

# ROV/SIDE BY SIDE USE IN THE CITY OF KAWARTHA LAKES

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# WHO ARE WE AND WHY ARE WE HERE?

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- We represent the Somerville Forest Committee who have been working for several months on a proposal to allow the use of ROV's commonly referred to as side by sides in the Somerville Forest and a portion of the Victoria Rail Trail north of Fenelon Falls on a trial one year basis. Our proposal will address the following areas:
  - Restricted access to specific trails
  - Enforcement on the trails
  - Trail signage
  - Proposed changes to bylaws
  - Machine width restrictions
  - Creating a safety centered environment and benefiting both riders and non-riders

TODAY - THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE MUNICIPALITIES WHICH CURRENTLY ALLOW SIDE BY SIDES TO ACCESS THE SAME ROADS AND TRAILS AS ATVS ARE ALLOWED TO ACCESS:

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- Haliburton County – *they are allowed on ALL county roads and trails with the exception of the Haliburton Rail trail. They are going to revisit this in the spring to look at allowing them on the rail bed as well.*
- Trent Lakes – *they are allowed on ALL roads and trails with the exception of Cty Rd #36 and Cty Rd #49 as they are Peterborough County Rds and we have not yet approached them for access.*
- Township of North Kawartha – *allowed on all municipal roads and trails*
- Ramara Township – *allowed on all municipal roads and trails*
- Ganaraska Forest
- Municipality of Highlands East

# MUNICIPALITIES CONTINUED:

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- Simcoe County Forest and roads
- Wasaga Beach
- Clearview township
- Springwater township
- Severn Township
- Adjala-Tossorontio
- Lennox & Addington Hastings and Frontenac Counties.
- Municipality of West Grey allows sxs and Utv's on all maintain roads and trails in West Grey

# MUNICIPALITIES CONTINUED:

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- Municipality of Hastings Highlands
- Town of Bancroft
- Township of Faraday
- Township of Carlow Mayo
- Township of Tudor & Cashel
- Township of Limerick
- Township of Wollaston
- Township of Madawaska Valley

# MUNICIPALITIES CONTINUED:

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- Township of Killaloe, Hagarty & Richards
- Township of Brudenell, Lyndock & Raglan
- Township of Addington Highlands
- Township of Laurentian Hills
- Township of Greater Madawaska
- Township of Admaston/Bromley
- Township of Horton
- Township of Renfrew

# MUNICIPALITIES CONTINUED:

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- Township of McNab-Braeside
- Town of Arnprior
- Township of Montague
- Township of North Frontenac
- Township of Tay Valley
- Township of Central Frontenac
- Township of South Frontenac
- Lennox and Addington County

# MUNICIPALITIES CONTINUED:

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- Municipality of Marmora & Lake
- Township of Madoc
- Municipality of Tweed
- Township of Stirling-Rawdon
- Municipality of Centre Hastings
- Township of Tyendinaga
- Quinte West – Just N of 401
- Township of Stone Mills

# MUNICIPALITIES CONTINUED:

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- Town of Greater Napanee
- Loyalist Township
- Prince Edward County
- Township of Cramahe
- Township of Alnwick-Haldimand
- Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen

Since this presentation was put together, additional municipalities have passed bylaws allowing ATVs and side by sides on roads and trails

# TODAY – IN REALITY

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- The sales of side by sides are surpassing the sales of ATVs at a rapid rate as they allow families to travel together on one machine
- Riders are riding illegally because they just don't know the bylaws are different for side by sides
- In the US, for every one ATV sold through a dealership, three side by sides are sold
- As the recreational ATV rider population ages they will eventually purchase a side by side as it allows them to continue to participate in the sport as it's easier for them to operate



# WE WANT TO:

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- Educate and Regulate Riders within the municipality
  - Awareness & training programs; trail signs, usage, enforcement,
- Instill a culture of safety for all ages
- Maintain safe multi-user trails that can be used by riders and non-riders
- Create an opportunity for increased tourism and ORV related commerce in the municipality



# HOW?

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- Amend the current 2 bylaws
  - One to allow controlled access to municipal roads and properties for ORVs
  - Second to define the legal use and regulation of the multi-use trails
- Better enforcement on trails and roads
- Install trail signs to better identify the trail system while also adding to the safety on the trails, signs that can be used by all trail user groups

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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- The Committee is recommending a 7 month trial period of ROV's on the VRTC, subject to resolution of the issues identified in this summary.
- The Committee is also recommending that the Somerville Tract be included in the trial route. It is not possible to restrict access of ROV's from the Somerville Tract. There is insufficient gates/barriers and far too many uncontrolled access points to provide en-forceable, restricted access. Instead, it is hoped that By-Law/OPP enforcement, signage and trail enhancements can address many of the concerns raised by the user groups

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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- It is a recommendation of the Committee that ROV's not be permitted on the VRTC south of Northline Road. The proposed route would direct ROV's south on Northline Road to County Road 21 (121), West on 21 to Fenelon Falls, through Fenelon Falls to Elliot Street, east to Murray Street to the VRTC. This prevents additional traffic through the residential areas along the east shore of Cameron Lake and Fenelon Falls. Proper signage will re-direct ROV's off the VRTC at Northline Rd.

# COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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- For the purposes of the ROV trial period the Committee suggests that ROV's be permitted only from Murray Street and the VRTC in Fenelon Falls, and north on the VRTC to the Haliburton County/ CoKL boundary at Kinmount, including the Somerville Tract Forest.
- The committee recommends a maximum width restriction of 64" for all ROV's permitted on the trails.
- The committee recommends that all roads in the City of Kawartha Lakes that are currently open to ATV use also allow ROV use

# COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

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- As this request is for a trial period, it is cost prohibitive to restructure or replace all the gates on the VRTC north from Northline Rd to Kinmount
- The committee recommends that all gates on the VRTC from Northline Rd to Kinmount be opened up, as they are during the snowmobile season to allow the ROVs to safely pass through them
- The committee suggests that a few gates, in key areas to be identified by city staff, be restructured so that they can prevent ROVs larger than 64 inches, or other vehicles such as trucks and cars, from entering the trail system during the trial period.

# TRAIL SIGNAGE

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- The Somerville Forest Committee formed a sub-committee to come up with a plan to install trail user signs onto the VRTC, in the Somerville Forest and all adjacent staging areas and trailheads.

# STAGING AREAS AND TRAILHEADS

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To provide information signs at each staging area and trailhead that would include the following information:

Welcome all visitors to the trails



# STAGING AREAS AND TRAILHEADS – RISK MANAGEMENT

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- To identify trail level of difficulty
- Permitted and prohibited uses
- A large map of the trail system identifying current location
- GPS coordinates
- Identify bylaws and fines for misuse
- QR code and web address for online mapping



# GATE SIGNAGE

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- Possibly identify each trail with colour coded gates based on permitted use
- Bylaw and fines to be referenced on the gates
- Permitted/prohibited uses to be identified on the gates
- GPS coordinates for emergency use



Correct dates would be as per the bylaw

# SOMERVILLE TRACT

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Carbonite sign posts to be installed in the tract to identify the following:

- Trail number
- Level of difficulty
- Permitted/prohibited use
- GPS Coordinates – for emergency services
- QR Code



# MULTI USE TRAIL SIGNS

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These signs allow us the ability to use one sign post for all trail user groups with the exception of the OFSC.

Each group would identify themselves by putting their own logo on the post and the numbering system is universal and the same numbers can be used by each group on their own maps or on one tourism map for the City of Kawartha Lakes



# ADDITIONAL SIGNAGE WILL BE USED AS NEEDED

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Additional signs to be placed at Northline Road and Murray Street, including a map, to clearly identify the route through Fenelon Falls.



# SEASONAL SIGNAGE TO PROTECT THE TRAILS

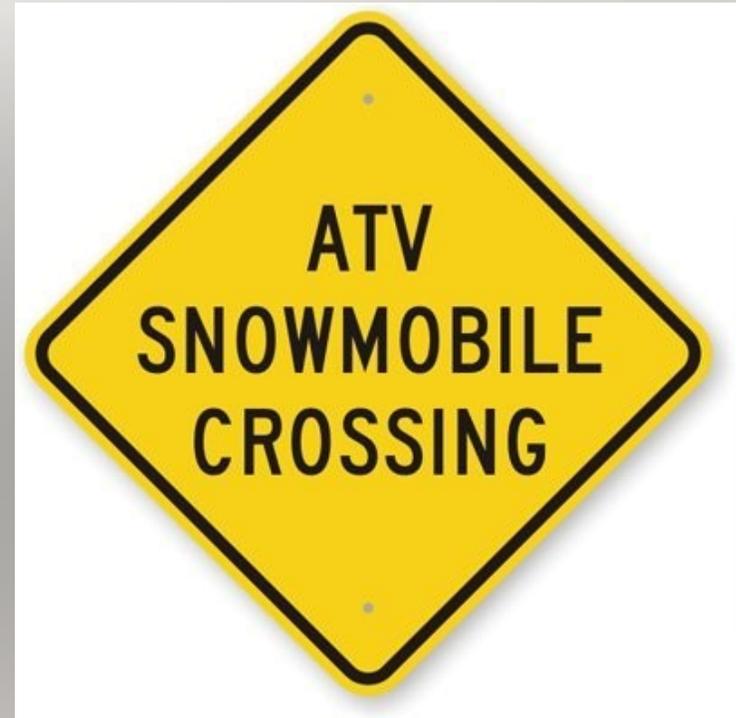
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# ROADS AND TRAILS

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- Road signs need to be installed to identify trail crossings
- Trail signs to be installed to identify road crossings
- Currently none of these signs exist for motorized use trails



# HISTORICAL SIGNAGE

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The Somerville Forest committee will delegate individuals to work with the municipality to identify points of interest throughout the trail system where signage would benefit the visitors by identifying areas with a historical or cultural significance



# BYLAWS

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The committee reviewed and is recommending edits to the existing bylaws to address the following:

- minimum age and size requirements for passengers on ATVs, ROVs and Off-Road motorcycles
- Minimum age requirements to operate and ATV, ROV or Off-Road motorcycles on the trails
- The use of seatbelts in ROVs
- The addition of ROVs into the existing bylaws
- Hours of operation on the trails

# ENFORCEMENT

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- The committee has determined that there is a need for at least 6 hours a week for 20 weeks of the year, with the emphasis on weekends in March, April and May. Also random weekends throughout the season, in particular holiday weekends.
- The policy of By-law officers volunteering to do trail enforcements in the Somerville Tract and on the VRTC is not sustainable. They should be assigned /directed to these duties as with any other duty.

# ENFORCEMENT

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- The By-law department has the option of assigning two officers together to patrol the trails or assign one officer to accompany a member of the KATVA trail patrol wardens.
- KATVA will commit to offering the services of trail patrol wardens to accompany By-law officers as needed.

# ENFORCEMENT

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- If the By-law department does not have the resources to schedule patrols on a consistent basis, other options for enforcement will have to be considered.
- Currently in the Simcoe County Forest, the municipality partners with the ATV association as well as the off road motorcycle association to share the costs of paid duty OPP officers to patrol the trails when the By-law officer is not available
- The intent of regular enforcement is risk management – to make sure the trails are safe for all users

# IN SUMMARY - BENEFITS TO THE MUNICIPALITY

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- Addresses the requests of the residents, cottagers and visitors
- Addresses the safety and regulates the usage of ROVs in the municipality
- Enhances the Trail System
- Adds better emergency protection to surrounding trails and properties
- Potential tourism and related economic benefits

# COMMITMENT FROM KATVA

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- KATVA has agreed to cover all costs associated with new trail signage or updating existing signs
- KATVA will install and maintain all the carbonite signs within the forest
- KATVA will continue to patrol the trails - the current trail patrol team has 32 volunteers who warden the trails during the riding season keeping the trails safe for all users
- KATVA will commit to paying a portion of the costs for paid duty officers if required
- KATVA will provide the Burnt River firehall with a full equipped ROV to be used by first responders once the trial period has been passed and if council approves the long term access for ROVs on the trails

# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

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