



KAWARTHA LAKES POLICE SERVICE

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Off Road Vehicle Task Force

Attention: Councilor Pat Dunn (Task Force Chair)

Sent via email

Councilor Dunn, members of the ORV Task Force and Kawartha Lakes Council:

Thank you for your March 24 correspondence, inviting comment from the Kawartha Lakes Police Service (KLPS) on the ORV Task Force recommendations.

As our elected representatives, Council for the City of Kawartha Lakes is responsible for establishing public policy at the municipal level. The Police Service respects that role and will support any decision by Council to the best of our ability. The following information is submitted to assist council in their deliberations and ultimate decision.

KLPS has reviewed the recommended travel routes that would allow recreational ATV riders to follow a road route through Lindsay and connect the Northern trail head to the Southern trail head. We recognize the concerns regarding the combination of ATV's, regular motor vehicles and pedestrians on busy roadways. In particular, ATV's that are limited to 20 km/h and sharing the roadway with motor vehicles travelling at 50 km/h, is an area of concern. We also acknowledge that any route through Lindsay will inevitably require some access to these roadways.

If a road route(s) through Lindsay is approved, proper management will be an important consideration to ensure public safety. Whether education and enforcement are the responsibility of police, by-law, volunteer trail wardens or a combination of these resources, it is important that the associated risks are properly mitigated. Those risk factors include speed, underage use, and failing to use proper safety equipment.

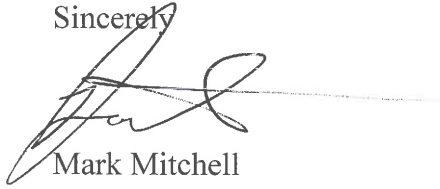
Council should be aware that KLPS does not currently have its own off-road vehicles to provide a motorized presence on the trail system. If the intended purpose of the recommendations is to increase the volume of ATV's coming to Lindsay, Council may wish to make a request to the KLPS Police Services Board for the Service to increase its capacity in this area. The Board will also be discussing this issue at their May 20, 2021 meeting.

We have also reviewed Recommendation 3 under "Lindsay", which would allow an operator to drive on any street in Lindsay if they are traveling between their residence and the designated route(s). This provision would be very difficult for the police to enforce. Without arbitrarily stopping an ATV operator, an officer would not be able to determine if the operator was in compliance with the by-law.

As requested by the Task Force, we have already submitted data on motor vehicle collisions involving off road vehicles in our policing jurisdiction. We will continue to collect those statistics so that Council and the community can evaluate the impact of any changes, once implemented.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this information for your consideration. As stated earlier, we will provide our support to whatever direction Council chooses on this issue. I would also be happy to appear before either the task force or Council to answer any further questions.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Mitchell', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Mitchell
Chief of Police