

## **News Item**

**VOLUNTARY PLANNING... A CITIZENS' POLICY FORUM** operates arm's length to the Government of Nova Scotia, with a mandate to engage non-governmental volunteers and citizens in policy discussions important to the future of the province.

In March 2003, the Province of Nova Scotia asked Voluntary Planning to help develop public policy on the complex issues related to off-highway vehicle use in Nova Scotia. To carry out this comprehensive review, an 11-member volunteer Task Force was created, with membership selected to represent the relevant subject areas and geographic regions of the province.

After working for a year; contributing over 1000 person-days of volunteer time; holding 24 community hall meetings; meeting with over 30 stakeholder organizations; issuing a discussion paper, an interim report and a final report; reviewing over 2500 written submissions; and meeting for more than a dozen times - the Task Force reached a strong consensus on policy recommendations to government.

Nova Scotia's, Voluntary Planning and Government learned a great deal together as the issues were debated in over 300 newspaper articles and numerous radio or television broadcasts from the beginning to the end of the project.

For additional information on the Voluntary Planning organization and its Off-highway Vehicle Task Force, please visit our website at [www.gov.ns.ca/vp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/vp).