

Recommendation:

That the C.A.O.-2023-13 report, dated June 20, 2023 regarding Use of ORV's on Township Roads be received; and
That Council provide staff direction on any changes to be implemented to the current status of ORV use in the Township.

Overview:

In early 2022, the County of Peterborough updated their Transportation Master Plan and included a review of permitted ORV routes, specifically on County Roads in each of the lower tier Townships. They also requested at that time, that municipalities consider if they wished to allow for additional ORV use on any County roads and if so that they advise the County for consideration.

Staff advised that should Council wish to consider additional County Road use, that consideration should also be given to Township Roads to allow for continuous routes and provided Council with some options.

Council requested that staff seek public input on the topic to assist in their decision making. A public meeting was held on May 10, 2022 providing information on off road vehicles, the recommendations from the County of Peterborough and options for municipal road use for consideration and comment from the public.

At that meeting there were a number of comments made both from those in attendance and those observing via YouTube. Staff also collected over 20 written comments that were received via email and have been provided to Council separate from this report due to the confidential information contained within those comments. Many of those that spoke during the public meeting also provided written submissions but the overall response was the majority are not in support of off-road vehicles on any road in the Township. Some were in favour and a few would consider permitting off-road vehicles with confirmation that there would be strict rules and enforcement.

Those are not in favour of permitting off-road vehicle use expressed a number of concerns including the municipal risk and associated liability, the ability to enforce rules and regulations, noise and general road safety.

Those in support spoke to the enjoyment they experience through use of their off-road vehicle and supporting local businesses while riding. The comments included a position that as a safe operator they should not be unfairly punished because of those that don't follow the rules.

At that time, Council decided not to proceed with permitting any additional routes on Township Roads and did not recommend any additional routes on County Road for ORV use.

Following a delegation on February 14, 2023 from Weity Hamersma of the Ptbo Trails ATV Club, requesting further consideration for additional routes, Council directed staff to meet with Weity Hamersma. Mr. Hamersma brought forward suggestions from the Club regarding the possible use of ORVs on Township and County Roads. His recommendations are as follows:

- A route from the Douro Community Centre to Nephton in North Kawartha
- Ability to ride on all roads in the Township except for Birchview Road, River Road (County Road 32) and private roads
- Any increased access would be appreciated but the best-case scenario for the Club is the option above.

Attached are options Council may want to consider if interested in offering additional routes for ORV use in the Township of Douro-Dummer.

Conclusion:

Effective January 1, 2021, municipalities listed in Ontario Regulation 8/03, which does include the Township of Douro-Dummer, Off Road Vehicles (ORV's) were automatically allowed on municipal roads unless the municipality established a by-law to prohibit or restrict their use.

Council adopted a By-law to prohibit ORV's on Municipal Roads with the exception of Twelfth Line Road and Simpson Road in the Dummer Ward.

Staff is seeking direction on any amendment required to the existing routes which may result in a new or amended by-law.

Financial Impact:

There is no direct financial impact at this time.

Strategic Plan Applicability:

To develop and/or assist with the development and delivery of social and recreational programs as well as effectively maintaining and updating recreational facilities to promote healthy lifestyles and meet the broad range of community needs.