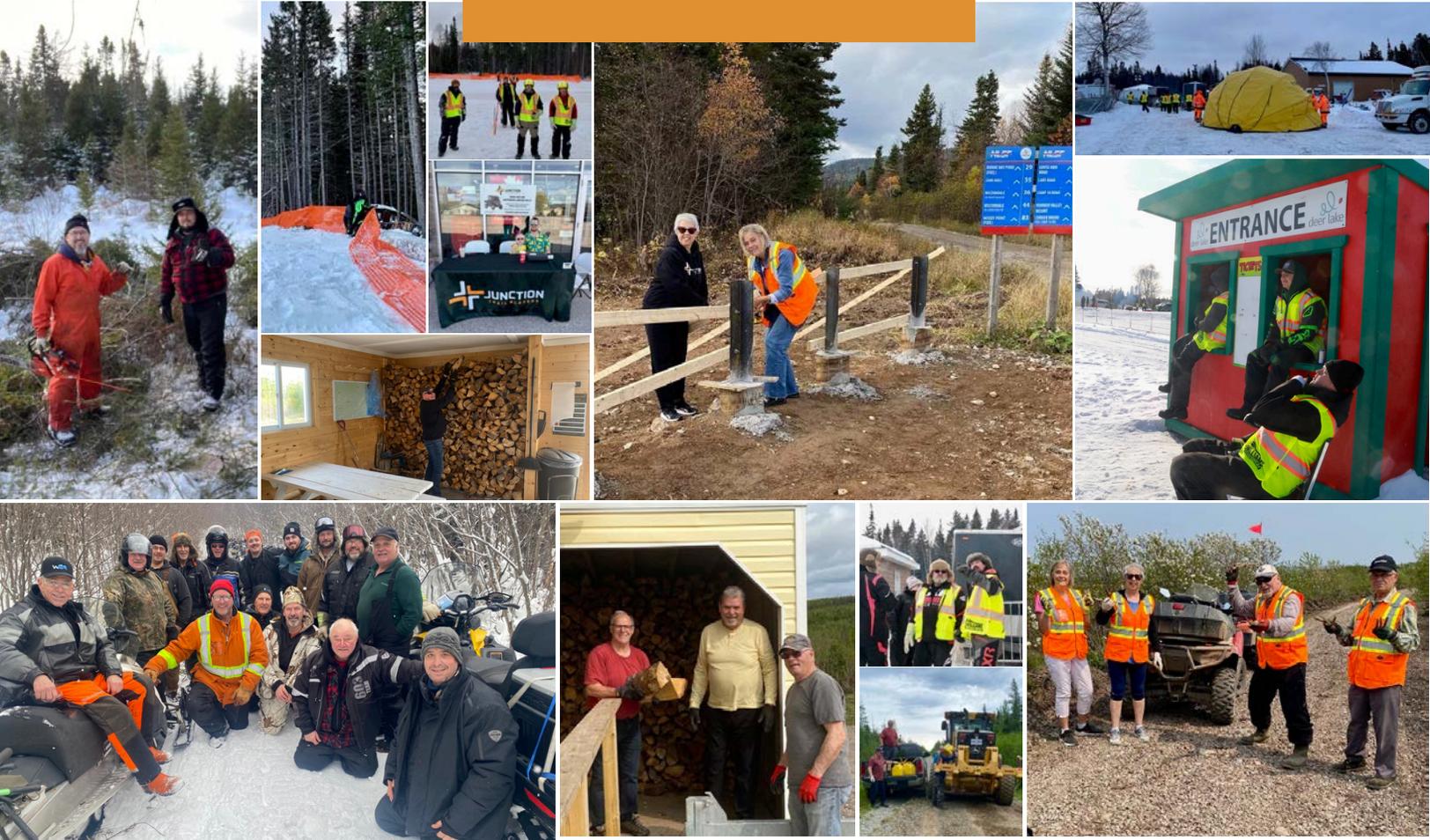
What's Inside

Volunteer Spotlights
Trail Upgrades
Community Events
Partnerships & Local
Support

**Growth. Trails.
Community Impact.**

*powered by volunteers.
built for community.*

Trailblazing Together



Behind Every Milestone, There's a Team

This year's newsletter is more than a recap, it's a celebration of the people who make everything possible. From the first trail upgrade of the year to the final event wrap-up, our volunteers were the engine that kept everything moving. Their dedication shaped every upgrade, every event and every milestone. Whether hauling firewood to a warm-up shelter,

organizing the Race on the Humber with only days to prepare or greeting families at the Kids' Snow Adventure, they turned ideas into reality and brought our community together in the process.

Thanks to our volunteers, partners, riders and supporters, 2025 was a year defined by momentum and connection. We hope these pages remind you of the impact a passionate community can have, and inspire excitement for the adventures still ahead.

— The JTB Team

Board of Directors

President Wade Short

Vice-President Colin Butt

Secretary Theresa Short

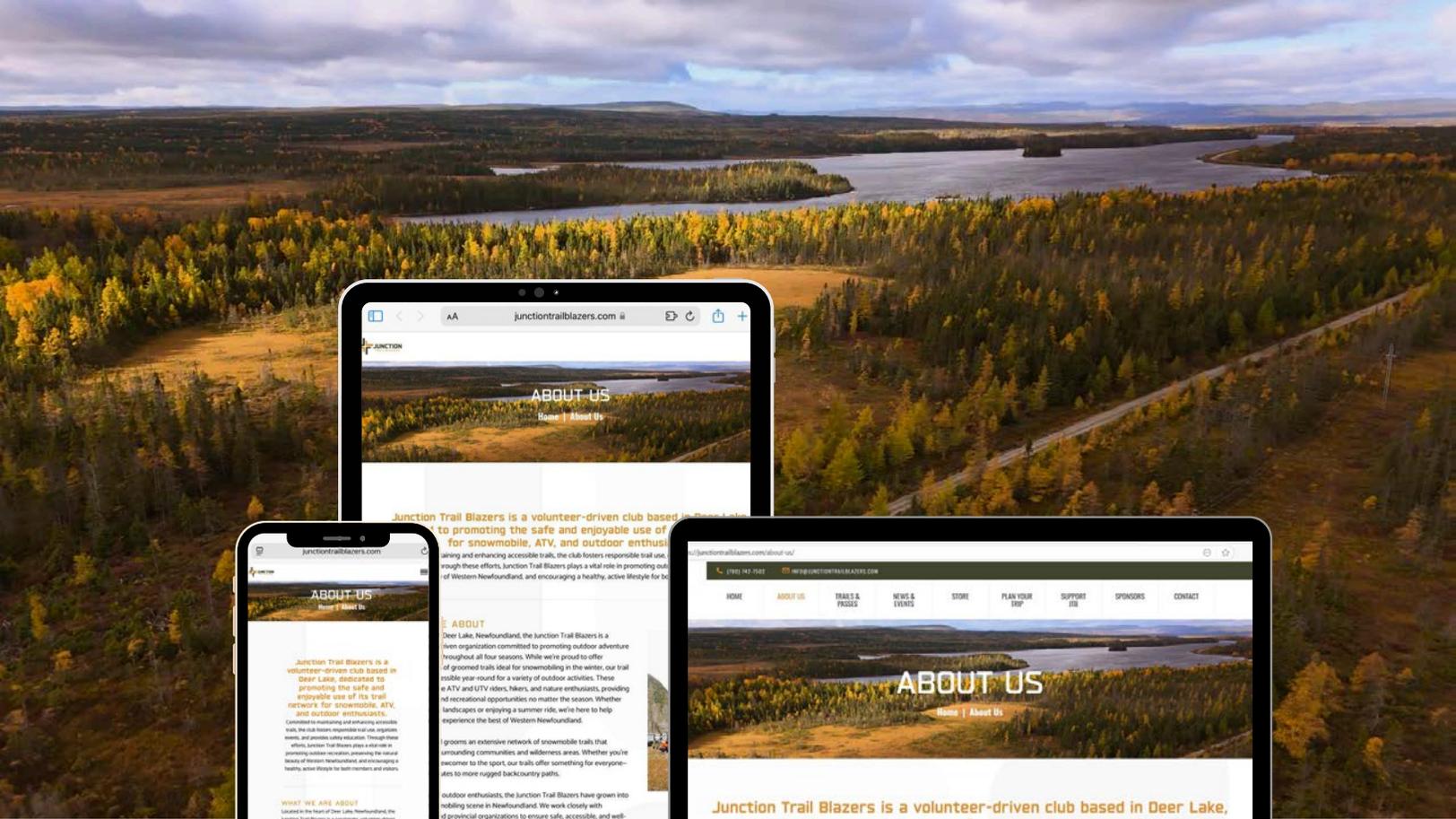
Treasurer Brendan Ropson

Race Director Gordon Toope

Groomer Coordinator Kevin Hayden

Directors Garry Pinksen,
Jessica Spencer, Katelyn Osmond

Past Directors Rose Atkinson,
Paul Watkins, Bruce Yates



VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

Explore. Discover. Stay connected.

junctiontrailblazers.com

About Us



Shop JTB Merch



WEBSITE FEATURES

- Grooming reports & trail upgrades
- Event announcements and news

TRIP PLANNING TOOLS

- Interactive maps
- Trip planning resources

GET INVOLVED

- Volunteer & sponsorship opportunities
- Connect with our team

Trail Upgrades

Deer Lake to Pasadena Trail: In partnership with Western Sno-Riders (WSR), volunteers cleared 4 km of alders, opening up a smooth, safe route ready for grooming.

Deer Lake to Howley Railbed: The 25 km railbed from Mayor Avenue in Deer Lake to Howley has been fully graded. Volunteers also walked the full distance and removed an impressive 867 railway spikes along the route.

Insectarium Trail: A section of the Insectarium Trail south of the underpass near Cormack Esso has been repaired and the culvert replaced to improve drainage.

Bonne Bay Pond Trail: A former snowmobile-only 4 km section from Grindstone Road heading north to the newly constructed highway crossing at Route 430 has been upgraded into a year-round multi-use trail. A lookout rest area has been added, with trail signage and benches coming soon to complete the improvements. Beyond the highway crossing, an additional 2

km segment received alder removal, ditch cleanup and a culvert installation.

Jackladder Trail: 6 km of trail has been mulched and graded, creating a smoother and more accessible route.

Incinerator & North Lake Road: A 12 km stretch, including Incinerator Road and part of North Lake Road, has been graded to improve trail conditions and ensure a smoother ride for all users.

Sinkhole Warm-Up Shelter: The Sinkhole shelter has been freshened up and made winter-ready, improving comfort and usability for riders.

JTB Clubhouse & Race Center: Mulching has been completed around the JTB Clubhouse and Race Center, creating a new and improved race pit area ahead of the winter season.

Mary Ann Trail & Warm-Up Shelter: A 2 km section of Mary Ann Trail between the TCH and Dolf Diamond Road has been mulched, and nearly 1 km of road from the TCH to the Mary Ann Bog shelter has

been ditched and repaired, improving visibility and access. The warm-up shelter also received major upgrades including new foundation posts, a rebuilt deck, a raised and aligned wood shed, a new warming rack and a full stock of firewood. Final touches including siding and a new outhouse, are planned for Spring 2026.

Wiltondale Trail: A 2 km section between Whitewash Road and Route 430 has been widened, ditched and mulched, creating a safer year-round multi-use trail. An additional 0.5 km leading into Wiltondale was upgraded to allow for safer groomer operations.

As we wrap up this season's trail work, we want to acknowledge the support behind it, especially from **BlackStar Solutions Inc.** Their equipment has played a major part in what we've accomplished. Colin Butt, owner/operator of BlackStar and a member of our Board of Directors, provides equipment whenever it's needed, without hesitation and never expecting anything in return. We're grateful for all BlackStar contributes to our trail system.



Support the sport. Support the trails.

Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers, partners, contractors and supporters, over 57 km of trail were upgraded this year.

“More than 57 km of trail improvements this year represent progress not just for the trails, but for every rider, every family, and every community connected by our network, today and for generations to come,” said Wade Short, JTB President.

To keep this momentum going, JTB is once again offering the Off-Road Supporter Sticker. With a minimum \$20 donation, you'll receive the exclusive sticker and directly support future trail projects.

We also thank the Newfoundland & Labrador Snowmobile Federation (NLSF) for their \$14,000 contribution toward this season's upgrades. When you purchase a NLSF snowmobile trail pass, a portion of those funds come back to clubs like ours to support projects that benefit snowmobilers, ATVers, hikers, bikers and all trail users.

Whether you ride an ATV, SXS, pickup, or snowmobile, your support helps keep our trail network strong.



Scan to see all
sticker purchase
locations



“MORE THAN 57 KM OF TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS THIS YEAR REPRESENT PROGRESS NOT JUST FOR THE TRAILS, BUT FOR EVERY RIDER, EVERY FAMILY, AND EVERY COMMUNITY CONNECTED BY OUR NETWORK, TODAY AND FOR GENERATIONS TO COME”

Volunteer Spotlight: Wade & Theresa Short

Celebrating dedication, leadership and community spirit.

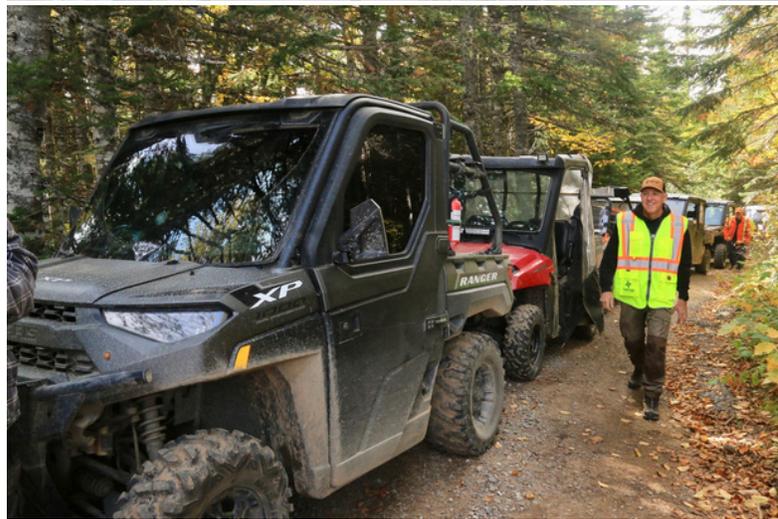
This season, a special moment took place for our club. Wade and Theresa Short were named the 2024-25 Kevin Sweetland Volunteer of the Year by the Newfoundland & Labrador Snowmobile Federation.

For those who know them, this recognition comes as no surprise.

Wade and Theresa are the heart of the Junction Trail Blazers. Anyone who has crossed paths with them on the trail or during an event knows how much time and energy they pour into the club. Together, they support trail development, organize rides and fundraisers, help local groups and keep our members connected through communication and community outreach. Their dedication has helped the club grow into what it is today.

As President and Secretary, they lead by example, not only with their time, but with their passion for the outdoors, a commitment to safety and a genuine desire to build community through recreation.

We are proud to see their efforts recognized at the provincial level. Thank you, Wade and Theresa, for everything you do for JTB and for our community.



Full Throttle: The Race That Brought a Community Together



It all started with a simple call for help, just eight days before race day. In less than 24 hours over 40 volunteers filled a room at Pizza Delight to map out what needed to be done and from that point on the momentum never slowed. Equipment, time and support poured in from the community, and within days the fencing was up, shelters were built and the track was taking shape.

When race day arrived, racers from across the province lined up for Race on the Humber snowmobile drag races, bringing speed, excitement and a full day of winter action to Deer Lake. The 120cc and 200cc kids' classes kicked off the event, stealing the show and proving the future of the sport is bright.

Spectators filled the sidelines as volunteers kept everything running smoothly behind the scenes, clearing snow, managing staging, and keeping the track safe. Local businesses stepped up with equipment, services, food and more, showing once again what can happen when a community comes together.

Congratulations to all racers and to the class winners who crossed the finish line first. And a special shout-out to Team Arctic West, this year's "King of the Humber."

What began as a last-minute challenge became a standout success, powered by teamwork, determination and community spirit.

Season Snapshots

Reflecting on a season of progress, milestone moments and hard work that keeps JTB's trails thriving.

Annual General Meeting

On January 22, 2025, nearly 50 members gathered in Deer Lake for our Annual General Meeting, a successful evening filled with energy, great conversation and excitement for the season ahead.



Year-Round Staging Area Now Available

This season, we introduced a convenient new staging area on High Street, offering level ground, a loading ramp and immediate trail access. Perfect for snowmobiles, ATVs, UTVs and dirt bikes. Thank you to George Foley and Murdock Critch for installing the ramp.



Winterfest Drag Races

Just two weeks after Race on the Humber, the 1st Annual Winterfest Drag Races brought another unforgettable day of action.



Can-Am Defender Fundraiser

Congratulations to Tony Fitzgerald of St. John's, winner of the 2025 Can-Am Defender Limited HD10! This fundraiser helps maintain our trails and keeps JTB's multi-use network strong, safe and ready for every adventure ahead.



Decades of Dedication

Every great trail has a story behind it, and for JTB, few stories run deeper than those of Byron Hutchcroft and Steve Hancock, two long-time volunteers who have been shaping our trail system for decades.

As seen in the newspaper photo from February 1998, Byron (seated in the groomer) and Steve (second from left) have been part of our story for many years. Fast forward to today — they're still making a difference, pictured here operating the NLSF excavator with mulch head to carry out trail upgrades.

Their dedication, experience and love for the outdoors continue to make a lasting impact on every rider who explores our network.



Levon Williams, president, Junction Trail Blazers, Steve Hancock, vice-president, Newfoundland and Labrador Snowmobile Federation, Byron Hutchcroft, volunteer and Fran Thomas, treasurer of the Junction Trail Blazers are anxiously waiting to try out their new snow groomer. The group will soon be travelling to the Grosvenors in Goose Arm to begin grooming the last of this winter's snow.

Junction Trail Blazers ready for grooming



Community and Business Partnerships

This season was all about connection, strengthening relationships, building new ones and recognizing the partnerships that make our trails stronger. From teamwork and shared initiatives to fresh branding and new projects, here is a look at a few milestones we are proud of.

Trailhead Sign Redesign & New Maps

This season brought a full refresh to our trailhead signage with updated maps, improved wayfinding, a new corporate sponsor display and three additional sponsor signs. The project was carried out in partnership with the Town of Deer Lake, making our trails more welcoming and easier to navigate.



Andrew Strangemore has been appointed as our official liaison with the Town of Deer Lake to support ongoing coordination and partnership efforts.

Future of Community Winter Trails in Deer Lake

A new chapter for winter recreation began this year as the club partnered with the Town of Deer Lake and the Newfoundland & Labrador Snowmobile Federation (NLSF) to launch community trail grooming.

The NLSF provided a tow-behind groomer, the Town supplied a snowmobile, and JTB volunteers will lead grooming and maintenance. This initiative enhances access to the provincial trail network and creates new opportunities for activities such as snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

Special thanks to Wreckless Wraps for the custom snowmobile wrap showcasing all three partners.



Branding Video Launch

In partnership with the Town of Deer Lake and several local businesses, we launched JTB's branding video, highlighting our trails, our community and what we stand for.



JTB Merch Has a New Home!

You can now grab your favorite JTB merch at Byron's! Thanks to owner/operator Janice Ryan for giving us a home on the retail shelves. A big thank you as well to Sea Salt & Twig for creating the custom display — it's handcrafted, stylish, and showcases our merch beautifully. Need a warm hoodie or a hat for your next ride? You know where to go.



Community Support and Giving Back

Making a difference, beyond the trails.



Supporting our community is at the heart of who we are as the Junction Trail Blazers. Whether it's ensuring safety on the trails, helping local families, or backing youth programs, we believe strong communities are built by showing up together.

This year, JTB contributed \$1,000 to **Deer Lake Regional Search & Rescue**, recognizing the vital work they do in keeping outdoor users safe. While our volunteers maintain and improve the trail network year-round, Search & Rescue is the team that answers the call when someone needs help in the backcountry. Their dedication and expertise remain essential to our region.

We were also proud to take part in the 10th Annual **Smash Up For MS**,

a community event supporting families affected by MS. Leading up to the derby, we ran a hoodie promotion at Byron's, where the first 10 buyers received free admission, and the response was outstanding. We were thrilled to see Brittany Street chosen as one of this year's recipients. Her positivity and strength continue to inspire everyone around her. Following the event, JTB donated \$600 to the initiative.

In February, the JTB Clubhouse & Race Centre came alive with families during our **Kids' Snow Adventure & Winter Warm-Up**. Children enjoyed snowmobile rides, hot chocolate, s'mores and learned about safe riding thanks to Dion Newman with Forestry Safety Association NL. With the

support of volunteers and generous sponsors, funds were raised for the **Elwood Elementary Breakfast Program**, helping ensure students start their day fueled and ready to learn.

Throughout the year, we also supported several meaningful local organizations and programs, including the **Deer Lake Food Bank**, **The Haven of Rest**, the **U16 AAA Western Kings** hockey team and the 48th Annual **Jim Feltham Elwood Invitational**, marking our second year contributing to this longstanding community tradition.

From trails to town, everything we do comes down to helping where it matters. We're proud to support others and make a difference together.

OUR SPONSORS

building better
trails, together.

learn more



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



TRAIL BLAZER PARTNERS

Adam's Electrical Contracting Inc.
Back County Supply
Bella Rae Variety
Big Stop Restaurant Deer Lake
BlackStar Solutions Inc.
Bonne Bay Recreation
Byron's Outpost
Carol Anstey/REMAX
Colemans Grocery
Cormack Esso
Countryside Abattoir
Curtis Powerworks Inc.
David Parsons
Dean Ball
Deer Lake Foodland
Deer Lake Home Hardware & Powersports
Deer Lake Regional Airport Authority
Deer Lake Regional Search & Rescue
Donald Cross
Goodfellow
Harbour Seafoods Fish Market
Howley Shopping Center
Keegan O'Toole & Marlie Hayden
Langers Sports Bar
Lawton Drugs Deer Lake
Major's Logging
Marine Contractors Inc.
NLSF
Pike's Service Station & Trucking Ltd.
Pizza Delight Deer Lake
Premium Enterprises Ltd.
Q.N.H. Excavating & Landscaping
Rapid Power Sports
Ridgeview Contracting Ltd.
Roxanne Ryland Photography
Royal Canadian Legion Deer Lake Branch #3
Sea Salt & Twig
Shoppers Drug Mart Deer Lake
Ted Noble
The Family Treehouse Resource Center
The Jackladder
Tim Horton's Deer Lake
Tow Fast Inc.
Williams' Building Supplies
Yates & Woods Surveyors Ltd.

thank you for your support.

STAY CONNECTED

Follow Us 

see you
on the trails.

 info@junctiontrailblazers.com |  780-742-7502 |  junctiontrailblazers.com