

Frequently Asked Questions – A Member’s Tool www.RenfrewCountyATV.ca



The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) have been compiled to make it easier for Members, Directors and Vendors to promote the Club and its mission, and to answer questions at rallies, promotional events and in the public.

1. What is the mission of the RCATV Club?

RCATV is an incorporated not-for-profit volunteer organization providing leadership and support to its membership, to establish and maintain quality ATV trails throughout the region in conjunction with its partners that will be used in a safe and environmentally responsible manner to further promote the enjoyment of organized all-terrain vehicles.

2. Where can we ride our ATV/ORV in Renfrew County?

- **Off-road riding:** ATV/ORV's are permitted on crown land. For trails groomed by the snowmobile club, ATV's have access between May 1 – December 1 of each year. EOTA/OFATV trail passes are available through RCATV which enables riders to access RCATV maintained trails.
- **On-road riding:** The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) implemented new changes to ORV and ATV with Bill 316 in 2015. These changes allowed more types of off-road vehicles (ORVs) and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) - including single-rider ATV, two-up ATVs, side-by-side ORVs and utility terrain vehicles (UTVs) - on the shoulder of public roads, where permitted.
- **Only** an ATV/ORV that meets these standards can be used on the road. They must also meet other equipment-related requirements.

3. How do I become a member?

Membership in RCATV is \$40 annually, and free with the purchase of a valid trail pass. Corporate Membership is available at a tiered level of value. Please visit our website for details.

4. Where can I ride with an RCATV trail pass?

RCATV became a member of the Ontario Federation of ATV Clubs (OFATV) April 1, 2018. As such, RCATV passes are accepted on any OFATV Club Trails including partnering trails in VMUTS and Ottawa Valley ATV Club and some maritime provinces. Effective January 2018, the reciprocal agreement between OFATV and Eastern Ontario Trails Alliance (EOTA) was cancelled. For the remainder of 2018 all EOTA and OFATV trail passes, and EOTA passes sold by RCATV will be honoured on RCATV trails. RCATV is one of several leaders in the discussions taking place between clubs and associations within Ontario towards a single voice and single pass.

5. Where can I find out what local roads I can ride on with regards to municipal by-laws.

A majority of our municipalities and towns have now passed by-laws that allow ATVs and ORVs on their roads provided they meet MTO regulations. For the most current by-law updates,

please check our web site at <http://www.renfrewcountyatv.ca> and contact your local Area Director or contact RCATV at 613-585-9236.

Permitted ATVs/ORVs can travel on Highways 500 to 899, many 7000-series highways, highways with low traffic volumes. ATVs/ORVs **cannot** travel on 400-series highways, the Queen Elizabeth Way, sections of the Trans-Canada Highway
<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/driver/drive-ATV.shtml>

6. Where do I need to ride with a trail pass?

Buying a trail pass and membership not only supports the trails and keeps them in good shape, it also allows you to be part of a club of like-minded ATV enthusiasts who have a great time on the trails, organize runs and rallies and are an active part in their community for spreading the word and advocate for safe ATV ridership. By being an organized and respected as a formal ATV Club and in partnership with the Ontario Federation of ATV Clubs (OFATV), we are able to advocate and partner with local municipalities to expand and protect ATV trails and access.

- **CROWN LAND:** It is not a legal requirement to have a pass on Crown Land. However, crown land should also not be a free for all. Trail use causes wear which needs to be repaired and it does not fix itself. Trails in Renfrew County over the last 10 years have seen close to a million dollars in trail work applied to it all paid by snowmobile & ATV permit dollars. MNRF do not fix trails for our use, users of the trail are responsible for that if they want to ensure continued use.
- **CN RAIL CORRIDOR:** These former rail corridors are leased from CN to the Snow Country Snowmobile Association and sub-leased to RCATV May 1 to Dec 1 and under an insurance agreement on behalf of club members, **therefore a trail pass is required.**
- **OTTAWA VALLEY RECREATIONAL TRAIL:** The OVRT and K&P Trails are County-owned and at the time of printing did not require a trail pass. This is still before County decision makers.
- **PRIVATE LAND AND MUNICIPAL LAND:** RCATV does maintain trails on private land and on municipally owned land where the Club has written land-use agreements to access to those properties. Where an MOU is in place, **a trail pass is required.** For an update please consult the website.
- **HUNTING SEASON:** Many of our private property owners use their land for their own hunting in the fall. For safety reasons, some trails may be closed for the period of Nov 1 – 15, please contact RCATV for updates prior to riding in November, or visit our Facebook or website.

7. What is the role of the RCATV Trail Wardens?

As an ambassador on RCATV signed and maintained trails, the wardens provide awareness and education, support tourism and enforce the land-use agreements. In the case of Crown Land, we cannot nor do we enforce trail passes, however we will provide maps, and answer general questions about legalities and safety and invite trail users to become a part of the club. On land where we have a land-use agreement and trail passes are required, the trail warden will educate the rider that those trails are for members only and do require a trail pass (daily, weekly or annual) and if they decline to purchase a pass they should have the courtesy to turn around and go back. If they refuse or the warden is doubtful, they do have the authority under the Trespass to

Property Act to lay charges, however that would be awkward for both the rider and warden, and we have no desire to become an organization that is known for laying charges. You can reach the RCATV Chief Trail Warden at trailpatrol@renfrewcountyatv.ca

8. Can I bring my child or youth on the trails and on an RCATV rally?

RCATV trail wardens will advise riders of the rules and legislation regarding children as drivers or passengers. It is the parents' responsibility to accept liability for the safety of their children. The trail warden can ask participants to leave an organized rally or club run if they feel the children are at risk of harm due to the equipment or age of the children. Source: <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/driver/drive-ATV.shtml>.

- **Youth Driver - On-road:** For on-road riding (including logging roads and unmaintained roadways), an ATV/ORV driver must be at least 16 years old, hold at least a valid G2 or M2 license.
- **Youth Driver - Off-road:** For off-road riding, an ATV/ORV driver must be at least 12 years old, unless directly supervised by an adult or while driving on land occupied by the owner of the ATV/ORV and carry the ATV/ORV's registration permit or a true copy. Crossing a road is considered on-road driving. The ATV/ORV must be a legal 2-up ATV or Side-by-Side.
- **Youth Passengers:** For on-road riding (including logging roads and unmaintained roadways), a passenger on an ATV/ORV cannot be under the age of 8, must wear a seat belt or use foot rests, when applicable.
- Drivers and passengers of all ages must wear an approved motorcycle helmet, securely fastened under the chin with a chin strap.

9. When are the trails open?

- Members will show respect for and agree not to trespass on private property.
- Private property trails are closed for the spring dry-out period of April/May. Some may be closed during hunting season in November Nov 1-15.
- Where trails are shared with the snowmobile club, they are available for ATV from May 1st to December 1st.
- The sub-lease on the CN B-Trail takes effect May 1 and therefore you are trespassing on private property prior to May 1 or after Dec 1.
- At the request of MNRF, members are asked to stay off crown land trails in the spring, with the exception of organized volunteer trail maintenance, until May 1.
- ATV/ORV's can travel on roads in authorized towns/townships year round in accordance with municipal by-laws and MTO highway traffic act.
- For safety reasons in the fall, and weather impacts, please contact RCATV for updates prior to riding, or visit our Facebook or website.

10. What are the speeds and rules of the road for ATV/UTV's?

ATVs/ORVs on the road must travel at speeds less than posted speed limit:

- no more than 20 km/h on roads with a posted speed limit of 50 km/h or less
- no more than 50 km/h on roads with a posted speed limit greater than 50 km/h
- Municipalities may set lower speed limits or additional rules for ATVs/ORVs.

ATVs/ORVs travelling along a road must:

- be driven in the same direction as traffic
- travel on the shoulder - if the shoulder is unsafe or impassable or not wide enough, an ATV/ORV can be driven on the travelled portion of the road
- have headlights and tail lights on.

11. Where can we get trail passes?

- You can purchase trail passes at a number of supporting businesses throughout Renfrew County which are listed on our website www.renfrewcountyatv.ca.
- Trail wardens and club volunteers will have passes available on the trail and at organized club events.
- Trail passes are also available for purchase online at permits.ofatv.org. **If purchasing online at <https://permits.ofatv.org>, please make sure you choose Renfrew County ATV Club so that your funds are allocated back to support your local trails as its primary revenue source.**

12. Where does the money go from the sale of passes?

- The cost for an annual trail pass is \$150, a 3-day pass is \$50 and daily pass is \$20. All trail passes fees are established by the Ontario Federation ATV Clubs. Of the \$150 annual trail pass membership, Renfrew County ATV Club receives \$65 of the direct funding and \$22.56 is invested into a trail leveling fund which contributes towards RCATV trail maintenance and development or priorities.
- As of the spring of 2018, RCATV is maintaining 750km of trails (not including signing roadways). This includes signs, culverts, brushing, bridging and grading. If you have questions about the accounting or finances of the Club, please email treasurer@renfrewcountyatv.ca

13. Can I ride my dirt bike or motor cross bike on RCATV trails?

RCATV is a part of the Ontario Federation of ATV (OFATV) Clubs. Our vision, however is to provide trails which are multi-use, therefore, dirt bikes are permitted on our trails. Please contact membership@renfrewcountyatv.ca to find out how you can support the trails and get a trail pass for 2-wheel ORV's. According to the Ontario Federation of Trail Riders (OFTR) you must have liability insurance to ride on public land including but not limited to roads, road allowances, fire roads and trails. This includes municipal forests, conservation areas and crown lands. Bikes must also have a "green license plate" which is white with green lettering and designates the bike as an off road only machine bearing the body type MF or a "blue license plate" which allows the operator to travel on road or on permitted off road areas providing the rider has a valid "M" class motorcycle license. The green plate and proper insurance allow the operator drive off road and to ride directly cross a highway as long as the operator has a valid Ontario drivers License.

Source: <http://www.oftr.ca/legal-requirements/>

14. How can I get involved in the Club? What types of volunteers do you need?

RCATV, like most ATV and similar recreational clubs, are run and maintained by volunteers. As a not-for-profit organization, RCATV Club does not compensate volunteers or board members. This is a "be a part of the solution, enjoy the ride" focused club. You do not need to be

an ATV rider to be a volunteer in support of the Club. We are always looking for volunteers for the following areas of support:

- trail maintenance and trail signing
- trail warden program
- promoting the club as a safe and responsible organization within your local community (tradeshows, showcase, getting posters out)
- administrative support (grant writing, doing flyers and keeping members informed of legislative changes, social media and writing articles)
- Event Planning Committee member (support planning and running of events)
- Membership & Volunteer Management Committee member (tracking volunteer hours, recruiting membership and volunteers, volunteer appreciation)
- event & fundraising support (selling passes, help with BBQ's)
- website updates (articles, photography, event updates)
- elected positions on the Board of Directors

15. Is ATV Training available through RCATV.

RCATV has a CASI Certified Canadian AQCC (All-Terrain Quad Council Canada) Safety Institute instructor who provides ATV training throughout the year to youth and adults. Please contact president@renfrewcountyatv.ca for the next course. RCATV encourages all riders and families to participate in an recognized and certified ATV Course. For side-by-side and UTV courses please visit the www.ofatv.org website. This certified safety course is also suggested for those working in the field and using ATV/UTV in their workplace as part of workplace safety.

RCATV RECOMMENDS READING THE ONLINE HANDBOOK: SMART RIDE SAFE RIDE

What you need to know to operate an ATV/ORV in Ontario

<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/driver/pdfs/smart-ride-safe-ride-ATV.pdf>