

Questions asked on the Jump In Page regarding ORV use on roads

Q. I have several concerns. The first is regarding those riders that remove the factory exhaust and add performance accessories to increase speed (and noise). How does this meet environmental standards? And as several have pointed out, there is virtually no enforcement now even after repeated calls to the police. How are you going to deal with children on child-size machines when out with adults? Clearly they are not licenced and should not be on streets and roads. What is the solution to this? ORVsurvey asked 23 days ago

A. Illegal exhaust systems or modifications should be dealt with by the appropriate law enforcement agency. The vast majority of ORVs came with and remain with factory installed equipment. Law enforcement issues should be addressed by the law enforcement agency in your area, including issues with children on roads as they are illegal on public roads.

Q. I have been a resident on Washburn Island, Little Britain for more than 12 years. Everyday we have kids riding dirt bikes, ATVs speeding up and down our rural roads without regard for anyone's safety or enjoyment of our properties. Is the OPP going to step up patrols to enforce the law to prevent the noise, issues around illegal use of ORVs? Gregory B asked 23 days ago

A. This is a question best answered by the law enforcement agency in your area.

Q. Just an observation in a response regarding number of people completing this survey. It was stated hundreds of people have completed the survey. I only count 20 questions on this survey. Is there another survey document with these hundreds of comments/questions. Also, what were the 400 pieces of communications findings. Lastly, the City of Kawartha Lakes population is over 70,000 so it looks like very few either know about this issue or possible don't care but who knows at this point. Thank you, Cal Cal asked 22 days ago

Q. I know the ORV group puts funds towards the upkeep of the Victoria Rail Trail but do any other user groups put funds towards the trail? Groups like walkers, cyclists or horse back riding? Mac asked 20 days ago

A. We are aware of no organizations other than Snowmobile, ATV and Dirt Bike Associations that make financial contributions to the City for the maintenance and improvements to City Trails.

Q. Will ORV riders be required to have insurance while operating on public road. Rucsac asked 19 days ago

A. Yes ORV riders are required to have plates and insurance while operating on all roads and trails in Ontario. This is enforced by the local law enforcement agencies.

Q. Has the task force reviewed any cities or towns of similar size and population that either do or don't allow ORV vehicle access on town roads? What precedents have been set that either support or challenge the use of town roads by ORVs? Bhanshaw asked 19 days ago

A. Yes they have. ORV access through towns and cities both larger and smaller than Lindsay and Bobcaygeon have been discussed. It has been found to be a process that can work. One of the best and most relevant examples is Wasaga Beach, Ontario. As anyone knows Wasaga Beach is a busy retirement and tourist community much like Kawartha Lakes. In September 2015 the town of Wasaga Beach opened all roads in the town to ORVs for year round use. They can ride on any road and go to any business on their ORV when traveling to and from the trails. Now 6 years later we can see that Wasaga Beach is one of the many success stories in Ontario.

Q. In a previous answer it was noted that the suggested route through town was proposed to allow access to business, restaurants, etc. However in the FAQ section of this forum a question is posed asking if the road access is solely for trail to trail connections to which the answer was yes. These are two very conflicting answers, can you please clarify? Bhanshaw asked 19 days ago

A. It's actually a combination of both. ORV users want to get from trail to trail but it would be beneficial to both the riders and the local businesses if they can stop for food, gas or any other retail stops along the way. At a time when so many of our small businesses are struggling due to the pandemic, we as a community need to do everything we can to support them. The businesses in Fenelon Falls and Kinmount have seen the positive effects of ORV riders spending money in their towns and it's time to give other communities the chance to enjoy the same benefits if council is in agreement.

Q. Why is the city proposing this, when it is clear to both the residents that there exists an enforcement issue with ORV using both road ways and trails in a non compliance way/ Owner asked 18 days ago

A. The CoKL recognizes that ORV use is a big part of the lifestyle for many of our newest and lifelong residents. It's just another way for people to enjoy the outdoors. It has quickly become as popular as cycling and boating in our community. The City will review the recommendations presented by the task force and make their own decisions based on input from the public and local agencies such as the city staff, public health and law enforcement. The City will adopt some, all or none of them. The City may create and adopt their own policies.

Q. Your response to my previous question is not acceptable, the OPP don't seem to patrol enough in my area to make a difference. Last summer was a nightmare with all the illegal use of ATVs and Dirt Bikes in my area, not to mention the excessive noise due to aftermarket exhaust systems. Enforcement is necessary for a successful implementation of this proposal. I don't want to be calling the OPP everyday for something to be done and I am sure they don't

want to hear me complaining about it everyday. There needs to be commitment from our policing organizations to support enforcement of your proposal. Gregory B asked 16 days ago

A. You may not like the answer but it doesn't change the fact, that is the answer. Policing answers calls based on priorities set by the Province for the OPP and the Police Service Board for municipalities. Part of the process is calls they receive from citizens. We recommend that you continue contacting the police for any problems you are having in your community if it involves illegal behaviours.

Q. Do the Nay-sayers complaining about the ATV use of the Rail Trail, realize that it is the ATV riders that pay annually to use the Trails, question is do Pedestrians and Cyclists contribute any monies to the maintenance, and policing of said trail? jonnybly asked 15 days ago

A. I am not sure if trail users or opponents to connecting trails in the City of Kawartha Lakes realize the huge financial contributions the Snowmobile and ORV Associations make to the maintenance and improvements to City owned trails. I am not aware of any other organization financially assisting the City in maintenance and improvements of City Trails. The motorized trail associations make improvements to the trails for everyone to enjoy include the non-motorized users.