



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 and Directors to promote the Club and the 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 organization which is dedicated to 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. Why do we need a trail pass for RCATV trails on crown land or the rail corridors?

It is not a legal requirement to have a pass on Crown Land. However, crown land should 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. MNR do not fix trails for our use, users of the trail are responsible for that if they want to ensure continued use.

Rail corridor trails are leased and under an insurance agreement on behalf of club members, therefore a trail pass is required.

Some access points to crown land are private land and the Club holds or is obtaining land use agreements for access to those properties which would then require membership trail passes.

Buying a trail pass and membership not just supports the trails and keeps them in good shape, it also allows us 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'ing. It will be an organized and respected club, our partner clubs and the Alliance/Associations we belong to who will work with local municipalities to encourage expanding and protecting ATV rights.

RCATV trail warden’s role is to point out that trails not on crown land are for members only 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, you can point out that you have the authority under the

Trespass to Property Act, but that would be awkward for you both and you have no desire to lay charges.

3. Can I bring my child on the trails and on an RCATV rally?

For on-road riding, an ATV/ORV driver must be at least 16 years old, hold at least a valid G2 or M2 license, wear an approved motorcycle helmet, securely fastened under the chin with a chin strap, wear a seat belt, where provided, travel at speeds less than the posted speed limit, as outlined below.

For on-road riding, a passenger on an ATV/ORV cannot be under the age of eight, must wear a seat belt or use foot rests, when applicable, must wear an approved motorcycle helmet, securely fastened under the chin with a chin strap.

Source: <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/driver/drive-ATV.shtml>

The role of the RCATV trail wardens is to advise riders of the rules and legislation with regard to 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.

4. When are the trails open?

According to our By-Laws, members shall show respect for and agreement not to trespass on private property, and shall access the trails system only from May 1st to December 1st as a partner to District 6 snowmobile clubs who use and groom many of the shared trails and at the request of the Ministry of Natural Resources for the period of dry down.

Permitted ATV/ORV's can travel on roads in authorized towns/townships year round. See On-Road Riding below.

In respect to our partners and agreements with MNR and snowmobile clubs, trails on crown land can be accessed after Dec 1 or before May 1 only after the OFSC District 6 clubs confirm they are no longer grooming those trails and in the spring for the purposes of trail maintenance only.

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

Off-road riding

ATV/ORV's are also permitted on crown land between May 1 – December 1 of each year under authority of the Ministry of Natural Resources. EOTA/OFATV trail passes are available through RCATV which enables riders to utilize RCATV maintained trails.

On-road riding

Beginning July 1, 2015, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) implemented new changes to ORV and ATV with Bill 316. These changes included allowing more types of off-road vehicles (ORVs) and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) - including 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.

For the purposes of on-road riding, a single-rider ATV is a type of ORV that has:

- four wheels that contact the ground
- steering handlebars
- a seat that is straddled by the driver
- designed for a driver only and no passenger

Where to ride

A number of municipalities and townships have amended their by-laws to allow ATV/ORV's on roads in their limits. To find out if your town/township allows ATV/ORV's please contact RCATV or contact your local town/township office.

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. 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.

6. Where can we get trail passes?

You can purchase trail passes at a number of supporting businesses throughout Renfrew County. The list of supporting vendors is available on our website www.renfrewcountyatv.ca.

Trail passes are also available for purchase online at www.thetrail.ca. There are passes available for a day, week, family or annual seasonal pass.

Trail wardens and club volunteers will have passes available on the trail and at organized club events.

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

RCATV is part of Eastern Ontario Trail Alliance (EOTA) which is predominantly a multi-use trail alliance. For this reason, dirt bikes are permitted on EOTA trails. They, like ATV's, require a trail pass for EOTA/RCATV trails. They must be insured and plated.

According to EOTA and 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/>

8. 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
- promoting the club as a safe and responsible organization within your local community (at tradeshow, showcase, getting posters out, online and word of mouth)
- administrative support (grant writing, doing flyers and keeping members informed of legislative changes, submitting information to social media pages and media outlets, writing articles)
- Event Planning Committee member (support planning and running of Club 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)

There are also elected positions on the Board of Directors. You must be a Member in good standing in order to be elected to the Board of Directors.

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

The cost for an annual trail pass, and all trail passes are established by EOTA and those funds are sent to EOTA. Renfrew County ATV Club receives, in return, a 20% commission from EOTA trail passes sold by RCATV or online at trails.ca where users indicate Renfrew ATV Club support. This is commissioned back to ATV Clubs for trail maintenance and upkeep.

In 2013 strategic planning document from EOTA: EOTA maintains 1,200 kilometres, \$236,415 spent on trails maintenance and development by EOTA directly which averages to approximately \$197 per km of EOTA managed trail. Other EOTA costs include trail promotion including newsboards, website and tradeshow, trail map costs and sign costs and other administrative functions including staff for the operating and governance of the alliance, and trail advocacy.

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>

10. 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> or contact our team at 613-585-9236.