

October 14, 2021

Mr. Mayor and Council,

Re: Lindsay ATV route

The following addresses incorrect statements made at September's Council meeting regarding ATV accidents.

INCORRECT STATEMENT:

"The health unit statistics are out of context and do not accurately reflect injuries involving recreational ATV riders because they also include dirt bike statistics including injuries at local racetracks"

FACT:

Race tracks – whether they are for dirt bikes or other ATVs, are considered private property. These incidents are not reflected in highway, traffic or road related numbers reported by the OPP or HKPR. Citing the high number of accidents at these facilities is not a safety endorsement.

FACT:

OPP reported 47% were on highway (road) related.  
HKPR reported 45.8% were traffic (on roadway) related.

Inspector Tim Tatchell, Detachment Commander, OPP

We have previously provided collision data that indicates that for all ORV collisions that have been investigated by my detachment between 2016-2021 YTD, 47% have occurred on the highway and 53% have occurred on trails/private property.

[OPP Report on ORV TF Recommendations \(318 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)

Dr. Bocking, Medical Officer of Health, HKPR Health Unit

ORV-related incidents are classified according to whether they occur on roadways ("traffic") or off-roadways ("non-traffic"). Research indicates that there are higher rates of fatalities and serious injuries for ORV riders on roadways compared to off-roadways,<sup>2,3,4</sup> being on roadways increases the risk of collisions with other motor vehicles.<sup>2,5,6</sup> Also, certain design characteristics of these vehicles, particularly ATVs, make them unsafe on roadways.<sup>2,7</sup> As indicated in the attached report, CKL experienced 45.8% of all HKPR traffic-related ED visits. Some of the risk factors for ORV associated injury in Ontario include alcohol and drug use, riding at night, lack of helmet use, and excessive speed.<sup>8,9</sup> Research has shown that the majority of ORV-related ED visits occur on the weekend (Friday to Sunday), and almost all are related to recreational use of ORVs.<sup>8</sup> It is also important to note that accidents involving ORVs are classified as non-traffic accidents unless the contrary is stated, which may under-report ATV related traffic accidents.

[Health Unit Report on ORV TF Recommendations \(578 KB\) \(pdf\)](#), P. 2

**Traffic accidents: ATV-related ED visits**

From 2015 – 2019 there were 48 ATV-related ED visits specifically identified as traffic accidents<sup>2</sup> among residents of the HKPRDHU (3.7% of all ATV-related ED visits), an average of 9.6 per year. Traffic-related ATV injuries resulting in an ED visit occurring among residents of the HKPRDHU occurred most frequently among those 20-29 years of age (20; 41.7%), 10-19 years of age (12; 25.0%), and 30-39 years of age (6; 12.5%). Over the 5-year period, residents of Kawartha Lakes accounted for 45.8% (22/48) of ED visits specifically identified as a traffic-related ATV injury, ranging from an annual high of 71.4% to a low of 33.3%.

[Health Unit Report on ORV TF Recommendations \(578 KB\) \(pdf\)](#), P. 8

INCORRECT STATEMENT:

"High ATV accident rates in CKL are due to the large number of trails in the Ganaraska Forest, Haliburton and Northumberland Forest" This is incorrect.

FACT:

ATV accidents on trails were not included as on-road, traffic or highway incidents by the OPP or HKPR. Incidents that were not identified were classified as non-traffic.

FACT:

The Ganaraska Forest, Haliburton and Northumberland Forest are located entirely or largely in other municipalities.

- Ganaraska Forest is located mostly in Clarington which is located in Durham Region. (11,000 acres with 680 km trails) (GRCA Map attached) Approximately 1% of the Ganaraska trails are located in Kawartha Lakes (Ganaraska West Forest Trails and Trails with Kawartha Lakes Map attached). Kawartha Lakes is 0.0905% of GRCA.
- Haliburton trails are located in Haliburton County (1700 km trails)
- Northumberland Forest is located in Northumberland County (47 km trails)

ATV ED visits and hospitalizations in Kawartha Lakes were reported separately from Northumberland and Haliburton. [Health Unit Report on ORV TF Recommendations \(578 KB\) \(pdf\)](#) Table 7 *Oral Presentation to Council, Committee Of the Whole June 1, 2021 via Youtube @ 16:06 Slide 5*

ATV/ORV incidents in Clarington, which is part of Durham Region, are reported to Durham Regional Health Unit.

INCORRECT STATEMENT:

“The high number of ORV accidents are due to the large number of farmers in CKL.”

FACT:

The MOH: “the majority of ORV related ED visits occur on the weekend (Friday to Sunday) and *almost all are related to recreational use of ORVs.* [Health Unit Report on ORV TF Recommendations \(578 KB\) \(pdf\)](#), P. 2 *Oral Presentation to Council, Committee Of the Whole June 1, 2021 via Youtube @ 16:06*

FACT:

Research comparing jurisdictions where ORV/ATV on roads has been allowed, against jurisdictions where ORV/ATVs have not been allowed, shows higher rates of fatalities and serious injuries riders compared to off-roadways:

“Research indicates that there are higher rates of fatalities and serious injuries for ORV riders on roadways compared to off-roadways,<sup>2,3,4</sup> being on roadways increases the risk of collisions with other motor vehicles. <sup>2,5,6</sup> Also, certain design characteristics of these vehicles, particularly ATVs, make them unsafe on roadways.”<sup>2,7</sup> [Health Unit Report on ORV TF Recommendations \(578 KB\) \(pdf\)](#) and *Oral Presentation to Council, Committee Of the Whole June 1, 2021 via Youtube @ 16:06*

In neighbouring jurisdictions:

Orillia OPP Reports 14 Year High in Fatalities:

“We already have enough fatalities with the off-road vehicles when they’re off-road. Now to put them on the road, that’s a disservice to our communities. “What you’d get is -- every child or teenager that feels they can handle the equipment, or their parents that feel they’re capable of handling these equipment -- they get out on the road, mixing with vehicles that are much larger, much bigger, that are not used to looking for these vehicles... and our fatality rate is going to grow. Which is something that is not in our future, I hope.” <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2021/06/15/off-road-vehicle-fatalities-reached-14-year-high-in-2020-local-opp-says.html>

Haliburton Highlands OPP:

“On Sept. 26, 2021 at approximately 6:04 p.m., officers from the Haliburton Highlands OPP, along with the Haliburton County Paramedic Services and Minden Hills Township Fire Department, responded to a single-vehicle collision involving an ORV on County Road 121.

The OPP are also asking the public to partner with them to reduce the rising number of all-terrain vehicle (ATV) or ORV incidents.” [https://www.quephtoday.com/police/fergus-man-dies-in-off-road-vehicle-collision-4460705?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=Email](https://www.quephtoday.com/police/fergus-man-dies-in-off-road-vehicle-collision-4460705?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Email)

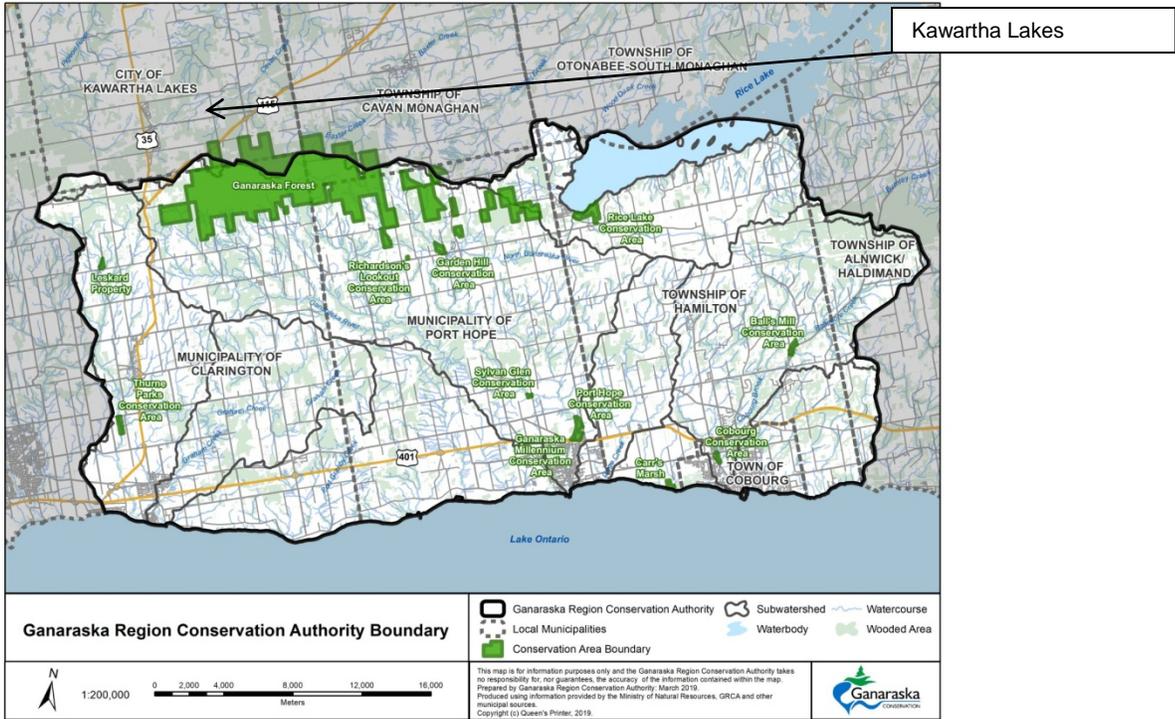
Respectfully, it is time for Council to vote No to the proposed Lindsay ATV route and consider transitioning to the Trails Master Plan consultation process.

Sincerely,

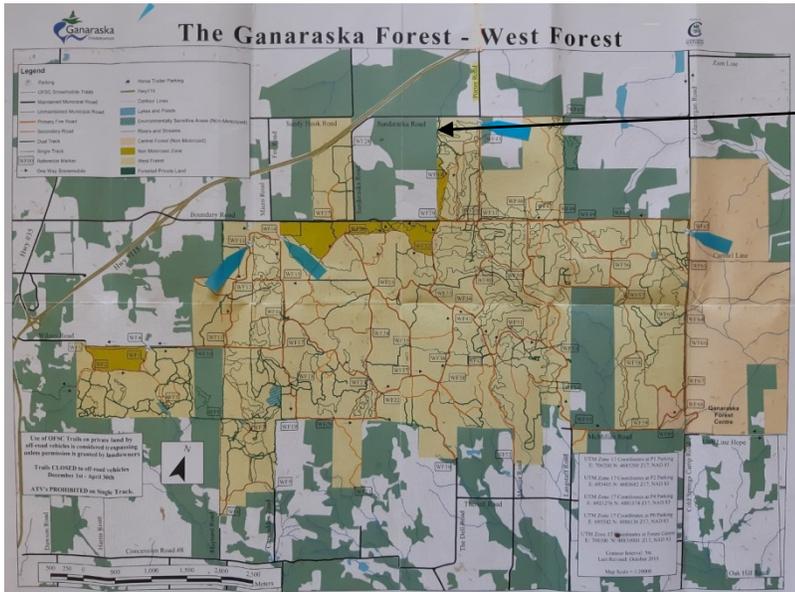
Bill Steffler  
Lindsay, Ontario

Attached: GRCA map and HKPR information

**GRCA Map**



**Ganaraska Forest Trails Map – orange lines**



Ganaraska Forest Trails within Kawartha Lakes = approx 7 km

**ATV hospitalizations in Kawartha Lakes**

Table 7. Number of ATV-related hospitalizations, 2015 – 2019, HKPRDHU and Kawartha Lakes.

Year	HKPRDHU ATV-related hospitalizations (#)	Kawartha Lakes ATV-related hospitalizations (#)	Kawartha Lakes percent (% of HKPRDHU ATV-related hospitalizations)
2015	27	9	33.3%
2016	31	10	32.3%
2017	26	14	53.8%
2018	33	8	24.2%
2019	23	14	60.9%
2015 - 2019	140	55	39.3%

[Health Unit Report on ORV TF Recommendations \(578 KB\) \(pdf\)](#) p. 10

