

To: JYD Cycling Club Members

From: Gary Bergen, President

Date: March 19, 2025

Subject: 2025 AGM - JYD Cycling Club President's Report

Club Success in 2024

Portage Junk Yard Dogs Inc. had another successful year in 2024, thanks to the dedication of our members and volunteers. Membership fees brought in \$9,556, supporting our cycling, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing programs. JYD remains one of the largest and most financially self-sufficient recreation clubs in Manitoba.

We currently have **322 active memberships**, with approximately **95% of members residing in the Portage la Prairie area**. Most memberships are family-based, highlighting the strong community and family-oriented nature of our club. These numbers confirm that we are meeting a real need and providing activities that families value and enjoy.

Activity Park Project and Grand Opening

A major milestone for the club has been the development of the **Activity Park** in partnership with the City of Portage la Prairie. JYD contributed **\$10,000 in seed funding** to launch the project, and the excitement quickly spread. In the past year, the trails and park features were **completed and are now actively used** year-round, including:

- **A bike park**
- **Accessible hiking trails**
- **An upgraded toboggan run**

We are now preparing for the **Grand Opening Celebration on May 31, 2025**. Mark your calendars—this will be a great event for our club and the community!

Looking ahead, we will complete the **final phase** of the project, which includes:

- **A trailhead with accessible toilet facilities and picnic shelters**
- **Ongoing maintenance** and fine-tuning of trail features

The great news is that our remaining funds appear sufficient to complete this phase.

Kids of Mud (KOM) Program

While JYD is not currently running a **Kids of Mud (KOM) program**, we have successfully done so in the past, thanks to Chad and Cara Gillis. We hope to **revive this program next year**, and we encourage members who are interested in helping to reach out.

KOM benefits young riders by:

- ✓ Teaching **bike handling and control**
- ✓ Encouraging **teamwork and socialization**
- ✓ Promoting **trail stewardship and respect for our environment**

Acknowledgements and Thank You

JYD thrives because of its **dedicated board members, volunteers, and fundraising teams**. I want to extend my gratitude to:

Board of Directors

- **Gary Bergen** – President
- **Chris Kitchen** – Vice President
- **Patrick Guerreiro** – Secretary
- **Kelly Folley** – Treasurer
- **Chad Gillis** – Trails Coordinator
- **Rosemarie Holtmann** – Portage Active Transportation & Bike Week Committees Rep
- **Brett Finney**
- **Jeff Skinner**

Activity Park Fundraising Committee (*Now disbanded after a job well done!*)

- **Chris Kitchen**
- **Natasha Ralph**
- **Jason Green**
- **James Galston**

A huge thank-you also goes out to **all the volunteers** who build and maintain trails, mow grass, remove deadfall, groom ski and cycling trails, upgrade features, and reroute trails when the river decides to shift course.

Looking Forward

JYD continues to grow and evolve, and the upcoming year promises to be exciting. Your participation makes everything we do possible. **Thank you for being part of this great club!**

Sincerely,

Gary Bergen

President, JYD Cycling Club

