
ORV Road Access Debate

November 29, 2007

Prepared for the Northumberland ATV Club by the Ontario Trails Council, Patrick Connor Executive Director

About Ontario Trails Council



Mission - promote preservation, development, management and use of recreational trails.

- 4 Years of Growth - Many new or retained memberships
- 100 organizational and 720 individual members
- 4 Years of Consolidation - focus on within, processes, governance, sustainability
- 4 Years of Advocacy - prepared many position papers and public comment pieces on trail issues





Some of our Supporters



THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION



LA FONDATION TRILLIUM DE L'ONTARIO



The OTC is the Provincial organization working on:

- User Compatibility
- Intra-ATV Community Friction
- Fees or Permits?
- Municipalities saying no to ATV's
- Private Land Abuse
- Policing and Maintenance
- Aligning all ATV promoters and clubs under the GOLD Trails of the TTN
- Sustaining Systems



OTC Trail Categories



Urban/Sub-Urban:

- Short Distance
- Walking and Similar
- No Mandatory User Fee

GREEN

Rural/Wilderness:

- Medium to Long Distance
- Not Primarily Walking
- Mandatory User Fees

GOLD

Water Trails:

- Short to Long Distance
- Canoeing and Kayak
- May/May Not Be User Fees

BLUE

Land Pressures

There are many issues regarding land access, **limiting ORV** access to roads through by-laws

- Promotes NIMBY
- Opening roads reduces trespass
- Controls access
- Promotes safer trails
- Offers diversion around sensitive ecosystems
- Limits economic benefits from motorized tourism





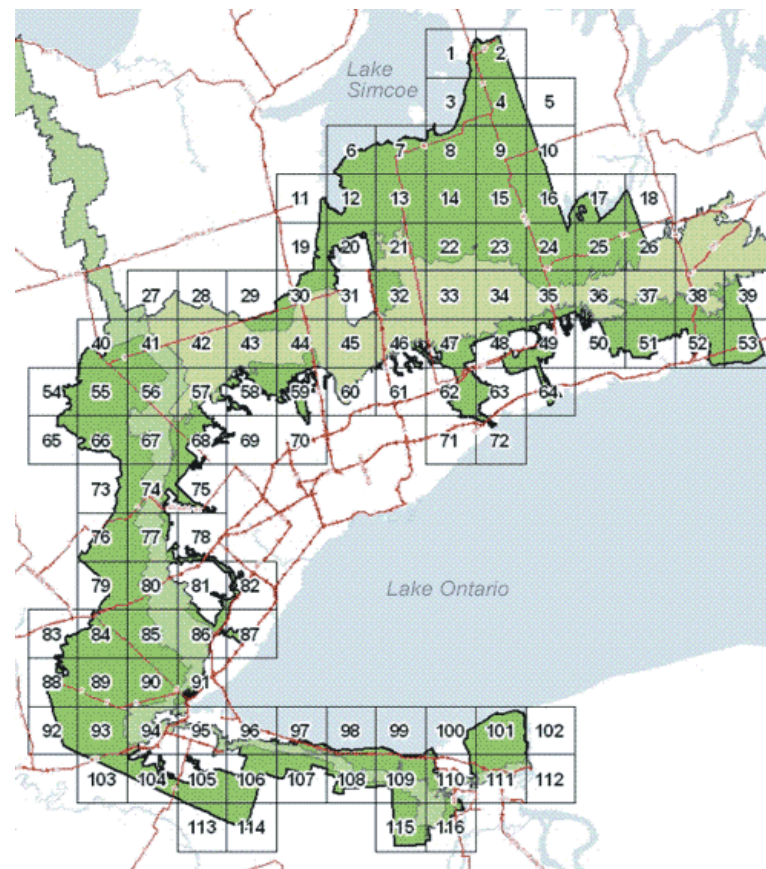
Ontario Trails Council
Conseil des sentiers de l'Ontario

Land Pressures



Land Access - Greenbelt Plan 2005

- The greenbelt is 1.8 million acres of land
- Includes the 800,000 acres of Niagara Escarpment Plan and the Oak Ridges Moraine and 1 million newly protected acres
- The greenbelt is an area where the population is expected to increase by about 4 million, for a total population of about 11 million by 2031



Courtesy Ontario Parks Association

Land Access – Corridor Lands: If Not Roads are you making other lands available?

- Remediation of lands towards greenways
- Controlled by Municipalities or Crown Land Agencies
- GTA Greenbelt
- Rail to Trail Conversion one method of utilizing brown zones, corridor lines
- Great grade, poor materials
- Hydro Corridors
- Ontario Hydro, Ontario Realty Corp. and Municipal Act



Minister Bradley MTO addresses OTC
in May 2007

Land Access – Rail Corridors

- Significant Corridor Transformation
- 22 major conversions in Ontario
- Over 600 km of trail
- Multi-use, multi-season
- Managed by municipal or community organizations
- Stopped by Line Fences Act
- Stopped by Red Tape
- Stopped by PIR/ORC inaction



Develop a Municipal Trail Plan



Managing Land through Performance Measures

- In 2000, Ontario municipalities began participating in a new program of performance measurement – the first comprehensive program of its kind in North America
- The services selected for the program meet the following criteria:
 - Reflect major expenditure areas for municipalities
 - Reflect areas of provincial-municipal interest
 - Reflect high interest and value to the public
 - Have data that is relatively easy to collect
 - Fall under municipal responsibility
- Requirement to report through Financial Information Return (FIR).
- The Municipal Performance Measures Program falls under Section 299 of the Municipal Act



Courtesy Ontario Parks Association

OTC resources are comprehensive

- Many specific municipal park plans
- 320 files of trail related materials
- 12 files of user group trail specifics
- 125 files on TCT registration for trail plans
- 24 municipal trail plans
- 16 Provincial Park Plans
- 15 funding source plans
- 80 trail specific mappings
- 1078 organizations listed in database



Our Plans are available for Use by the Trails Community

- We have a community development guidebook
- ATV Ontario Community Development template
- OFSC Trails Specifics Manuals
- OTC How to Build Trail Handbooks
- IMBA Trail Building Manuals - and Course
- Bruce Trail Trail Management Manual
- Bruce-Grey County Trails Management Manual



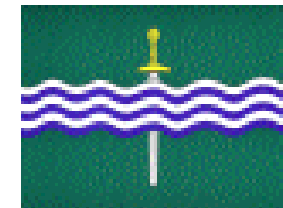
We don't want Land Abuse



We want Policies and Security



- OFATV Etiquette
- OTC Trail Etiquette
- Off Road Vehicle Act
- ATV Ontario Pass
- Management Authority
- Training for Use
- Risk Management
- OFATV Pass
- ON-Trail Pass/Permit
- Blue Trails Park/Conservation Authority
- Police Relations
- SAVE Team
- Enforcement?



Conclusion



Next Steps –

We would encourage you to pass a by-law allowing ROW access for ORV's in a controlled fashion, working in conjunction with existing trail systems

