



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Tuesday, April 8th, 2025

Know Where You Are: Respect the Rules Regarding Illegal Motorized Vehicle Use On Conservation and County Lands

BRUCE COUNTY, GREY COUNTY – Bruce County, Grey County, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, and Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Issue Joint Call for Respect of Lands.

Imagine asking your neighbour if you can ride your ATV across their property and then ignoring their answer. Would you? Most people wouldn't. So why is it different when it comes to County and Conservation Authority land?

Bruce County, Grey County, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, and Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority are coming together to call for greater respect for trails, beaches, forests, and conservation lands. Illegal motorized vehicle use continues to cause damage, disrupt natural habitats, and divert critical funding away from recreational improvements.

Unauthorized use of ATVs, dirt bikes, trucks, and even golf carts is creating lasting damage on County and Conservation Authority lands. Deep ruts, eroded slopes, and crushed vegetation are not just unsightly, they impact ecosystems, destroy habitats, spread invasive species, and jeopardize the future of our natural spaces.

Every Dollar Spent on Repairs is a Dollar Not Spent on Recreation

Funds meant for trail maintenance, accessibility improvements, and new recreational opportunities are being swallowed up by costly repairs. When riders damage these lands, the cost of restoring them is left to municipalities, counties and conservation authorities, pulling resources away from enhancements that benefit all users.

Respecting Land, Respecting Community

Before hitting the trails, riders must "Know Where You Are." Counties and Conservation Authorities have clear rules to protect these spaces. If an area is not explicitly designated for motorized vehicle use, it is off-limits. No county or conservation lands allow for unauthorized off-road motorized vehicles.

"Most people would never assume they have the right to drive through a neighbour's yard without permission. That same courtesy needs to extend to the shared lands we all enjoy. Respect these unique and beautiful spaces; stay out."

- Donna Lacey, Manager of Forestry and Lands, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

Enforcement is Increasing

To protect public lands, enforcement efforts are ramping up in 2025. Riders caught operating motorized vehicles illegally may face fines, impoundment, or charges under municipal bylaws and provincial regulations.

By working together, Bruce County, Grey County, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, and Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority are committed to keeping lands safe and open for all. But it starts with respect. Know where you are. Respect the land. **Ride responsibly.**

For more information regarding this release, please contact:

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