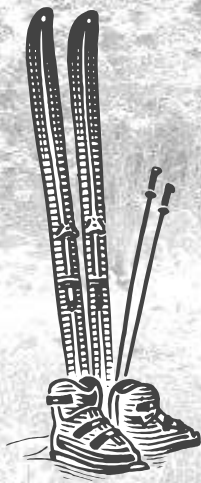


# TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDY



## FOR LIMERICK FOREST



PRODUCED BY SUE WILLIS

AUGUST 2006



# **TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDY**

## **FOR LIMERICK FOREST**

This study provides information which will assist the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville and the members of the Limerick Forest Advisory Committee in planning future recreational use and exploring tourism opportunities for Limerick Forest.

**PRODUCED BY SUE WILLIS**

**AUGUST 2006**

*“Organization is the key to success for all recreational users.  
It’s important to all sit at a common table and work with municipalities to ensure  
their future enjoyment of recreational use.”*

Quote received from Dave Percival, BMA president, when asked  
about the overall future of dirt bike riding.  
It applies to all groups in Limerick’s multi-use forest.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge first the members of the Limerick Forest Advisory Committee (LFAC) who so willingly agreed to help me with this project. Their opinions, viewpoints, ideas and statistics contributed greatly to the formation of this study. I appreciate their honesty and enthusiasm and hope they realize how important their thoughts are to the future planning of Limerick Forest; keep it coming!

Secondly, thanks to the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville and Ed Reynolds, the forest manager, who had the vision to realize such a study was needed and provided me with the opportunity to produce it.

Lastly, I'd like to thank Human Resources and Skills Development Canada – now called Service Canada, for providing the funding to enable me to produce this study.

Thanks,

Sue Willis  
LFAC Coordinator  
September 2005-August 2006

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## **PURPOSE**

### **Two-Fold Purpose**

One - To outline findings from current and potential recreational users of Limerick Forest lands, examine current trends in outdoor recreation and introduce recommendations on how to proceed and plan for the future while promoting sustainable recreational use of the forest.

Two - To determine if there is both a need and a desire within Leeds and Grenville to promote Limerick Forest as a tourist destination including possible outcomes and opportunities that may be available.

### **Where is Limerick Forest?**

People have been using Limerick Forest for recreational activities for as long as the forest has been there. Local people currently using the forest don't give it a second thought; it's always been there and will always be there. There are still a large number of people however, living within Leeds and Grenville that still do not know where Limerick Forest is. What about the non-locals, or tourists? Should they be given the opportunity to find out about and explore Limerick lands?

### **Promote v/s Status Quo**

It is very apparent that some of the local people want Limerick Forest kept as their own private haven; these people feel that promotion of the forest would be detrimental to their enjoyment. Still others are so happy and enjoy recreational activities in the forest so much they want to share it with everyone. Others such as business owners feel that opening Limerick Forest up to tourism would greatly benefit them. Which train of thought is right? What is best for the people of Leeds and Grenville? More importantly, what is best for the forest?

### **Answers**

Only by becoming educated can informed decisions be made. This study is designed to encourage careful thought, discussion and consideration leading to a plan around current and future recreational use of Limerick Forest. Decisions need to be made to prepare for the future; because like it or not, word of this local secret place called Limerick is sure to get around.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This study was one of many produced for Limerick Forest which was made possible by Human Resources Skills Development Canada in partnership with The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. The position of LFAC Coordinator was created to support the needs of the volunteer members of the Limerick Forest Advisory Committee (LFAC) and to provide assistance as a staff member to the forest manager.

To fulfill the purpose of this study, research was conducted over a four month period involving telephone interviews, meetings with groups and individuals, internet searches and the gathering of information from various written documents. Over 200 people were contacted and contributed in some way to this study.

Two main topics are covered by this study.

### **1) Outdoor Recreation In Limerick Forest** which includes:

- Background and benefits of participating in outdoor recreation.
- Comparisons of other recreational areas.
- Permitted recreational use and activity levels currently taking place.
- Trends and data on future increases/changes in recreational activities.
- Data from recreational users on what is needed or wanted.

### **2) Tourism and Promotion of Limerick Forest** which includes:

- Statistics on tourism nationally, provincially and locally.
- Potential for eco tourism.
- Focus on motorized vehicle use; trends, data, legalities and safety aspects.
- Survey results on activities and promotion.

Comments and information from LFAC members, recreational user groups, businesses, municipal offices and tourism locations as well as other citizens all concerned with the future of Limerick Forest are included. In most cases, recommendations are directly linked to information contained in this study. Some recommendations are a product or summary of combined opinions and comments made by contacts during the course of gathering data.

This study was a huge undertaking for one person in the short period of time allocated for its completion. Having said that, the information contained in this report represents an in-depth and broadly covered spectrum of statistics, survey results and general information revolving around recreational use and the possibility of promoting Limerick Forest as a tourist destination.

## **Findings and Recommendations**

Within Limerick Forest very differing groups all share the multi-use trail network. It would be beneficial to conduct surveys such as the ones included in this study on a seasonal basis over a year or more to really get an idea of the amount and type of recreational users in Limerick Forest and to determine their individual needs. As well, statistics, recreational trends and information on tourists coming to Leeds and Grenville should all be tracked on a regular basis.

Finally, affects on the forest itself should be regularly monitored. Damage to ecologically sensitive areas or natural features, disruption to wildlife and changes in populations of species all have to be carefully assessed to determine levels of intervention or protection.

- **Recreational Trail Use** is concentrated mainly in the South Tract and there are an increasing number of dirt bike and ATV users. Users have indicated that all trail use has increased by 50% per year since 2003 although only one new trail has been added. Over use seems to be a general concern by some users and trails are becoming well worn with tree roots sticking up and lack of soil protecting them. Recommendations have been made to close down some trails and make new ones to allow the old ones to recover.
- **ATV Use** is on the rise. There is a need for more trail networks to accommodate the increase of these off road vehicle users. Combine this with pressure from ATV users to lobby municipalities to change legislation to allow access to roads; more and more riders will be capable of travelling farther and using the existing smaller trail networks. If Limerick Forest is to keep up with this increase and still maintain its current multi-use policy designed to satisfy all recreational users in the forest specific ATV trails need to be created.
- **Irresponsible Trail Users** are a concern for many who frequent Limerick Forest. Loud off road vehicles, dangerous driving and lack of concern for other users and the forest itself are the main issues. It was felt that these people give the off road sport a bad name and could cause complaints from the general public leading to hostility and decreased access to trails outside of Limerick Forest in the future. Education is the first step using signs and pamphlets. Enforcement may be more difficult but one suggestion is to begin with an increased police presence on weekends at the popular areas.
- **Geocaching** is a relatively new and growing activity that is drawing people to Limerick Forest to locate the eight caches hidden within. There clearly needs to be more consideration given to this popular activity that is attracting Limerick Forest to people who have never been here before.

- **The Ideal Trail** does exist within Limerick Forest for a great majority of its users although some thought could be given to making trails better suited to specific activities. Cross country skiers, dog sledders, hikers and horseback riders/ drivers have all indicated changes they would like to see to make their experience more enjoyable. These changes are not huge and could easily be made by working with the different user groups and individuals to plan and implement these changes.
- **Other Activities are Possible** in the forest than what was covered in detail by this study. Activities exist which are prohibited such as camp fires and need to be stopped. Others may seem less desirable but they need to be allocated to areas more suitable for the activity, such as paintball. Without proper education and awareness even well intentioned users are capable of causing irreversible damage.
- **User Groups** are both an important source for information on their specific activities and an excellent link to the users themselves. These groups have strong memberships and provide a collective voice when lobbying government or presenting an image to the general public. An opportunity exists, through these groups, to promote awareness, provide education and obtain volunteer assistance for Limerick Forest.
- **The Province of Ontario** has recently acknowledged the need to promote a healthier lifestyle in its residents and has developed a new *Ministry of Health Promotion*. With the new *Ontario Trails Strategy* they are recognising that trails play an important role in building a healthier, more prosperous Ontario. Limerick Forest fits nicely with this strategy and the potential is there for assistance and funding to create new trails, encourage participation and promote the forest as a location for enjoyable outdoor recreation.
- **Visitors Come to Leeds and Grenville** to see popular locations such as the 1000 Islands, historic Fort Wellington and Rideau Canal or to spend time with family and friends. Limerick Forest may not be the initial draw for the majority of people but statistics show that the tourists are coming here and over half want to participate in outdoor activities (509,783 people in 2002). Limerick Forest has the potential of capturing these people by offering them a place to enjoy various year round outdoor activities while they're here enjoying all Leeds and Grenville has to offer.
- **Other Areas Cost Money** to use for recreation. Limerick Forest seems to be one of the very few (if not the only) truly multi-use area with very few restrictions and no user fees. Opinions from the people using the forest are split when it comes to straight yes or no answers on user fees.

However, most would consider some fee structure as an acceptable way to offset costs of trail maintenance, signage and education if value for their dollar was obtained. Suggestions included such things as paying for an educator to speak or a specific activity not normally available in Limerick.

- **Restrictions to the Multi-Use Policy** are deemed acceptable under certain situations for some people. In the telephone survey conducted 23 respondents said YES, 6 said NO and 1 wasn't sure. When these same people were asked if they agreed with the multi-use policy overall, 28 said YES, 2 said NO and 1 was not sure. Most of the comments referred to seasonal restrictions such as motorized vehicles doing damage to wet trails in the spring while others were concerned with safety during hunting season and the protection of the more ecologically sensitive areas of Limerick. Some hikers wanted non-motorized use areas to enjoy the quiet and tranquility of nature. Some users felt that suggesting that certain areas are more conducive to specific types of activities would be something to try. It is important to listen to these comments and consider all users when determining if steps be taken to implement any restrictions. One solution might be to use signs to educate and suggest certain uses first and monitor responses such as setting aside an area recommended for non-motorized use.
  
- **What the People Want** when it comes to making a firm decision of whether to promote or not to promote Limerick Forest is still unclear. According to information obtained from surveys and conversations with forest users the split is even; some people are for promotion and some are against. What is clear is that everyone wants to have a say in the degree of promotion, who Limerick is promoted to and for what use. Property owners near Limerick parcels were contacted and asked their thoughts on increased use; the majority have no issues with this. Paying attention to the comments and discussion it is apparent that even the people *for* promotion are cautious. Perhaps Limerick Forest is not ready to be offered up as a tourist destination just yet; at least not on a large scale. Starting small and branching outward slowly, a plan must grow with time and be allowed to evolve and change to benefit both the user and the forest.
  
- **The Limerick North Tract** is an example of an area that has a few trails but is not currently being used to the degree the South Tract is. With its easy access from and close proximity to Merrickville, it was suggested by some owners of accommodation businesses in Merrickville that this would be an ideal area to promote eco-tourism involving passive recreational use only. These businesses indicated that they would like an opportunity to offer accommodation packages to their guests including maps of well marked trail networks to hike, ski, bicycle or snowshoe in a wooded, natural area.

Doug Struthers, Mayor of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford has indicated his support of a plan to develop an organized and well researched approach to creating a primarily non-motorized trail network in Limerick North. One of the most important steps to planning such a venture would be to consult the people currently living near this area who could be affected by tourism. Further consideration should be given to possible adverse effects on the forest, its wildlife and eco-system.

- **Limerick's Potential** as a destination for locals and tourists for outdoor recreation is great and opportunities for promotion should not be discarded without adequate investigation and careful consideration first. Increased awareness and promotion of the forest could create economic benefits locally and open up opportunities for research and education resulting in increased recognition for the forest. However, any increase of use could also be detrimental to the forest if careful preparation and planning is not in place to deal with the anticipated increase.
- **Education and Awareness** of others and toward nature should be on going and a stronger emphasis put on this for the future. A more organized approach to compatible recreational use of Limerick could help to create a greater sense of ownership on the part of the individual or group using the forest and this could generate more of a willingness to help maintain trails and protect the forest from abuse and vandalism. Increased communication with the people in the forest also creates an opportunity for increased education on the environmentally sensitive issues affecting some areas of Limerick and how they need to be protected. There should always be a balance between human recreational needs and the preservation of the natural environment.
- **Affects of Recreational Use** on the forest itself must be taken into consideration now and in the future. Regardless of promotion on either a small or a large scale, recreational users should be encouraged to stay on trails provided to protect the forest. Some areas are showing signs of curious visitors trampling through sensitive plant life in their need to investigate nature further. Concern for protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat should be balanced with opportunities to educate people so that they can leave with a respect and understanding of the importance of preserving wild spaces for the future. Some recreational activities leave a larger footprint in the forest than others but all human activity has some adverse effect. The key is to maintain this balance.

This study is designed to provide enough information to move forward, further investigating the tourism opportunities for Limerick Forest while continuing to promote sustainable recreational use of the forest.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Limerick Forest**

The Limerick Forest lands (5788 hectares) are owned and managed by the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (UCLG) and are available for public use as a community forest. This community forest is unique in that the counties work in conjunction with a group of over 100 volunteers called the Limerick Forest Advisory Committee (LFAC) to provide advice on current and future uses, activities and preservation of the forest.

Guidelines for forest use are detailed in the Long Range Management Plan, produced by LFAC and completed in 2003. This plan establishes the vision, goal, objectives, strategies and activity parameters for Limerick Forest.

Limerick is classified as a “multi-use” forest. A large number of trails, primarily in the South Tract, provide year round free access to Limerick Forest for all types of recreational trail users. Although not all activities are limited to these trails and not all areas of Limerick have established trail networks, it is primarily the trail users that are examined in this study.

*“Limerick Forest attracts many people in pursuit of recreational opportunities. Current recreational activities in Limerick Forest include picnicking, hiking, hunting, bird watching, cross country skiing, horseback riding and trail riding on bikes, motorbikes, all terrain vehicles (ATVs) and snowmobiles.*

*Recreational management began in the mid 1960s, when two of eventually four picnic sites were developed in Limerick Forest. By the late 1960s snowmobiling was becoming popular and a snowmobile trail network was developed through Limerick Forest. Through the 1970s up to 90 km of trail were groomed and maintained by MNR in Limerick Forest South and Limerick Forest North.*

*Today the picnic sites have been abandoned and the snowmobile trails are no longer maintained by the MNR. However, the existing road network is extensively used by trail riders and hikers, and local snowmobile clubs still maintain and groom sections of trail in Limerick Forest. A local motorcycle club has developed and maintained a trail network through the Limerick Forest South.”<sup>1</sup>*

### **1.2 Estimated Use in 2003**

The Long Range Management Plan, 2003, based on input from LFAC Recreation Sub Committee provides estimated activity in Limerick Forest South, as an example, in 2003.

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<sup>1</sup> Limerick Forest Long Range Management Plan, 2003

The majority of users at that time were snowmobilers at 250 per week; winter months only. Hunters formed a large portion as well, although more concentrated, their limited time span doesn't allow for the overall numbers of other users. Dirt bikers use the trails on average 60-80 times a week over a 5 month period, walkers and ATV users tied at 35 per week for 10 months of the year. **Refer to Appendix A: Summary of Recreational Activities**

### **1.3 Recreational Use Today**

As in 2003, the most commonly used area is still the South Tract of Limerick Forest. Certain activities may have increased and/or changed since 2003, still others may have decreased. Larry Murray, LFAC member, Bytown Motorcycle Association (BMA) member and long time user of the Limerick Forest trail network, estimates that all trail use has increased by 50% per year since 2003 although only one new trail has been added.

The trails around the chalet, off Limerick Rd. tend to see more hikers or other foot traffic than motorized due to the design and length of the trails there. This area is popular for families, educational activities, group outings and activities involving the chalet as a meeting place.

The trails off Forsythe Rd. called the "Y" and the "Pit" provide a longer and more diverse trail design. These areas offer the user different networks of trails which are more challenging and conducive to activities such as ATV use, dirt biking and mountain biking while still suitable for hikers, and horseback riders. **Refer to Appendix B: Recreational Trails of Limerick Forest South Tract.**

### **1.4 Designated Use Areas (DUAs)**

When considering the possibility of increasing recreational use designated use areas must be considered.

*"Limerick Forest is a multiple use resource and a large number of varying activities and resource uses occur within its boundaries. To ensure that resource use and resource service conflicts are minimized and that all acceptable uses are provided with optimum opportunities within the resource base that Limerick Forest has to offer, a number of areas within Limerick Forest have been designated for specific uses. These designated use areas (DUAs) are based on current activities and their patterns within Limerick Forest, on inherent values of Limerick Forest that are best in providing certain specific services and products, and on public input. With the odd exception (e.g. certain sensitive ecological areas) DUAs are able to host a number of various activities. Separation of activities as reflected in DUAs and within any one DUA are necessary in order to avoid ecological damage, safety concerns and a diminishing of quality recreational experiences."*<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Limerick Forest Long Range Management Plan, 2003

The Long Range Management Plan, 2003 provides a description of the DUAs, the acceptable uses within them, regulations for each and any restrictions that may apply. **Refer to Appendix C: Limerick Forest Designated Use Areas (DUA's)**

### **1.5 Where to Go from Here**

To ensure that these multi-recreational uses remain compatible with each other and that the other benefits of the forest are not lost, many other factors need to be considered before making the decision whether or not to promote Limerick Forest locally or globally.

### **1.6 Questions to Consider**

1. Are enough opportunities being provided for, at this time, for the variety of recreational activities that people (local and tourists) want to participate in?
2. Are provisions being made for future generations of recreational users?
3. What are some of the options and outcomes of decisions made now for the future?
4. Are we doing enough to protect the forest for generations to come?
5. Can we afford to stand back and wait without being prepared?

## **2. OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **2.1 Background**

For the purposes of this study many recreational activities were examined; all of which make up the majority of activities currently taking place within various parcels of Limerick Forest. There could possibly be other activities that people participate in and it is recommended that further studies be conducted to determine not only what activities but to track changes over time.

### **2.2 Types of Activities**

- *Hiking/Walking/Running/Jogging:*  
Which could also involve *Dog Walking, Picnicking, Outdoor Photography and Bird/Other Wildlife Watching.*
- *Cross-Country Skiing, Snowshoeing, Tobogganing:*  
There are even a few *Dog Sledding* enthusiasts.
- *Dirt biking, ATV'ing and Snowmobiling:*  
These same trails also offer an excellent opportunity for *Horseback Riding* and *Mountain Biking.*
- *Hunting:*  
This is very popular in all Limerick parcels. Although there isn't a lot of open water available some people reported that they *Canoe* and *Fish* in Limerick.
- *Geocaching:*  
This is a new activity becoming more and more popular for a wide range of participants. Limerick currently has eight hidden caches.

### **2.3 Participants**

The recreational users in Limerick Forest that can easily be contacted and surveyed are locals and mainly LFAC members. It is very difficult to know who exactly is using the forest at any given time and where they are from. The LFAC members who use the forest on a regular basis are a valuable resource for information on others frequenting the trails and could be contacted to assist with a more comprehensive study in the future, over a longer period of time than this project allowed for.

For this study, information on recreational use in Limerick Forest was gathered from the members of LFAC, representatives from different user groups and others frequenting the forest through phone and written surveys. Based on these contacts, opinions and comments were recorded along with statistics on individual use in Limerick parcels over the last year.

### **3. TOURISM**

#### **3.1 Definition and Overview**

The *World Tourism Organization* states that in order for a trip to be considered tourism, the traveller must leave his or her “usual environment”.<sup>3</sup> There are many other definitions but for the purposes of this study a tourist is defined as anyone who travels out of their regular area to participate in an activity.

It is very difficult to determine how many “tourists” frequent Limerick Forest. Since Limerick Forest isn’t widely promoted, other than through the website, it is conceivable that a large number of tourists enjoying the forest do so while visiting family and friends here locally.

There are others who live out of the immediate area but travel to Limerick on a regular basis due to their affiliation with organized recreational groups. It’s hard to think of these people as tourists because Limerick Forest could be classified as their regular area.

The group of people or “tourists” that really needs to be examined are the ones who don’t come here now and who could be attracted to what the forest has to offer them. If this sector is appealed to in a well thought out and planned approach there is potential for spin off benefits for not only Limerick Forest but for the area businesses as well.

To help determine the likelihood of tourists visiting Limerick Forest statistics from National, Provincial and Local surveys were examined.

#### **3.2 National Perspective**

Statistics Canada reports that Canadian residents made 50 million visits within the country during the second quarter of 2005. About 42.2 million of them were to visit friends or relatives and for pleasure. Most of their visits, about 93%, were made by car or truck. (The Canadian Travel Survey states a “trip” must be at least 80 km one way from the persons’ home to a Canadian destination. This trip can be one person alone or several together.)

For overnight visits, residents of Canada spent 51 million nights away from home. Of these nights, 51.9 % were spent in private homes, while 17.0 % were spent in hotels and motels. Refer to Appendix D: Domestic Travel in Canada

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<sup>3</sup> The World Tourism Organization website: [www.world-tourism.org](http://www.world-tourism.org)

### **3.3 Provincial Perspective**

People are travelling within Canada and mostly by car. Studies show that half of these people visit family or friends while travelling. But, are they visiting Ontario?

The *Canadian Travel Survey*, states that nearly nine trips in ten were made in the travelers' province of residence. The number of these intraprovincial trips, which stood at 151.2 million, accounted for 87.8% of all trips made by Canadians in Canada. Ontario has the highest percentage of intraprovincial trips at 91.9%, followed by Quebec with 90.2%.<sup>4</sup>

Now we know that a large percentage of the Canadian travelling population is from Ontario, travelling within Ontario. So, do they come to Leeds and Grenville?

### **3.4 Local Perspective**

A survey based on data from 2002 and produced in 2004 called *Regional Tourism Profiles: CD 07: Leeds and Grenville United Counties* by Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation paints a picture of tourists who come here.

In the year 2002, Leeds and Grenville saw 2, 227, 370 visitors. Of these visitors, approximately 40% (894,357) stayed one or more nights. Of these overnight visitors, 22% (196,758.57) came from Ottawa-Carlton Regional Municipality and another large percentage came from Pennsylvania and New York states.

Putting it into perspective, it is interesting to note that 57% of all overnight visitors (509,783.49) participated in some type of outdoor/sports activity. It would be nice to know if some of these outdoor activities included visiting Limerick Forest. **Refer to Appendix E: Regional Tourism Profiles -Leeds & Grenville United Counties**

### **3.5 Limerick Potential Draw for Tourists**

These statistics paint a picture of tourism in Ontario and give an idea of how many tourists visit Leeds and Grenville. Visitors come here to see popular locations such as the 1000 Islands, historic Fort Wellington and Rideau Canal or to spend time with family and friends. Limerick Forest may not be the initial draw for the majority of people but statistics show that the tourists are coming here and over half want to participate in outdoor activities. Limerick Forest has the potential of capturing these people by offering them a place to enjoy various year round outdoor activities while they're here enjoying all Leeds and Grenville has to offer.

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<sup>4</sup> Statistics Canada, The Canadian Travel Survey, Domestic Travel, 2003 Catalogue no. 87-212-XIE

## **4. BENEFITS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION**

### **4.1 Healthy Benefits and Advantages**

It's no secret that Canadians need to become more physically active. The health benefits of physical activity are numerous. When you hear statistics like "*The prevalence of overweight and obesity in Canadian young people appears to be on the rise*" and "*Over half of 5-17 year olds in Canada are not active enough for optimal growth and development*" you wonder what kind of a message we, as adults are sending to our young people.

**Refer to Appendix F: Fit Facts for Children and Youth.**

Another interesting study states "*Camping, hiking and fishing in the wild as a child breeds respect for environment in adults.*" A new Cornell study by environmental psychologist Nancy Wells and research associate Kristi Lekies shows that children with plenty of opportunity to fish, camp or play in nature before age 11 are more likely to grow up to be environmentalists than other children. **Refer to Appendix G: Respect for the Environment**

### **4.2 Ontario Trails Strategy**

The Province of Ontario has recently acknowledged the need to promote a healthier lifestyle in its residents and has developed a new Ministry of Health Promotion. With their new Ontario Trails Strategy they are recognising that trails play an important role in building a healthier, more prosperous Ontario. The strategy is a long term plan that establishes strategic directions for planning, managing, promoting and using trails in Ontario.

The Ontario Trails Strategy supports the ACTIVE2010 which is the governments' goal to increase sport participation and levels of physical activity among Ontarians. According to ACTIVE2010 strategy, 52% of Ontarians are insufficiently active to benefit their health. It's one thing to hear these statistics but another to do something about it. The vision for the future of trails in Ontario, as stated in the Ontario Trails Strategy is "*A world class system of diversified trails, planned and used in an environmentally responsible manner, that enhances the health and prosperity of all Ontarians.*"<sup>5</sup>

The provincial government is not just recognising the importance of increased physical activity for Ontarians but is also willing to support trail networks as a very important avenue to achieving a healthy lifestyle. This is an opportunity to receive support and possibly funding for the enhancement or promotion of Limerick's trail network.

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<sup>5</sup> Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion-ACTIVE2010 Ontario Trails Strategy, 2005

### **4.3 Domestic Travel**

Domestic travel statistics from Statistics Canada show that 17,039,000 people participated in some type of sports/outdoor activity in 2003 within Ontario. **Refer to Appendix H: Total Domestic Travel by Activity Participation**

Statistics Canada also reports that of the 4, 451,030 households in Ontario in 2004 the average amount per household that was spent on recreation was \$3883. That's more than half of what they spent on food! (\$7106)! **Refer to Appendix I: Average Household Expenditures**

### **4.4 Planning**

Based on these statistics the conclusion can be drawn that there is both a need and a desire for outdoor recreational opportunities in Leeds and Grenville for both locals and tourists. Considering the amount spent by the average household in Ontario on recreation it appears people are willing to pay for the opportunity as well. On top of that funding may be available to offset costs of planning, education, promotion, implementation or enhancement of recreational trail networks in Limerick Forest.

The answer may seem clear but there are many other things to consider before major decisions can be made on future promotion of Limerick Forest. Consideration must be given to the recreational needs and effects of increased use on the residents of Leeds and Grenville (both positive and negative). This means examining all aspects of outdoor recreational activities, being aware of trends, recreational use patterns and what motivates changes in outdoor recreational use. Affects on the forest itself must be taken into consideration as well.

## **5. OFF ROAD VEHICLE TRAIL USE**

### **5.1 Overview**

Limerick Forest can provide a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities for many people; the majority of which use the trail networks provided for them. Some types of trail use activities are growing in popularity while others are dropping. Since Limerick Forest's trails are frequented by a large number of motorized recreational users (ATV, Dirt Bike and Snowmobiles) on a regular basis, this group was examined first. Other uses are examined later in this study.

*"There are approximately 60 km of unimproved forest access roads in Limerick Forest which lend themselves to trail riding. Limerick Forest South and Limerick Forest North have the majority of these with approximately 40 km. Another 11 km of gravelled secondary access roads can be used to link the unimproved roads. In addition to these roads, a network of approximately 30 km of single track trails (generally less than 1 meter wide) has been created in the southern half of Limerick Forest South. These trails are used extensively by motorcycles and mountain bikes".<sup>6</sup>*

### **5.2 Trail Popularity**

Just about every weekend during the summer you can see vehicles hauling trailer parked at the "Y" or the "Pit" off Forsythe Rd. The majority of these belong to ATV and Dirt bike riders who are off enjoying the trails. In the winter snowmobiles take to the trails that travel through Limerick Forest to other destinations.

To get an idea of where the motorized off road vehicle industry stands and the numbers participating in it businesses within and just outside of Leeds and Grenville were contacted for their opinions on current sales and usage as well as for their forecasts for the future of motorized recreational use.

### **5.3 Businesses Surveyed**

Six businesses who deal with the off road vehicle industry were contacted. All agreed that motorized off road vehicle use is on the rise; ATV use taking the lead. Some felt that snowmobile sales were slowing down (in one case by 50%) primarily due to lack of snow. Other reasons for this decrease include increases in gas prices, trail permit prices and insurance costs. Some former snowmobile users are now purchasing ATV's due to the longer riding season.

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<sup>6</sup> Limerick Forest Long Range Management Plan, 2003 - 6.5.2 Trail Riding

One dealer indicated that the potential for doubling ATV sales is only limited to the size of space to stock these vehicles. Sales today (approx 60 per year) are more than double what they sold eight years ago and could double again within the next year. Another dealer noted they sell 400-500 new ATV's a year and 200-250 used per year.

Dirt Bikes sales are good right now and most dealers felt that sales tend to go up and down with approximately a 3 year turn around/trend (1 year good, 2 bad then 1 good). Promotion and advertising may be a key to this trend, although peer pressure (friends buying new bikes) plays a factor as well. Another dealer reported dirt bike sales have levelled out and sales remain steady. One dealer sells 75 dirt bikes per year, compared with 140 street bikes and 10 dual purpose (dirt and street legal).

Most dealers indicated that their customers all seem to know where they can ride. One person contacted was concerned however, for the off road industry as a whole. He felt that there is a lack of places to ride; fewer and fewer trails.

The average trail rider seems to be over 30 yrs old. It was felt that a large majority of older adults used to have a motorcycle when younger but left it when they had a family. These people are now getting into the dirt biking sport; some with their families. It was noted that the younger people are the ones most interested in ATV's. One dealer noted that 65% of his customers are members of a club. Limerick Forest is perceived as more of a family oriented area by one dealer. Dedicated riders love the forest there and tend to be less of the party type.

It's interesting to note that when asked about their personal knowledge of Limerick Forest, two dealerships were very familiar with the trails, three had no knowledge at all of Limerick and one only minimal. These businesses are a key part to getting the word out about Limerick Forest to both their customers and tourists who may stop in wondering where to ride. Considerable information can be gained on the off road vehicle industry by keeping in touch with local dealerships and this is also an excellent opportunity for public education. **Refer to Appendix J: Off Road Vehicle Dealer Survey.**

#### **5.4 Ontario v/s Quebec**

Some off road vehicle users prefer Quebec's trails to ride. Quebec has two separate networks of trails for motorized use only; one for snowmobiles, one for ATV's and dirt bikes to share. There are specific designated areas within this system where they may overlap. Restrictions do apply; snowmobiles can only travel 60-90 km/hr and ATV's go 20-35km/hr or 50km/hr depending on the area. This parallel trail system for the most part is year round-in Quebec and has been there for approximately 10 years now.

In Ontario, snowmobiles and ATV's do not share the trails. The snowmobile clubs go to great lengths to obtain permission from private land owners to cross their land.

By providing assurances that no other users will use these trails and covering all members with adequate insurance the landowners are very comfortable. Problems seem to arise when the off road users ride on this trail network with no permission or insurance in place.

Some ATV clubs do have their own trail networks as well which travel over some private land and they also restrict other types of users from riding on them. By having a current membership to the club (or purchase a day pass) you have access to maps to freely use their trail network. As well, membership provides you with liability insurance; similar to the snowmobile clubs.

### **5.5 Costs and Legalities**

Costs of insurance coverage are going up, both for ATV's and dirt bikes. Some insurance companies are adding a surcharge for bigger ATV's which, considering the fact that manufacturers are producing bigger and bigger machines, could limit sales in the future. One dealer selling ATV's pointed out (in the previously mentioned off road dealer survey) that this may be a good thing for the environment as manufacturers would be forced to produce smaller machines.

When examining off road vehicle use it is important to look at existing rules and regulations governing their use. Even though Limerick Forest lands are owned by the United Counties and are comprised of trail networks off of the public roads certain portions of the highway traffic act apply like having plates and insurance.

### **5.6 Registration and Insurance**

Regardless of the type of off road vehicle (ATV or dirt bike) all who ride in Limerick Forest have to be registered (plated) and the owner must have and carry proof of insurance. The Off-Road Vehicles Act (ORVA) and Highway Traffic Act (HTA) govern off-road vehicle users and detail registration, licensing, insurance, road access and safety requirements.

*“3.(1) No person shall drive an off-road vehicle except under the authority of a permit for the vehicle and with the number plate showing the number of the permit displayed on the vehicle in the manner prescribed. R.S.O. 1990, c. O.4, s. 3 (1).*

*(2) Every driver of an off-road vehicle shall carry the permit for it or a true copy thereof and shall surrender the permit or copy for inspection upon demand of a peace officer. R.S.O. 1990, c. O.4, s. 3 (2).*

*(3) Subsection (2) does not apply to a driver of an off-road vehicle on land where the owner of the vehicle is the occupier of the land. R.S.O. 1990, c. O.4, s. 3 (3).”<sup>7</sup>*

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<sup>7</sup> Ontario Ministry of Transportation - Off-Road Vehicles Act (ORVA) and Highway Traffic Act (HTA) R.S.O. 1990, c. O.4, s. 3 (1).

Insurance costs for off road vehicle owners are increasing. Currently costs increase for motorcycles by the number of cc's. ATV insurance costs increase with the weight of the vehicle. All off road insurance today has personal injury insurance included. This is a mandatory change brought forth by the Ontario provincial government.

### **5.7 Public Road Access**

Further issues arise when off-road vehicle users drive along the public roads or cross the roads to get to another trail. Some feel that the responsibility lies with the rider at that point as to whether they want to break the law or not. A certain amount of responsibility should be with the land owner to be aware of the legal ramifications in order to make an informed decision on increasing or promoting trail use areas that may encourage riders to cross or drive along public roads.

Snowmobile users have established a network of trails to enable them to travel from area to area through a combination of private, crown and public lands. They also are permitted to cross public roads and in most areas travel on the shoulder of roads to get to the next off road trail. Certain restrictions apply but most snowmobile users abide by the rules and the general public are generally comfortable with this arrangement.

Other off-road vehicles do not have this advantage. Currently, in the Province of Ontario ATV's and motorcycles that are not registered and plated for highway use are restricted from driving along the side of or crossing highways. There are however, exceptions to this: farmers, trappers and utility workers and for far Northern Ontario (approximately north of the 50th parallel).<sup>8</sup>

### **5.8 Changes to Provincial Legislation**

Off-road vehicles (ORV's) are defined as any two or three-wheeled motorized vehicles as well as specific vehicles described by regulations, with four or more wheels, intended for recreational use. These ORV's now have more access to the shoulder and paved portions of some Ontario highways. These new regulations, effective July 31, 2003, apply *exclusively to one category of ORV*.

This is defined as an off-road vehicle that:

- has four wheels, the tires of which are all in contact with the ground;
- has steering handlebars;
- has a seat that is designed to be straddled by the driver; and
- meets requirements of federal Motor Vehicle Safety Act (MVSA) and American National Standards Institute (ANSI standard).

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<sup>8</sup> Ontario Ministry of Transportation-Off Road Vehicles Act (ORVA) R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER O.4 and Highway Traffic Act (HTA) Ontario regulation 316/03 Operation of Off-Road Vehicles on Highways: [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca)

\*New regulations do not apply to other types of off-road vehicles such as mini-bikes, dirt bikes and moto-cross bikes.<sup>9</sup>

### **5.9 Two Municipalities Have Their Say**

*The Highway Traffic Act-Operation of Off-Road Vehicles on Highways* does make a provision for Municipalities to create their own bylaws to allow off-road vehicle use.

Two areas near here have created such a bylaw to apply to certain roads within their individual municipalities. Both these bylaws apply to ATV use only. The United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry developed theirs in 2004 and South Frontenac Township has recently passed theirs this year. Both have reported this arrangement is working well so far.

**Refer to Appendix K: SD&G - Regulating the Use of ATV's on County Roads.**

**Refer to Appendix L: South Frontenac Township - Bylaw to Regulate ATV Use on Municipal Highways.**

Currently, no township within Leeds and Grenville including the county itself permits riders of off-road vehicles (ATV's or dirt bikes) to drive on any portion of county or township roads.

### **5.10 Safety**

One local insurance broker noted that the dollar value of personal injury claims from off road vehicle users is increasing as the type of injury is becoming more serious. This same broker feels that increased use of ATV's on the highways is going to cause more problems with more younger and inexperienced riders taking advantage of the new bylaws and pulling out into traffic. Currently riders under 16 years of age can be added to their parents insurance with a rider on the policy. This makes them "legal" on lands owned by their parents not on other land and not on public roads. It was felt that the temptation for these younger riders to drive on roads will increase as municipalities adopt bylaws to allow ATV's on roadways.

The Canada Safety Council states that speed, inexperience, improper apparel, non-use of helmets and alcohol are common factors to the rise in injuries in ATV users.

*"In the category of sports and recreation, ATV-related activities are now the third most common cause of severe injuries next to cycling and snowmobiling."*

It goes on to say that ATV injuries are more likely to happen to boys aged 15 to 19 than any other group. **Refer to Appendix M: Canada Safety Council - The All-Terrain Vehicle Boom**

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<sup>9</sup> Ontario Ministry of Transportation- Operation of Off-Road Vehicles on Highways: [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca). Changes to the Act-Frequently Asked Questions.

### **5.11 Future of Off-Roading**

Based on statistics and opinions of businesses interviewed, there appears to be an increase in off road vehicle use, particularly ATV riding. Based on this increase there will be a need for more trail networks to accommodate these off road vehicle users. Combine this with pressure from ATV users to lobby municipalities to change legislation to allow access to roads; more and more riders will be capable of travelling farther and using the existing smaller trail networks.

Will Limerick Forest be able to meet this need while maintaining the current multi-use policy designed to satisfy all recreational users in the forest?

## 6. RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY IN LIMERICK FOREST

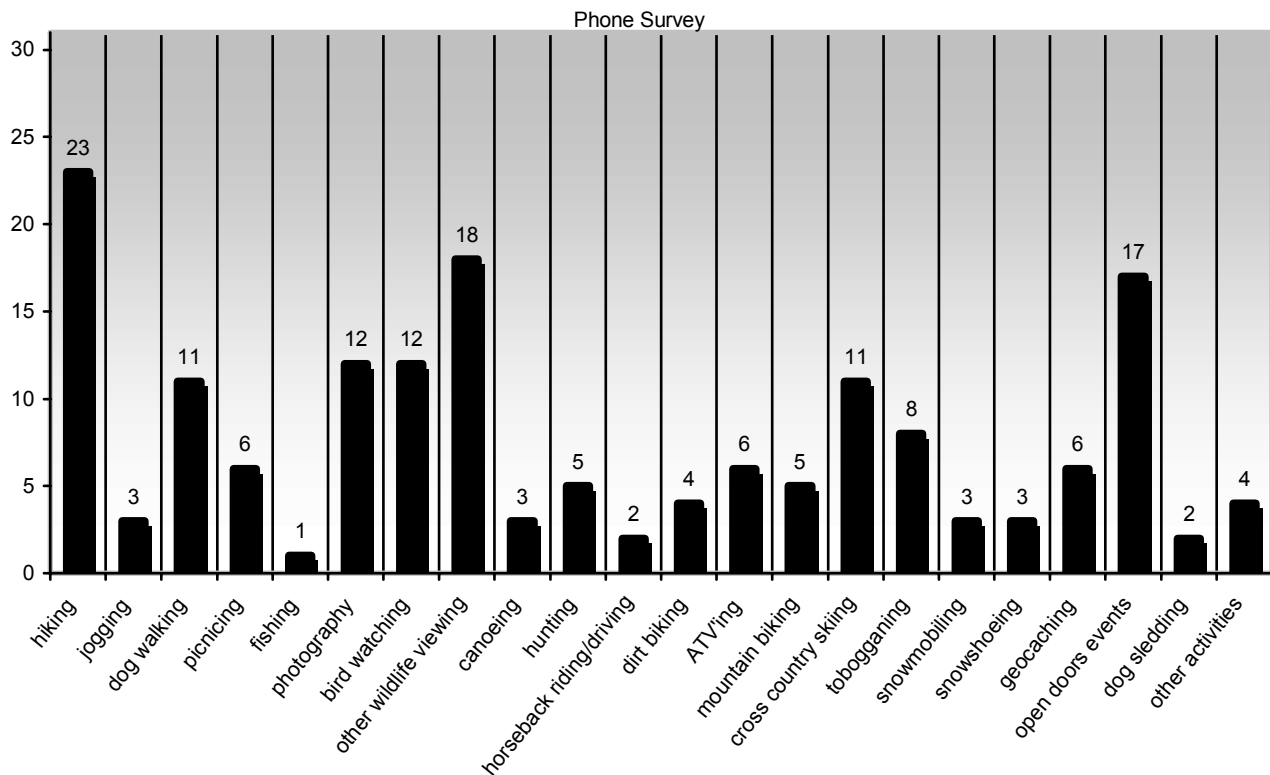
### 6.1 Overview

It's easy to see the trailers in the parking lots on Forsythe Rd. most weekends in the summer waiting for the riders to come back from enjoying the trails on their ATV's and dirt bikes. Other areas such as the trails behind the chalet are frequented by hikers; families on an outing and bird watchers. But what other recreational users are visiting Limerick Forest?

For this study surveys were conducted of Limerick Forest Advisory Committee (LFAC) members and other local people to try and get an idea of what other recreational activity is taking place in Limerick Forest.

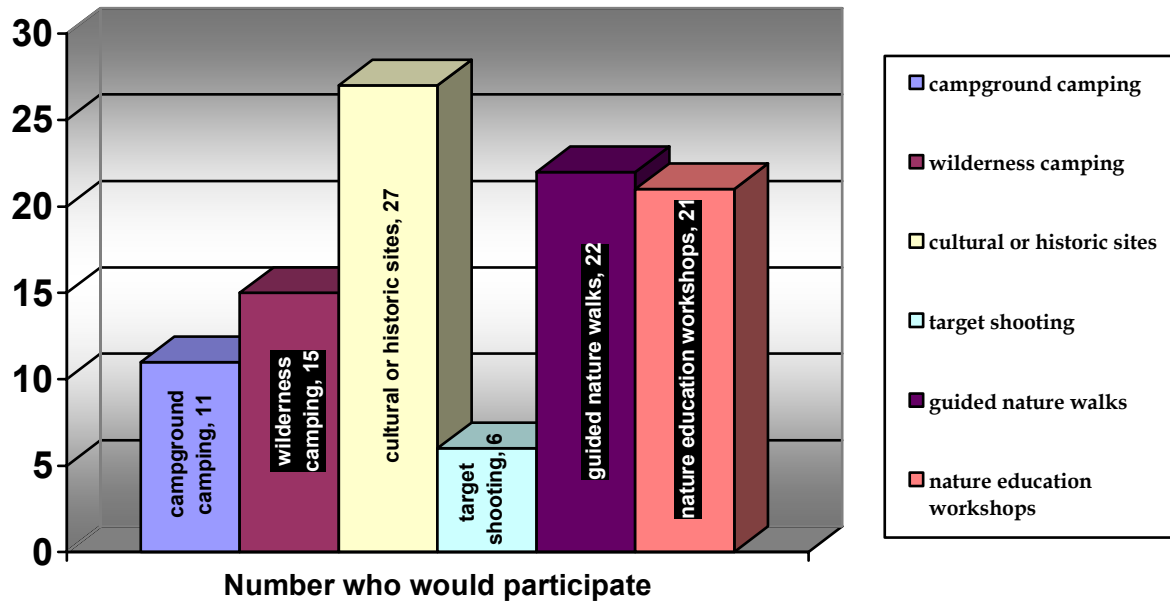
### 6.2 Telephone Survey Results

A telephone survey was conducted over a four month period of 31 recreational users of the forest; mainly LFAC members. These people were asked nine questions around recreational use of Limerick Forest including what activities they have participated in over the last year in any parcel of Limerick.



Number of Participants in Specific Activities Over the Past Year

When asked if they would participate in certain activities if made available to them the 31 respondents replied as follows:



Almost all (26 of the 31 respondents) use the South Tract (chalet off Limerick Rd., Pit and Y off Forsythe Rd.) on a regular basis, which is the most popular by far. It is significant to note that even within this small group of people quite a few frequent parcels of Limerick Forest other than the South Tract. Of these same people, 22 also use other areas of Limerick for recreational activity such as the North Tract (access off Craig Road, Collar Hill or Scotch Line), North Augusta and other smaller areas in Leeds County. Refer to Appendix N: Telephone Survey

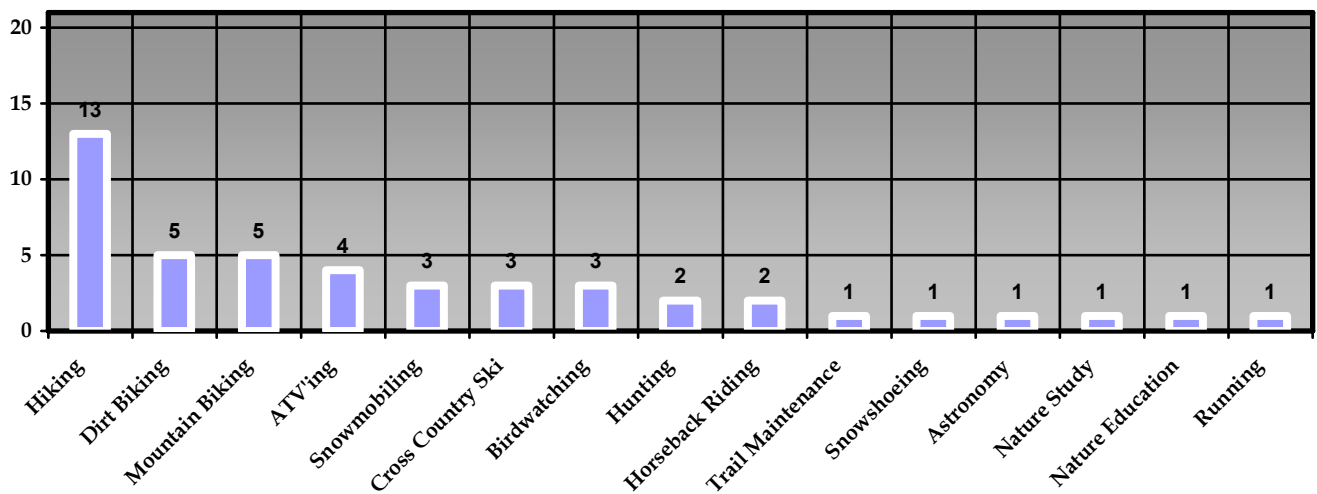
This represents a small cross section of users although their opinions could very well mirror those of many who use Limerick Forest.

### 6.3 Recreation Workshop Survey Results

Another survey was conducted during the Recreation Workshop on May 13, 2006. Of the 31 people attending the workshop 21 responded to this written survey. Note that some of these respondents may be the same people who responded to the telephone survey.

To gain more information about recreational use of Limerick Forest respondents were asked what activities they have participated in. They were given a few activities to choose from and provided the rest themselves.

### Recreation Workshop Survey



Activities In Limerick Forest

Fifteen of these people indicated they belonged to one or more organized recreational group with a total of 26 groups mentioned. Six did not belong to any. Respondents were also asked to state where else they go for recreation; 24 locations were given in each respondent's own words. Refer to Appendix O: Recreation Workshop Survey of Attendees

#### 6.4 Member Conducted Survey Results

A group of 21 LFAC members were asked to interview as many people they can in the forest over a four week period. These results were intended to provide a small sample of the activity there during the summer. Unfortunately the time frame chosen didn't coincide with times that the majority of these people visited the forest. Reasons such as the very hot weather and mosquito season prevented many from participating in their usual recreational activities.

One annual event, the Bytown Motorcycle Association family ride took place on July 9, 2006 in Limerick South (the Pit off Forsythe Rd.) and LFAC members conducted a survey of approximately 57 people that day. This event draws a large number of people from not only the local area but from Ottawa and Cornwall areas as well. Refer to Appendix P: BMA Family Ride Survey.

Obviously the majority of respondents were there to participate in this event. Unlike the other two surveys mentioned above, this survey determined where people were travelling from that day. It was interesting to see that a large number came from areas a considerable distance from here to participate. Is this an indicator that other organized events in Limerick Forest could have the same potential for drawing tourists?

## **7. ORGANIZED TRAIL USER GROUPS**

### **7.1 Overview**

Although statistics are not available on all individual users of Limerick Forest, it is felt that the majority of recreational users (particularly hikers) in Limerick do not belong to any groups; they just come out on their own and have done so for many years. There are other popular activities (primarily trail users) for which clubs or organizations have been formed. These groups have strong memberships and provide a collective voice when lobbying government or presenting an image to the general public.

Although not all participants of a specific recreational activity belong to one of these groups it is important to be aware of the groups present in this area and who may have members frequenting the forest. An opportunity exists, through these groups, to promote awareness, provide education and obtain volunteer assistance for Limerick Forest. Below is a *sampling* of organized recreational groups who are in this area and have members frequenting the trails in Limerick Forest.

### **7.2 Trail Riding**

*“Trail riding is a premier activity in Limerick Forest and draws participants from great distances, commonly as far as two hours away. ATVs, motorcycles, horses and mountain bikes all share the existing forest access roads and trails that for the most part are confined within Limerick Forest. The trail riders are represented locally, to varying degrees, by their respective clubs. Organized events and rides have been hosted by the various clubs in the past”.<sup>10</sup>*

### **7.3 The Ontario Trails Council**

This council was established in 1988 and started as a coalition of trail user groups, such as hikers, cyclists, snowmobilers, equestrians, etc. with a shared interest in trails and the conservation of abandoned rail lines for use as trails. Membership has broadened to include other similar trail organizations and others with similar interests and values.

The Ontario Trails Council (OTC) Goals are as follows:

- Encourage the establishment of the Trillium Trail Network.
- Increase the number, length, variety and accessibility of trails throughout the province.
- Provide government and other public bodies with an informed, credible voice in support of trail interest groups.
- Promote the safe and responsible use of trails.
- Act as a provincial resource centre for trail information.

**Refer to Appendix Q: Ontario Trails Council – Trail Etiquette**

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<sup>10</sup> Limerick Forest Long Range Management Plan, 2003

#### **7.4 The Ontario Federation of Trail Riders**

The Ontario Federation of Trail Riders (OFTR) was incorporated in 1992 with the goal of educating riders and promoting safe and responsible riding. Their mandate is to source, create and maintain a trail network in Ontario for safe, family use by off road motorcyclist, as well as any other good intentioned users and to provide a strong voice supported by a substantial membership to represent trail users to ensure, to our best ability, that these trails continue to be available. **Refer to Appendix R: OFTR Code of Conduct**

#### **7.5 Bytown Motorcycle Association**

The Bytown Motorcycle Association (BMA) is a group of off-road motorcycle enthusiasts dedicated to preserving and expanding dirt bike riding opportunities in the Ottawa area and Eastern Ontario. Currently there are 153 members with the average age being 36; although there are a quite a few children included in the family memberships. The membership is extremely diverse, both demographically and geographically, being spread across Eastern Ontario, Western Quebec, and even into the USA. Even with the increasing number of dirt bike riders in Limerick only 25% of them are actually BMA members.

Dave Percival, president of the BMA, felt that the Limerick trails appeal to a large number of people, mostly from the local area. Some hard core riders do prefer more challenging and longer sections of trails than Limerick has to offer. He suggested that some of the trails are getting quite a bit of traffic and consideration should be given to closing some and opening new ones to keep the balance between nature and recreation use. Dave also suggested that some areas should be left for wildlife with no trails at all.

Grant Wood membership and communications and LFAC member commented on the future of off road enjoyment: he felt that there needs to be some control on the riders who do not respect proper trail etiquette. He also sees a future where manufacturers will produce more dual sport (certified road worthy) and quieter dirt bikes.

#### **7.6 The Ontario Federation of All Terrain Vehicles**

The Ontario Federation of All Terrain Vehicles (OFATV) is a volunteer driven, not-for-profit organization, dedicated to trail maintenance and development through local volunteer clubs. They represent and provide insurance to all ATV users who have a current membership. In Eastern Ontario however not very many groups are members and none in this area. **Refer to Appendix S: OFATV**

*“The OFATV believes the future of utilizing a trail in the outdoors is directly related to how clubs and its members use it today. Our guidelines will promote safe and responsible riding on trails and protect our environment at the same time.”<sup>11</sup>*

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<sup>11</sup> Ontario Federation of All Terrain Vehicles – [www.ofatv.com](http://www.ofatv.com)

### **7.7 The Johnstown ATV Club**

The Johnstown ATV Club is the only remaining ATV club in this area and currently represent and provide insurance to approximately 230 ATV users. They have their own trail networks and by having a current membership to the club (or purchase a day pass) you have access to maps to freely use this trail network.

*The Benefits of Membership: "To meet people with similar interests, enjoy organized trail rides (we will never abandon you), year round riding, safety, fun, permission to access over 200 km of maintained trails, passage over private lands, clubhouse facilities (always open to members), ample parking, and so forth..."*

*Comments on Limerick Forest: "Our trails provide access to Limerick Forest. The Limerick Forest Advisory Committee welcomes us to use the forest in a responsible manner. There are some areas in Limerick Forest that may be designated as environmentally sensitive. Please respect these areas and keep to the trails. In Limerick Forest, you should expect to encounter motor bikes, hikers, horseback riders, other ATVs, and other forest users. Approach turns and blind crests with caution. There is no particular direction of travel on these trails".*

This club recognizes that their trail system is rich with natural inhabitants. Part of their concern for the environment states: *"This is their home; this is why we ask that you constrain your ATV use to the trails. We promote pertinent use of ATVs within these wilds and ask that you respect the habitat of the brio dunes."*<sup>12</sup>

Johnstown ATV Club Trail Supervisor and Director (and LFAC member), John Foot sees this recreational activity getting bigger and bigger over time. He sees the importance of more trail accessibility and plans are underway to lobby local municipalities for permission to ride ATV's responsibly on the sides of roads and crossing where necessary to access more off road trails.

### **7.8 International Mountain Bike Association**

Although the majority of people who enjoy mountain biking do so on a limited basis there are more serious and dedicated mountain bikers who have formed the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA), which has a Canadian affiliate.

Threatened by trail closures throughout California, five mountain bike clubs joined to form IMBA in 1988. Since then, IMBA's worldwide network of more than 32,000 individuals and 450 clubs has been bringing out the best in mountain biking by encouraging low impact riding, volunteer trail work participation, cooperation among different trail user groups, and innovative trail management solutions.

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<sup>12</sup> Johnstown ATV Club – [www.johnstownatvclub.org](http://www.johnstownatvclub.org)

In 2002, IMBA hired Ontario, Canada natives Mark Schmidt and Lora Woolner as leaders of the award-winning Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crew program. In the summer of 2004, Schmidt and Woolner opened the first-ever Canadian IMBA office. Schmidt and Woolner will enhance IMBA's presence in Canada by:

- Continuing to offer trail management assistance to Canadian land managers and cycling clubs;
- Improving communication among Canadian mountain bike groups;
- Leading the effort to develop political influence for mountain bikers at provincial and national levels;
- Providing professional trail design, education, and consulting services under the auspices of the fee-based IMBA Trail Solutions program. **Refer to Appendix T: International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA)**

### **7.9 Brockville Endo Mountain Biking Club**

There are a growing number of mountain bike users taking advantage of the challenging single track trails in Limerick. A group has formed locally and with its 103 members are introducing mountain bikers of every age and skill level to Limerick Forest.

This year marked the second year for an organized mountain bike race held in the Pit (off Forsythe Rd.). This successful event was hosted by South Grenville District High School and involved 80 high school students from 17 local high schools. Competition was divided into six classes with trophies, medals and \$4000 worth of prizes given out.

Currently there is an organized mountain bike group ride held every other Monday night in Limerick. Peter Meier from the Brockville Endo Mountain Biking Club says that there has never been a conflict on the trails. They share the single track trails with dirt bikers and when they hear them coming they pull off to let them go by.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Brockville Endo Mountain Biking Club website: [www.endo.newpublishing.com](http://www.endo.newpublishing.com)

### **7.10 Equine Canada**

Horseback riders and drivers frequent the Limerick trails off Forsythe Rd.; both at the Pit and Y East and West. Equine Canada is their National representation. Their mission statement is:

- To provide leadership for a viable equine industry in Canada,*
  - To create and foster an environment whereby Canadians achieve enjoyment from horses and sport excellence,*
  - To encourage interest,*
  - To promote education, safety and fair play,*
  - To advance all equine and equestrian interests,*
  - To be the official national voice of the equine community,*
  - To be the national governing body for equestrian sport in Canada.*
- Equine Canada membership is automatic once you have joined your provincial federation or nationally affiliated association.*<sup>14</sup>

### **7.11 Ontario Equestrian Federation**

The Ontario Equestrian Federation is the umbrella organization committed to equine welfare, and to providing leadership and support to individuals, associations and industries in Ontario's horse community. It represents over 13,000 Individual members, 35 equine breed and discipline associations, and more than 200 equine-related businesses to various levels of government, affiliated organizations and the general public. They are: *Instrumental in the establishment of safety standards and the passage of legislation that requires the use of approved helmets by youth while on horseback, the OEF strives to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all participants.*<sup>15</sup>

### **7.12 The Eastern Ontario Horses of Course Club**

Founded in 2000, this group draws participants from a wide area surrounding the towns of Winchester, South Mountain and Kemptonville. Membership is open to people of all ages, and is not restricted by breed of horse or discipline of equestrian activity.

Aims of the group:

- To promote the many excellent breeds of light and heavy horses found in Eastern Ontario;*
- To provide a mutually-supportive venue for the dissemination of information and for the sharing of expertise;*
- To foster a socially active, non-competitive atmosphere for enjoying our horses; and*
- To work together for the benefit of other horse clubs and organizations within the region.*<sup>16</sup>

Local groups also include Leeds County Draft Horse Club and Eastern Ontario Pleasure Driving Society.

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<sup>14</sup> Equine Canada website: [www.equinecanada.ca](http://www.equinecanada.ca)

<sup>15</sup> Ontario Equestrian Federation website: [www.horse.on.ca](http://www.horse.on.ca)

<sup>16</sup> Eastern Ontario Horses of Course Club website: [www.igs.net/~vkirkwoodhp/eohc.htm](http://www.igs.net/~vkirkwoodhp/eohc.htm)

### **7.13 Snowmobile Users**

*“The Leeds and Grenville Snowmobile Association (LGSA) with its 5 snowmobile clubs and 1,100 members are affiliated with the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC). These 5 snowmobile clubs (Athens, Elizabethtown, Grenville, Kemptonville and Rideau Ridge Riders) cooperatively maintain 1000+ km of groomed trail in UCLG.*

*In 2001 there were approximately 30 km of maintained snowmobile trails through Limerick Forest. These trails are signed, maintained and groomed to four meters wide by the LGSA. Some of these trails are on township road allowances; others are located on Limerick Forest roads. Unlike most of the other motorized recreation in Limerick Forest, snowmobile trails are generally thoroughfares and represent a small segment of an overall provincial trail system.”<sup>17</sup>*

Not much of this information has changed although the membership in the Leeds and Grenville Association has gone down by around 200, to 900 members this year.

### **7.14 Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs**

*The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) is dedicated to providing strong leadership and support to member clubs and volunteers, to establishing and maintaining quality snowmobile trails which are used in a safe and environmentally responsible manner and to furthering the enjoyment of organized snowmobiling. Refer to Appendix U: Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs*

A Survey of Snowmobile Permit Holders in Ontario was conducted over the 2004-2005 season prepared for Paula Neice & Associates by PMG Consulting to determine the economic impact of the 2004-2005 snowmobile season in Ontario.

- The average age of a snowmobile user is in their 40's.*
- Snowmobilers have been sledding, on average, for 11-15 years and approximately 2-3 times per week.*
- The largest by far of snowmobile users ride on organized trails on private or crown land; 30% of them travelling 1000-1999 km per year!*
- Half of the permit holders also participate in ATV riding and bicycling and approximately 25% motorcycle.*

*What is also interesting is that snowmobile riders differ from ATV riders or dirt bikers in that they tend to travel longer distances with each trip and 40% stay overnight somewhere as part of their trip.<sup>18</sup>*

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<sup>17</sup> Limerick Forest Long Range Management Plan, 2003 – Snowmobile Use

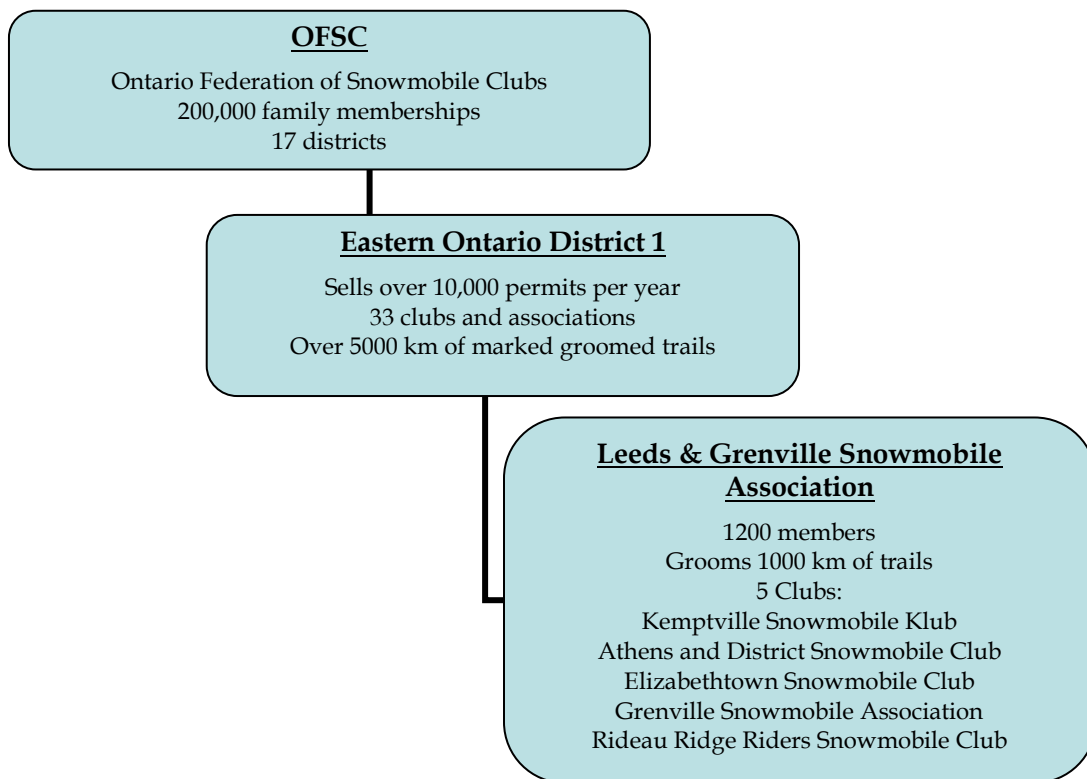
<sup>18</sup> Survey Permit Holders in Ontario, 2004-2005 season, PMG Consulting, available by contacting the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs.

### 7.15 Snowmobile Membership Numbers Declining

Although snowmobiling remains a very popular and well organized activity in this province there has been a decline in users; this from membership results. Keep in mind that in order to use any official snowmobile trail in this province you must be a member.

Bruce Robinson, LFAC member and president of OFSC, reports that quite a few snowmobile users are now turning to ATV's; some have just given up completely.

In the year 2000 11,000 permits for snowmobiles were sold within Eastern Ontario District 1; this year only 8800-8900 was sold. Bruce says they've lost the "part timer"; the person who snowmobiles from the home. The committed hard core users however are still there. The number 1 reason people are leaving this activity is lack of snow. The number 2 reason is safety; a fear of being hurt or killed.



## **8. HUNTING AND FISHING**

### **8.1 Overview**

Another significant group, although not limited to using only the trails in Limerick, are the hunters. This is a widely participated in activity and has been through the history of this area and in Limerick Forest over many generations.

*“Hunting for whitetail deer, waterfowl and small game is a traditional fall activity in Limerick Forest. Hunters are provincially represented by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and locally by fish and game clubs, hunting camps and individuals. The Grenville Fish and Game Club is the largest club in the area with 625 members. Whitetail deer is the most sought after species in Limerick Forest and in recent years hunting opportunities have increased.”*<sup>19</sup>

### **8.2 Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters**

*The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) is a non-profit, registered charity, dedicated to protecting woodland and wetland habitat, conserving our precious fish and wildlife stocks and promoting outdoor education. The Federation is recognized as an influential environmental watchdog, lobbying for conservation of our natural resources at all levels of government. The OFAH represents tens-of-thousands outdoor enthusiasts and gets results for conservation. Together, the Voice of Anglers and Hunters continues to block political attacks on our outdoor traditions as well as animal rights campaigns that are already targeting classrooms and the media. Refer to Appendix V: Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters*

### **8.3 Grenville Fish and Game Club**

*The Grenville Fish & Game Club is located on Campbell Road North just off MacIntosh Road north of the Town of Prescott, Ontario. Alternatively, due south of the Village of Maynard, Ontario on Campbell Road. We have the following activity committees; Archery: Trap: Fishing: Rifle: Pistol: Black Powder: IPSC: and Cowboy Action Shooting. The Grenville Fish & Game Club is proud to be affiliated with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters<sup>20</sup>*

### **8.4 Ducks Unlimited**

#### **DUC – Wetland and Wildlife Conservation in Ontario**

*Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) has conserved over 900,000 acres of wetland habitat in Ontario working with many partners including over 1700 private landowners.*

*With its many lakes and water systems, Ontario is an important province for wetlands and waterfowl habitat. Its many waterways and natural areas benefit both wildlife and people.*

*Ontario is also home to over a third of the entire population of Canada. As a result, human activity continues to threaten wetlands and their associated habitats throughout the province.*

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<sup>19</sup> Limerick Forest Long Range Management Plan, 2003 - Hunting

<sup>20</sup> Grenville Fish and Game Club website: [www.grenvillefishandgame.com](http://www.grenvillefishandgame.com)

*Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is active throughout Ontario to conserve these natural areas and help ensure that they remain a part of Ontario's landscape into the future.*

*DUC recognizes that in a province that hosts fully 38% of the country's population, enhanced public policies to protect wetlands will ultimately be the key to our conservation success. The contribution that wetlands make to our water resources is a key public policy issue.*

*In this regard, DUC submitted a State of the Science report on wetlands and water quality to the Walkerton Inquiry. DUC was subsequently named to the Source Protection Advisory Committee as well as the Nutrient Management Committee to provide advice on the link between wetlands, watersheds and our society. DUC encourages wetland protection in municipal planning.*

### ***DUC – Our Position on Hunting***

*Ducks Unlimited Canada is strongly supported by both hunters and non-hunters. These people recognize the value of wetlands and their associated habitats, and that wetland conservation has many things to offer Canadians.*

*Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) was founded in 1938 by sportsmen. These conservation-minded individuals recognized that conserving wetlands helps to ensure the future of waterfowl populations.*

*DUC supports the sustainable use and harvest of renewable resources based on sound science.*

*DUC supports waterfowl hunting, when conducted in an ethical and sustainable manner, as a legitimate and acceptable use of a renewable resource.*

*DUC does not direct resources toward the influence of firearm or hunting legislation unless the legislation is clearly and directly related to waterfowl habitat conservation.<sup>21</sup>*

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<sup>21</sup> Ducks Unlimited Canada website: [www.ducks.ca](http://www.ducks.ca)

## **9. OTHER AREAS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION**

### **9.1 Overview**

As part of the research needed to determine whether or not to promote Limerick Forest trail networks locally or beyond, it would be wise to be aware of what other areas are available for the same recreational activities. The following is a list of some of the areas open for public recreational use and what uses are permitted in each. Some of these areas have fees to enter while others are free.

There are many areas in Ontario for people to enjoy outdoor recreation. So, what would entice people to come to Limerick Forest? For one thing Limerick Forest seems to be one of the very few (if not the only) truly multi-use area with very few restrictions and no user fees. That in itself is quite an accomplishment!

### **9.2 Non-Motorized Use Areas**

- **The Landon Bay Centre, Gananoque, ON (1000 Islands Parkway)**  
225 acres Ecological Reserve within the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve  
Walking only, dogs on leash.  
At The Landon Bay Centre, the Foundation offers opportunities for environmental education, with an extensive network of walking trails, a scenic look-out, a large meeting hall, and a family campground.
- **Gananoque Trails, City of Gananoque**  
8.8 km perimeter hiking only trail, divided into 3 return to trailhead loops.
- **Rideau Trail Association**  
Kingston to Ottawa-divided up into clubs: Ottawa, Central (Perth) and Kingston.  
300 km, with added loops and side trails, a total of 387 km.  
Free.  
Walking only (organized hikes offered year round), dogs not recommended.  
Some sections suitable for skiing and snowshoeing, hunting permitted.
- **Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA)**  
6 conservation areas within the CRCA jurisdiction - used for recreation.  
Total 1961 hectares of conservation land.  
Hiking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing.  
Bicycling is permitted but not promoted due to damage that can be done.  
Dogs must always be on a leash.  
Fees or Donation Requested.
  - 1) **Little Cataraqui Creek (City of Kingston)**  
394 hectare site.  
There are areas of marsh, field and forest habitat and excellent outdoor recreation facilities.

**2) Lemoine Point (City of Kingston)**

136 hectares of forest, field and marsh, with a spectacular waterfront.  
11km of trails.

**3) Gould Lake (Township of South Frontenac)**

589 hectares of wilderness.

**4) Parrott's Bay (Loyalist Township)**

75.6 hectares of woods and wetlands.  
5km of trails cross woodland, wetland and field areas.

**5) Mac Johnson Wildlife Area (Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley, City of Brockville)**

532 hectares, 11km of trails.  
Free-public use families and small groups. Over 30 people, \$1/person.

**6) Lyn Valley (Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley)**

Small trail system. This area primarily used for swimming.

➤ **Ganaraska Hiking Trail**

Begins Port Hope and connects with Bruce Trail near Glen Huron.

With side trails it is about 500 km. long

Hiking, cross country skiing and snowshoeing only-minimum impact standard to protect the environment.

➤ **St Lawrence Islands National Park, Mallorytown Landing**

Small National Park-primarily located on islands.

1.7 km walking trail (800m of which is barrier-free). The trail travels through woodland and wetland habitats and transects the property, a Loyalist farm that was cultivated until 1956.

Fees. Camping permitted.

➤ **Rideau Valley Conservation Authority - [www.rideauvalley.on.ca](http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca)**

10 conservation areas-Ottawa S., Perth & Crosby areas and N.W. of Westport.

Hiking, dogs on leash, dogs prohibited at Perth Wildlife Reserve.

**1) Chapman Mills (west bank of the Rideau River on Regional Road 73)**  
(former Highway 16), 23 acres

**2) Baxter Conservation (between Manotick and Kemptville)**

68 hectares of outdoor fun! Follow over five kilometres of trails through wetlands, conifer plantations, mixed forest, alder thickets, nut groves and a solar energy display.

3) **Dickinson Square (heart of Manotick Village)** This historic location highlights Watson's Mill – a 19th century grist mill.

4) **Foley Mountain (just outside of Westport)**  
325 hectares (800 acres) of woods, ponds and fields.

5) **Meisel Woods (Central Frontenac)** 130-acre property is an excellent example of Precambrian Shield land.

6) **Mill Pond Conservation (Highway 15 between Portland and Lombardy)** 6 km. of wilderness trails.

7) **Rideau Ferry**, 10 acre shoreline property located at Rideau Ferry.

8) **Perth Wildlife Reserve (Cty. Rd. 1 between Perth & Rideau Ferry)**  
257 hectare reserve.

9) **Portland Bay**, A simple, lakeside picnic area along Hwy. 15 in Portland.

10) **W.A. Taylor Conservation (Regional Road 19 near Osgoode)**  
boat launch and picnic area.

➤ **Algonquin Provincial Park**

7725 sq. km.

Camping, hiking and some bicycle trails.

➤ **Ferguson Forest, Kemptville**

Adjoins over 300 hectares of forested Crown land.

Walking, skiing and snowshoeing, along the many trails and forest roads.

The Management Trail, a 2.3 kilometre self-guided walking trail designed to further your understanding of forestry in Eastern Ontario, takes you through a variety of both natural and planted forest types common to this part of eastern Ontario.

**9.3 Shared-Use, Including Motorized (restrictions may apply)**

➤ **Trans Canada Trail**

Shared-use trail, accommodating five core activities: walking, cycling, horseback riding, cross country skiing and snowmobiling.

➤ **Cataraqui Trail (Part of the Trans Canada Trail system)**

Follows old CN rail line from Strathcona (near Napanee) North to Smiths Falls.  
104 km.

Hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, cross country skiers and snowmobiles.

Dogs on leash. No Hunting.

We encourage all users to purchase an annual (Jan to Dec) \$25 membership.

➤ **Ganaraska Region Forest, North of Port Hope**

Ganaraska Conservation Authority Forest -[www.grca.on.ca](http://www.grca.on.ca)

10,500 acre. Fee for use.

Multi Use Trails: hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, skiing, snowshoeing, dirt biking, snowmobiling and ATV's permitted.

Hunting and motorized restrictions in Central section.

Central: Passive use area, hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding only.

East and West Sections: multi use.

➤ **Calabogie Area**

Unofficial multi use trail network in the Calabogie area encompassing crown land, private land (permission required) and the abandoned K&P Rail bed.

➤ **Larose Forest (Prescott & Russell)**

Approximately 10,900 ha. The bulk of the Forest lies just southwest of Bourget. The United Counties of Prescott and Russell owned.

Officially uses permitted are hiking, cross country skiing, horses, ATV's and snowmobiles. The BMA and OFTR are presently working with the counties for trail access for dirt bikes.

➤ **The Prescott Russell Recreational Trail (United Counties of Prescott and Russell from east to west)**

72-km rail-to-trail conversion.

Hiking, cycling, and snowmobiling.

ATVs or any other motorized vehicle (except snowmobiles in the winter) are strictly prohibited on the trail.

➤ **Ottawa City Forests**

Three forests open to the public for recreational use.

1) **Torbolton Forest West Carlton, Constance Bay**

200 hectares.

Hiking, cross country skiing (quite popular), horses permitted, mountain biking, dogs on leash only and Snowmobile only motorized use.

No hunting.

2) **Marlborough Forest, North Gower**

Combination of Crown, private and city Land.

City portion = 12, 200 hectares.

Within city area: Hiking, cross country skiing, horses permitted on specific trails only, dogs on leash, mountain biking and snowmobile only. Hunting permitted. Paintball in separate area. Scientific research popular.

**3) Cumberland, East of Ottawa in Cumberland**

Just under 600 hectares.

Hiking, cross country skiing, horses permitted, mountain biking, dogs on leash only and Snowmobile only motorized use. No Hunting.

➤ **South Nation Conservation Authority Forest**

Three developed recreational trails:

**1) Warwick Forest Trail, East of Berwick on Cty. Rd 9.**

Over 3.5 km of trail.

Hiking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding or snowmobiling. Dogs on leash.

**2) Robert Graham Trail, Township of South Dundas on cty rd 18, 5 km west of Glen Stewart.**

57 hectare forest-over 5.5 km of trail.

Hiking only.

**3) Alfred Bog Boardwalk, off con rd 11, south of the village of Alfred.**

Hiking only.

Very sensitive and beautiful, peat bog, class 1 PSW.

➤ **Crown Land-Ministry of Natural Resources**

Most Crown land (owned by the provincial government and managed by Ministry of Natural Resources) is accessible to the public for multiple recreational uses with very few restrictions. Contact MNR for uses permitted on specific parcels of land.

Currently there is an opportunity comment on the province's new Crown Land Use Atlas, available online at <http://crownlanduseatlas.mnr.gov.on.ca> and <http://www.ontarioslivinglegacy.com/crownlanduseatlas> and at a number of district and regional offices.

This atlas is a valuable tool for accessing local land use policies for Crown lands. Anglers, hunters, snowmobilers and other recreational users will find the atlas to be a useful source of information. Environmental and conservation groups and companies involved in forestry and mining can also use the atlas to find out what activities are permitted on specific parcels of Crown lands.

## **10. THE IDEAL TRAIL**

### **10.1 Overview**

The term “ideal trail” means something different to everybody. Within Limerick Forest very differing groups all share the multi use trail network. How satisfied are each with what there is to offer them and how much detail is being considered when preparing trails to suit these varied users?

The following represents information and opinions obtained through interviews from many individual users and groups on what they prefer as their “ideal trail”. It is important to note that not all recreational users have the same criteria and a lot are very satisfied sharing others’ “ideal trail”. Some suggestions were given as well that apply to Limerick Forest.

### **10.2 Cross Country Skiing**

Most skiers like to create tracks in the snow and maintain this trail for their own use, although some have indicated that using the harder packed snowmobile trails works well. If Limerick is to maintain its multi use policy it would be hard to allocate specific trails for cross country skiing only, although not impossible. If areas were set aside for non motorized use and signs were posted informing the public that a local cross country group was maintaining a certain section it could work.

### **10.3 Horseback Riding and Driving**

Horseback riders can pretty much use any of the Limerick trails that are wide enough (like the double track trails) and have enough vertical clearance (10 feet) for a horse. They like to have trails with good footing and specifically for the drivers (with wagons) no banks and loop style trails because wagons are difficult to turn around. Riders have also indicated that they would like access to at least 15-20 kms. of trails.

For the most part horseback riders don’t have a problem sharing trails with other users. Some have indicated that they would prefer motorized vehicles to just go slowly by the horses while others would like the riders of bikes and ATV’s to stop and let the horses go by. Most horse people indicate that if the horse can’t tolerate a vehicle they shouldn’t be in a multi use forest. Any conflicts seem to be with the rider of a motorized vehicle with total disregard to other users on the trails, horse or not. What clearly needs to happen is education on the part of both parties.

Another potential conflict seems to be loose dogs; or owners of dogs who are not in control of their dogs. Again, public awareness and education combined with monitoring could help alleviate this potential problem in the future. One thing that is lacking and a possible deterrent to horse people coming to Limerick is the lack of trailer space for parking. This includes getting turned around and off loading the horses in a safe area far enough off the road away from traffic.

#### **10.4 Dirt Bike Riding**

The dirt bikers I spoke to are very pleased with Limerick Forest and what it has to offer in trail networks for them. Limerick Forest offers easy to challenging single track trails (approx. 3' wide) as well as wider double track trails (6' and up) for the beginner.

Riders describe the single track, multi loop trails as providing tight, technical turns that require slower driving. There are a few hills which some riders like and many areas with sand or trees in the trail to contend with. The majority of these bike trails are in the "Pit" and "Y" areas off Forsythe Road and are maintained for the most part by members of the Bytown Motorcycle Association (BMA).

The BMA riders seem to be very conscience and courteous when sharing the trail. There is a genuine concern among BMA members that irresponsible bike riders who use the trails are causing problems and generating complaints for this sport as a whole.

It has been noted that some of the existing trails are becoming well worn with tree roots sticking up and lack of soil protecting them. Several bike riders have suggested that these trails be closed down for awhile to give them time to recover and new trails be created near the existing ones to take the traffic.

#### **10.5 Mountain Biking**

Most Limerick Forest trails (if not all) are suited to mountain biking. There seems to be quite a few people who frequent the "Pit" area, off Forsythe Rd. to mountain bike on the same trails the dirt bikes use. Both parties have not indicated any conflicts at all. The mountain bikers tend to hear the dirt bikes coming and get off the trail for them to go by. The dirt bikers are aware of the mountain bikers and slow down. Peter Meier from The Brockville Endo Mountain Biking Club rates Limerick trails at a 2-3 out of a possible 5, with 5 being the most challenging.

Other areas such as the North Tract are good for beginner to intermediate riders as the trails are mostly flat and not difficult. There are also quite a few people (not members of any group) who like to mountain bike but really aren't sure where to go within Limerick. Some have found their own areas that they are now familiar with but would like to explore new areas. There is a need for education and maps for people wanting to explore Limerick by mountain bike.

A local initiative called "Bike South Grenville" has established bicycle trails throughout South Grenville. One route takes in a portion of Limerick Forest. This 35 kilometre route is called *North Augusta and Limerick Forest Route*.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Bike South Grenville website: [www.bikesouthgrenville.com](http://www.bikesouthgrenville.com)

### **10.6 Running**

Limerick Forest, although very conducive to walking, doesn't seem to hold the interest of the running community. It was pointed out to me from the Brockville Road Runners that most runners are training for races which requires flat, safe (no tree stumps and roots) trails or tracks to run on.

### **10.7 ATV Riding**

This activity is growing at a huge rate. Local ATV dealers have indicated that sales have increased dramatically in the past 5 years (see data from dealers earlier in this study).

ATV users have the ability to go pretty much everywhere and that seems to be a concern with the general public. Unfortunately the few irresponsible riders out there are giving this entire activity a bad name.

In Limerick Forest ATV users share the trails with everyone else although the wider double track trails in the "Pit" and the "Y" off Forsythe Rd. are easier to access for them. As they seek harder, more challenging areas some of the single track trails are being attempted in some areas of Limerick.

Although a large portion of ATV users are young and seek the thrill and challenge of the trail there are still a number of users who prefer to tour for a day, have lunch and get off the vehicle to enjoy nature.

This diverse user group is hard to examine with so many not being members of any club; however with the steadily increasing numbers of people participating in this activity and changes in road use legislation it is very important to try. Public awareness and education of Limerick's multi-use policy could begin with the members of organized clubs helping to spread the word on safe responsible and legal ATV use. From there making sure that Limerick offers enough trails to satisfy the future of off road ATV riding.

### **10.8 Snowmobiling**

The designated snowmobile trails in this province are exclusively for snowmobile use, by members of snowmobile clubs with permits. However, within Limerick Forest boundaries these trails become multi-use. This is recognised and accepted by the associations although not all snowmobilers are happy with this arrangement. It was reported to me that there have been a few arguments regarding who has a right to use the trail. Overall the system within Limerick is working.

Snowmobile users tend to cover a larger geographic area and use the trails to go from point "A" to point "B". This is in contrast to dirt bikers and ATV users who like the challenge of the trail network regardless of how long the trail is. Limerick Forest has only a small segment of snowmobile trails which act as a thoroughfare for them.

Outside Limerick the unofficial word from the associations is that cross country skiers and hikers/dog walkers are not a problem to use their trails. However things change in the other three seasons due to the fact that snowmobile trails travel through private land and private land owners have only given permission to snowmobile clubs and only in winter.

### **10.9 Hiking**

The individual hiking or walking in Limerick Forest does so for a number of reasons. Some go for a leisurely stroll with their families on a Sunday afternoon while others go specifically to look for birds and other wildlife. Some people are fortunate to live close to Limerick Forest and regularly walk their dogs there. Whatever the purpose, hikers tend to want a quiet and peaceful area to walk in.

In the telephone survey conducted the majority of respondents stated that they thought that some areas or trails should be restricted to certain recreational activities only. In conversation with these people and numerous other hikers it was found that although most agree with the multi-use policy they would still like to have an area set aside free from motorized activity. **Refer to Appendix N: Telephone Survey Results**

### **10.10 Geocaching**

This is a relatively new activity which is similar to orienteering using a GPS unit instead of a compass. This outdoor activity allows you to enjoy the outdoors while trying to find a location where a prize (cache) is hidden. People taking up this hobby are using a combination of car, ATV, mountain bike and walking to find the caches. The idea is to take a prize in the hidden container and leave something in its place.

There are two geocaching websites in Ontario where you can locate the coordinates to caches and report your findings and comments later.

*“Geocaching is a recreational activity that combines "high tech" with enjoyment of the outdoors. Using the Global Positioning System (GPS), Geocachers place a container (also known as a "Geocache") in a hidden spot & mark the position with their GPS receivers. The coordinates of the container's position are posted on the Internet (the most popular site being [www.Geocaching.com](http://www.Geocaching.com)). Other Geocachers enter the container's coordinates into their own GPS receivers & seek the container. When found they sign the logbook and may exchange items. They then place the container back into its original hiding spot & then log their visit online.”<sup>23</sup>*

This is an activity which is at a huge rate and involves people of all ages, backgrounds and activity levels.

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<sup>23</sup> Geocaching website: [www.ontgeocaching.com](http://www.ontgeocaching.com)

It seems that there are a large number of people who will travel out of their area to pursue this activity. One retired couple contacted actually plan their vacation around discovering new geocaching areas.

Within Limerick Forest there are currently eight hidden caches. In the first two months 148 people found these hidden treasures.

There clearly needs to be more thought given and consideration to this growing activity. Geocaching in itself draws people to the forest who have never been there before. It's important to note their thoughts and observations as recorded on the various web pages.

## **11. LIMERICK FOREST AS A TOURIST DESTINATION**

### **11.1 Overview**

From all the data and information collected it is easy to see that Limerick Forest has a lot to offer and truly does live up to the name of “Multi-Use Community Forest”. So, what if more effort was given to the promotion of Limerick Forest as both a tourist destination *and* a great place for locals to enjoy? What other factors would need to be considered before a decision regarding further promotion of Limerick Forest could be made?

### **11.3 Current Local Promotion of Limerick Forest**

Locally members of LFAC and staff of the UCLG promote Limerick Forest to members of the public in several ways. There are “Open Doors” events held on a monthly basis for most months of the year which are advertised in local papers for the general public to attend. LFAC members Fred Schueler and Aleta Karstad take this opportunity to introduce families to the natural flora and fauna found in and around the chalet area on Limerick Rd. A combination of educational talks, displays and nature walks attracts anywhere from a handful to upwards of 30 people on any given date.

Once a year an “Open House” event is held at the chalet on Limerick Road. This event is extremely popular attracting up to 300 people for nature hikes, horse and wagon rides, view displays and speak with local businesses and organizations. Of course this is an opportunity to enjoy the free barbeque while catching up with old friends under the shade of a tree.

Word of mouth seems to be the best advertising Limerick Forest has right now and the numbers visiting the forest keep growing as local families bring friends and relatives out to enjoy their favourite area.

### **11.3 Beyond the Local Area**

The only specific promotional tool Limerick Forest has at this time to attract potential tourists also serves as a link for locals to find out about events and activities. This is the Limerick Forest website: [www.limerickforest.ca](http://www.limerickforest.ca)

How else would tourists find out about Limerick Forest? In this study opportunities for visitors to find out about the forest when visiting Leeds and Grenville are examined. Tourism operators and local municipalities were contacted to find out what information and knowledge they have on Limerick Forest. They were also asked if people are asking for an area such as this to participate in recreational activities.

Local business owners and operators and chambers of commerce were also contacted to determine if there was a desire to involve Limerick Forest as a destination to encourage tourists which could benefit them and the local economy as a whole.

#### **11.4 Municipal Offices and Chambers of Commerce**

Eight Municipal offices and Chambers of Commerce were contacted to find out what information they had (and what they knew) about Limerick Forest. Since the people contacted were the ones who would be first to be in contact with newcomers or tourists to each of their areas they were asked if indeed they had been asked to provide information on outdoor recreational areas.

Only one of these eight offices had information on Limerick Forest to hand out to the public. Five of the eight had personal knowledge of the forest (where some areas are and what activities are permitted). The other three had no knowledge at all.

When asked if they have received requests on where to do outdoor recreational activities the answers were diverse: One said that they do not keep information on what tourists ask about, three said no requests have come in and one refers people to another office within the municipality. Of the ones who do receive requests, one reported the requests were for bicycling trails only, another said the requests were for walking, bicycling, birding and other trails. Only one reported that people have come in requesting information on Limerick Forest specifically.

None indicated that they had been approached by local businesses to link up with any properties of Limerick Forest for promotional reasons. Two offices reported that they are currently conducting surveys and gathering data to determine what more they can do to attract tourists to their areas. **Refer to Appendix W: Local Municipal Contacts**

#### **11.5 Eco-Tourism**

The Village of Merrickville-Wolford was examined as a location with the potential to attract and accommodate visitors seeking outdoor recreational opportunities. Merrickville itself is a huge draw for tourists with the Rideau Canal, picturesque countryside and wonderful shopping opportunities. There are walking paths and bicycling trails available to tourists and locals throughout the area now but the potential exists to increase the visits from eco-tourists by offering more.

Several accommodation business owners in Merrickville have expressed a desire to be able to offer an eco- tourism package for their guests involving passive recreational use in Limerick Forest. The Limerick North Tract, with its easy access from and close proximity to Merrickville has a few trails now but is not currently being used to the degree the South Tract is. It was felt that this would be an ideal area to promote eco-tourism.

These businesses indicated that most of their guests want an opportunity to hike, ski, bicycle or snowshoe in a wooded, natural area. They all felt that if they could provide an eco-tourism package as part of their advertising business would increase.

One business owner would even like to offer guests native plants like fiddle heads as part of the local experience.

All of these people stressed that they would like this area of Limerick set aside as a non-motorized recreational use area and that preserving the natural aspect of it should be a priority. Refer to Appendix X: Contacts in Merrickville

### **11.6 Political Support**

Doug Struthers, Mayor of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford has indicated his support of a plan to develop an organized and well researched approach to creating a primarily non-motorized trail network in Limerick North. He feels that Limerick North has potential as a destination for recreational use for both residents of the area and for tourists visiting. He agrees with these business owners that the recreational use be limited to non-motorized based on what he hears from his constituents. Hiking, bicycling, snowshoeing and cross country skiing would be the primary uses with the only motorized use being snowmobiling on the existing snowmobile trail.

Important factors he would like to see considered are also for parking, proper signage and marking of trails. He felt that the clearing and on going maintenance of trails needs to be thought out as well as production of brochures with maps to be distributed throughout the area. One of the first considerations though, prior to beginning any plans for such a project, should be to contact property owners near the entrance to and along the trails for their opinions.

### **11.7 Local Considerations**

Before any promotion of the forest can be considered it is important to know not only if the need or desire is there on the part of the businesses and tourist agencies but also to get opinions and the viewpoint from the local people.

People living near various Limerick parcels were contacted to determine if they would have any concerns around increased use of the forest. LFAC members were also asked for their opinions on tourism and promotion through an on-line survey and a break out session during the Recreation Workshop held in May this year.

### **11.8 Survey of Property Owners**

Twelve owners of property near Limerick Forest parcels were contacted and asked if they felt that increase in use due to promotion to locals or tourists would affect them. In some cases information was also obtained on what activity they see near their house and if they have any problems with this current activity.

People contacted own land near the South Tract of Limerick, near the North Augusta parcel, near the North Tract, near the Elgin parcel and near the Wolford Centre parcel.

Eight of the twelve reported that they have no problems with current use of Limerick near their properties and these same people would not have any issues with increased use of the forest in the future. One cautioned that they wouldn't like to see restrictions put on the type of use if it were promoted to more people.

Some of the comments and concerns on issues relating to Limerick Forest use that people were experiencing now involved trespassing either to hunt or by motorized users and noise from motorized users in the forest near them. Problems mentioned around possible increase in use were: increased traffic on the road going by their house and trespassing. Refer to **Appendix Y: Owners of Property Near Limerick**

### **11.9 On-Line Survey Results**

Another survey with interesting results was conducted prior to and following the Recreation Workshop in May of this year. To do this, survey respondents had to follow a link to an electronic website called "survey monkey" where all the questions were located. Multiple choice options were provided as well as space for individual comments. An average of 33-36 people responded to all questions in this survey.

The topics covered in this survey followed the topics discussed at the recreation workshop. These include; User Fees, Camping and Picnicking, Trail Development and Tourism and Promotion.

Note: Some of the same people may have responded to both the on-line survey and the questions asked during the workshop. Please keep in mind that some of these same people may be the same ones who responded to other surveys/questions highlighted in this study. For a copy of all survey results and comments please contact the forest manager.

Statistics from the On-Line Survey:

-74% felt that Limerick Forest should not be promoted as a tourist destination on a regional, national or international scale.

-86% felt that recreational activities, including trail development be encouraged in outlying compartments of Limerick Forest.

-69% said they felt that Limerick Forest trails should continue to be multi-use.

*Wisdom must prevail when it comes to our natural spaces. They should be enjoyed but not without care for now and in the future. Education is pre-eminent when it comes to ensuring users are not only knowledgeable but respectful of natural spaces. Forest managers must not presume "common sense" is prevalent in humanity. Therefore, to be prepared to "educate" the users to engage in best practices at all times when accessing our precious forests.<sup>24</sup>*

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<sup>24</sup> On-Line Recreational Survey-one person's final comments.

### **11.10 Recreational Workshop Survey Results**

One of the breakout groups during this workshop was on Tourism and Promotion. Five people in this group were asked five of the same questions asked in the on-line survey. Answers were recorded after careful consideration and discussion within the group. Note that in a group setting each person has an opportunity to influence the responses of the others in the group.

In contrast to the on-line survey all five of these respondents felt that Limerick should be promoted as a tourist destination but only on a regional scale (Eastern Ontario). All felt that a well thought out plan should be in place first and even with that “baby steps” should be taken. Implications of increased use were discussed and ideas for fees for use were talked about. All felt that Limerick must maintain its multi-use policy although a clear code of conduct must be provided for all users. **Refer to Appendix Z: Recreation Workshop Survey**

## **12. FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

### **12.1 The Big Picture**

Limerick Forest has a lot to offer as a truly “multi-use” recreational area available to the general public for free. From statistics and opinions obtained from those who frequent the forest it appears that those who come to hike, hunt, mountain bike, ATV and dirt bike are generally content with what there is to offer them. Still, there exist gaps that could be filled to satisfy other users who may not be receiving their “ideal” trail right now such as the cross country skiers, dog sledders and horseback riders and drivers.

Education and awareness of others and toward nature should be on going and a stronger emphasis put on this for the future. A more organized approach to compatible recreational use of Limerick should help create a greater sense of ownership on the part of the individual or group using the forest and this could generate more of a willingness to help maintain trails and protect the forest from abuse and vandalism.

Increased communication with the people in the forest also creates an opportunity for increased education on the environmentally sensitive issues affecting some areas of Limerick and how they need to be protected. There should always be a balance between human recreational needs and the preservation of the natural environment.

### **12.2 Spread the Word**

Tourists do come to Leeds and Grenville, they’re looking to stay overnight and they are interested in outdoor recreational activities to participate in. Therefore an opportunity exists to promote Limerick Forest as a tourist destination.

There is an interest in one community to promote activities such as eco-tourism involving a lesser used Limerick parcel of land, the Limerick North Tract. This project could open up a whole new venture for Limerick Forest. If carefully planned, an arrangement could be made that would produce revenue for local businesses and contribute to the economy of the area in general. The forest could benefit by having a controlled approach to recreation with restrictions in place to preserve sensitive areas and protect wildlife living there. If approached carefully organized recreational events, regular visits from naturalists and the opportunity for educational research studies to be conducted by organized and respected groups could all be made available for this and other Limerick lands.

### **12.3 In Closing**

By introducing Limerick Forest to a wider geographic area the opportunity exists to increase awareness of its success as both a community forest for a host of recreational activities and an example of a well managed forest providing sustainability for the future. The respect gained from this increased awareness could assist in obtaining funding on a wider scale for future projects, activities and studies.

# *APPENDICES*

**Appendix A: Summary of Recreational Activities** and Estimated Use In Limerick Forest South Tract-Long Range Management Plan, 2003

**Table 6.4: Summary of Recreational Activities and Estimated Use in Limerick Forest South Tract<sup>12</sup>**

Activity	Club (membership)	Summer Visits per week	Winter Visits per week	Total Visits
Snowmobiling	LGSA	-	200-300	3 000 (250 per week for 3 months)
Motorcycles	Bytown (160)	60-80	-	1 400 (70 per week for 5 months)
ATVs	Johnston (100)	30-40	30-40	1 400 (35 per week for 10 months)
Mountain Bikes	Brockville, Eastern Ontario	30	-	600 (30 per week for 5 months)
Horses	Eastern Ontario Horse of Course Club	10-15	10-15	520 (13 per week for 5 months)
Hunters	GFGC (625)	-	-	590 (20 per week for 3 months: with bow)(50 per day for 6 days: with gun)
Walkers	-	30-40	30-40	1,400 (35 per week for 10 months)
Others	-	52	50	2,000 (50 per week for 10 months)
<b>Total</b>		<b>212 - 257</b>	<b>320-435</b>	<b>10,190 annual visits</b>

Source: LFAC Recreation Meeting Minutes Feb 2003

**Appendix B: Figure 6.2 Recreational Trails** of Limerick Forest South Tract – Long Range Management Plan, 2003

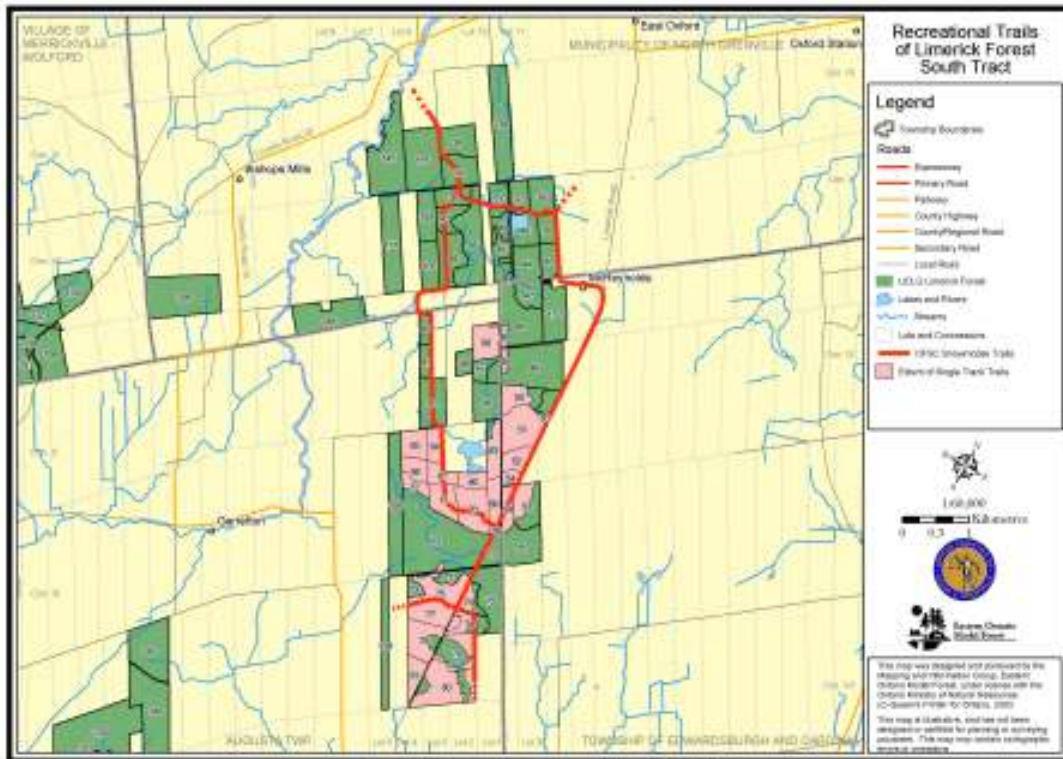


Figure 6.2: Recreational Trails of Limerick Forest South Tract

**Appendix C: Table 9.1: Limerick Forest Designated Use Areas (DUA's), Description and Provisional Regulations and Restrictions - Long Range Management Plan, 2003**

**Table 9.1: Limerick Forest Designated Use Areas (DUAs), Description, and Provisional Regulations and Restrictions**

Designated Use Area (DUA)	Description, Regulations and Restrictions
<p>Ecological Protection area</p> <p>Example: Wetlands; ANSIs; old growth areas</p>	<p><b>Primary use: Resource protection.</b>  <b>Secondary uses: Selected recreation, fur harvesting, scientific study, education.</b>                      Areas of high ecological value that warrant protection due to their importance related to ecological functioning / biodiversity / rare species and habitats. Uses include education and scientific research as well as passive recreation. Motorized recreation will be restricted. Specific areas that are important for scientific research would have limited access, by permit only, to those engaged in scientific research.                      This area would also include areas that are vital to the protection of groundwater aquifers, aquifer recharging, surface water recharging and wetlands important for flood control. No resource extraction allowed except for sustainable fur harvesting and hunting. Wetland areas are an example of such areas.</p>
<p>Forest Management Area</p>	<p><b>Primary use: Forest Management.</b></p>
<p>Example: conifer plantations and hardwood forests being managed for timber extraction.</p>	<p><b>Secondary uses: Recreation, fur harvesting.</b>                      Areas important for the management of commercial timber. Recreational activities allowed. Fur harvesting allowed on a sustainable basis. Resource roads and trail networks allowed.</p>
<p>Multi Use Recreational Area</p> <p>Example: Snowmobile trails, walking trails, hunting, etc. in a common area (most likely these will be areas coincident with timber management).</p>	<p><b>Primary use: Recreation.</b>  <b>Secondary uses: Timber extraction, fur harvesting, other as identified.</b>                      Approved trails and structures (including parking facilities and staging areas) allowed as these relate to recreation.</p>
<p>Single Use Recreational Area</p> <p>Example: Cross country skiing or hiking. Skiing trails could be shared with ATVs with each group being confined to defined seasons.</p>	<p><b>Primary use: Specific recreational activities.</b>  <b>Secondary uses: As identified and compatible.</b>                      Approved structures allowed only as these relate to the recreational activity.</p>
<p>Aggregate Extraction Area</p>	<p><b>Primary use: aggregate extraction.</b>  <b>Secondary uses: Other uses but only where primary use does not pose a safety issue.</b></p>
<p>Service Area</p> <p>Example: parking lots, Limerick Forest HQ and chalet.</p>	<p><b>Primary use: Service to the public and to Limerick Forest management.</b>  <b>Secondary use: none</b></p>

**Appendix D: Domestic Travel in Canada** - From Statistics Canada Website.  
Second Quarter 2005 (preliminary) survey number 3810

Canadian residents made 50 million visits within the country during the second quarter of 2005. About 42.2 million of them were to visit friends or relatives and for pleasure. Together, these two categories accounted for 84.4% of all visits in Canada by Canadian residents. Of the remaining visits, 2.7 million were for business reasons and 5.1 million for other reasons such as bringing someone to the hospital.

In the spring of 2005, the majority of visits made by Canadians in Canada were same-day, accounting for 60.4% of the total. Overnight visits reached 19.8 million.

When Canadians travelled in Canada during the second quarter of 2005, most of their visits, about 93%, were made by car or truck. Visits they made by bus or aircraft accounted for 4.5% of all domestic visits completed during this period.

For overnight visits, residents of Canada spent 51 million nights away from home. Of these nights, 51.9 % were spent in private homes, while 17.0 % were spent in hotels and motels.

These results represent some of the preliminary estimates of domestic travel for the second quarter of 2005 that are now available from the Travel Survey of Residents of Canada.

**Note:** In order to be considered a domestic visit, visits have to originate and take place in Canada; end during the reference period; be less than 365 days/nights in duration; and be outside of the respondent's "usual" environment.

Since the beginning of 2005, a new survey called the "Travel Survey of Residents of Canada" (TSRC) has been conducted monthly to measure domestic travel in Canada. Featuring several definitional changes and a new questionnaire, this new survey provides estimates of domestic travel that are more in line with the international guidelines recommended by the United Nations. Up to the fourth quarter of 2004, estimates on domestic travel were provided by the Canadian Travel Survey (CTS). It should be noted that the TSRC estimates cannot be compared with those from the CTS. The document *Communications for the Travel Survey of Residents of Canada* gives you information about differences between these two surveys.

For general information or to obtain data, contact Client Services (613-951-9169; 1-800-307-3382; fax: 613-951-2909; [cult.tourstats@statcan.ca](mailto:cult.tourstats@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lizette Gervais-Simard (613-951-1672; fax: 613-951-2909; [geroliz@statcan.ca](mailto:geroliz@statcan.ca)), Culture Tourism, and the Centre for Education Statistics.

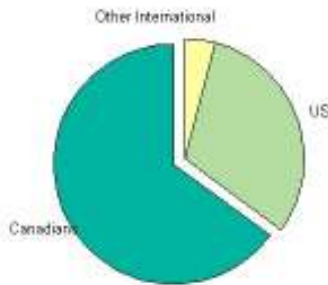
**Appendix E: Regional Tourism Profiles – CD 07: Leeds & Grenville United Counties –**  
 Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. Chapter 2.

2.1. Total Visitors

In 2002, 2,227,370 visitors went to Leeds & Grenville United Counties. Of these visitors 894,357 or approximately 40% stayed in the area for one plus nights and the balance, 1,333,013 or approximately 60%, made a same-day visit to Leeds & Grenville United Counties.

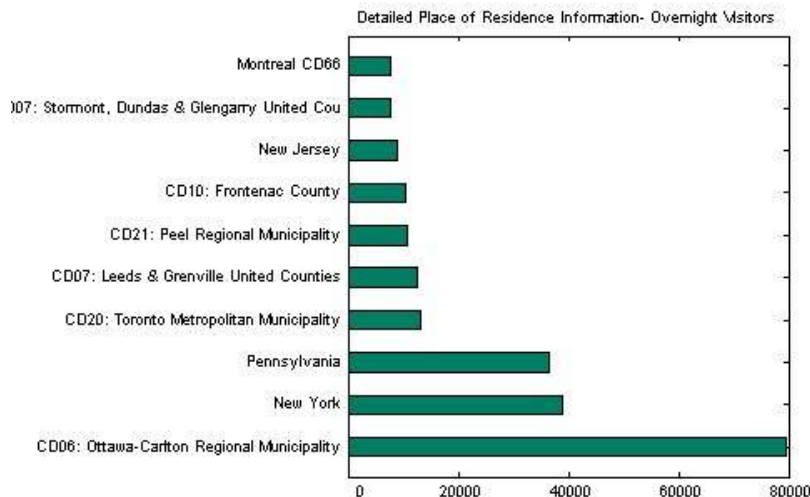
2.2. Overnight Visitors by Origin

Of all overnight visitors to Leeds & Grenville United Counties, 580,395 (65%) were Canadians, and 313,962 (35%) were international visitors, including 277,257 (31%) from USA and 36,706 (4%) from other countries.



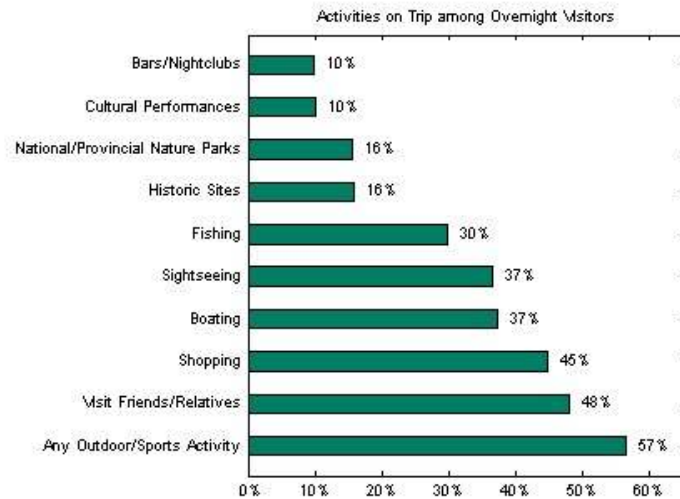
2.3. Detailed Place of Residence Information- Overnight Visitors

The top 10 markets of overnight visitors for Leeds & Grenville United Counties are shown in the chart below. For example, 22% of all overnight visitors to Leeds & Grenville United Counties came from CD06: Ottawa-Carlton Regional Municipality.



### 2.8. Activities on Trip among Overnight Visitors

The top 10 trip-activities engaged in by overnight visitors to Leeds & Grenville United Counties are displayed in the chart. For example, Any Outdoor/Sports Activity was an activity that 57% of all overnight visitors to Leeds & Grenville United Counties participated in while on their trip.



**Appendix F: Fit Facts for Children and Youth** - Found on website: <http://www.in-motion.ca/youth/facts.php>

***Fit Facts for Children & Youth***

- 33% of 7- to 13-year-old males in Canada are overweight; an additional 10% are considered obese.<sup>1</sup>
- 27% and 9% of young females in Canada are overweight and obese respectively. <sup>1</sup>
- The prevalence of overweight and obesity in Canadian young people appears to be on the rise.<sup>1,2</sup>
- Obesity in childhood is related to obesity in adulthood.<sup>3,4</sup>
- Furthermore, overweight and obesity in childhood is linked to morbidity and mortality in adulthood.<sup>3</sup>
- There is evidence that there has been a decline in the aerobic fitness of young people in the last decade or so. <sup>5,6,7</sup>

**Activity Facts:**

- The most popular physical activities among Canadian young people are walking for exercise, bicycling, swimming, jogging/running, and basketball.<sup>8</sup>
- Over half of 5- to 17-year-olds in Canada are not active enough for optimal growth and development.<sup>9</sup>
- The majority of adolescents in Canada are not meeting the current recommendations for physical activity.<sup>10</sup>
- Approximately half of teens are not vigorously active on a regular basis.<sup>10</sup>
- Schoolchildren are less active on weekends than during the week.<sup>11,12</sup>
- Physical activity decreases with increasing age or school grade.<sup>10</sup>
- In one study, schoolchildren in grades 4-6 were 40% less active than schoolchildren in grades 1-3.<sup>12</sup>
- In the same study, schoolchildren in grades 7-9 were 35% less active than schoolchildren in grades 4-6. An identical decline was observed in grade 10-12 students compared to the previous grade category.<sup>12</sup>
- On average, young people in Canada spend between 13 and 14 hours per week watching television.<sup>11</sup>
- There is evidence to suggest that obesity is related to physical inactivity.<sup>13</sup>

**Benefits of Activity:**

- Physical activity does not have a detrimental impact on - and might even enhance - academic performance in students.<sup>14,15,16</sup>
- Schoolchildren who are more physically active have considerably higher levels of self-esteem and body image.<sup>16,17</sup>
- Schoolchildren with a healthy body weight are less likely to acquire risk factors for cardiovascular disease than overweight schoolchildren.<sup>18</sup>

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**Appendix G: Respect for the Environment** by Nancy Wells, environmental psychologist and Kristi Lekies, research associate - College of Human Ecology at Cornell University

March 13, 2006

**Camping, hiking and fishing in the wild as a child breeds respect for environment in adults, study finds** By Susan S. Lang

If you want your children to grow up to actively care about the environment, give them plenty of time to play in the "wild" before they're 11 years old, suggests a new Cornell University study.

"Although domesticated nature activities -- caring for plants and gardens -- also have a positive relationship to adult environment attitudes, their effects aren't as strong as participating in such wild nature activities as camping, playing in the woods, hiking, walking, fishing and hunting," said environmental psychologist Nancy Wells, assistant professor of design and environmental analysis in the College of Human Ecology at Cornell.

Wells and Kristi Lekies, a research associate in human development at Cornell, analyzed data from a U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service survey conducted in 1998 that explored childhood nature experiences and adult environmentalism. The Cornell researchers used a sample of more than 2,000 adults, ages 18 to 90, who were living in urban areas throughout the country and answered telephone questions about their early childhood nature experiences and their current adult attitudes and behaviors relating to the environment. The findings will be published in the next issue of *Children, Youth and Environment* (Vol. 16:1).

"Our study indicates that participating in wild nature activities before age 11 is a particularly potent pathway toward shaping both environmental attitudes and behaviors in adulthood," said Wells, whose previous studies have found that nature around a home can help protect children against life stress and boost children's cognitive functioning.

*A new Cornell study by environmental psychologist Nancy Wells and research associate Kristi Lekies shows that children with plenty of opportunity to fish, camp or play in nature before age 11 are more likely to grow up to be environmentalists than other children.*



"When children become truly engaged with the natural world at a young age, the experience is likely to stay with them in a powerful way -- shaping their subsequent environmental path," she added.

Interestingly, participating in scouts or other forms of environmental education programs had no effect on adult attitudes toward the environment.

"Participating in nature-related activities that are mandatory evidently do not have the same effects as free play in nature, which don't have demands or distractions posed by others and may be particularly critical in influencing long-term environmentalism," Wells said.

Unlike previous studies that have looked at the effect of childhood experiences of adult environmentalists, this study looked at a broad representative sample of urban adults. By examining individuals' pathways to environmentalism, the study also took a "life course" perspective, that is, a view that looks at individual lives as sets of interwoven pathways or trajectories that together tell a story.

The study was supported by the Bronfenbrenner Life Course Center and College of Human Ecology, both at Cornell.

<http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/March06/wild.nature.play.ssl.html>

## Appendix H: Total Domestic Travel by Activity Participation – Canadian Travel Survey, 2003 – Statistics Canada

Canadian Travel Survey, 2003

**Table 6**  
**Total domestic travel by activity participation and by province of destination, 2003<sup>9</sup>**

Activity	Province of destination										
	Canada <sup>2</sup>	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
	thousands of person-trips										
<b>Total travel</b>	<b>172,244</b>	<b>3,236</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>7,164</b>	<b>5,613</b>	<b>47,216</b>	<b>62,168</b>	<b>5,938</b>	<b>7,413</b>	<b>15,775</b>	<b>16,742</b>
<b>Activity list (multiple counts)<sup>6</sup></b>											
Visit friends	53,251	1,219	285	2,290	1,658	14,035	18,924	1,968	2,490	4,896	5,467
Visit relatives	74,775	1,544	339	3,022	2,408	22,033	26,332	2,735	3,614	6,507	6,213
Shopping	60,431	1,600	486	3,081	2,356	14,169	20,940	2,339	3,090	5,967	6,376
Sightseeing	34,592	897	391	1,668	969	7,085	13,769	889	845	3,172	4,859
Attend a festival, fair or exhibition	7,100	174	102 <sup>E</sup>	306	209	1,982	2,621	191	250	542	722
Attend a cultural event (play, concert, etc.)	7,583	162	127 <sup>E</sup>	346	171	2,368	2,921	204	185	435	659
Attend an aboriginal/native cultural event	1,384	F	F	F	F	295 <sup>E</sup>	511	67 <sup>E</sup>	53 <sup>E</sup>	105 <sup>E</sup>	212
Attend a sports event	12,044	234	72 <sup>E</sup>	505	436	2,440	4,554	367	716	1,292	1,426
Visit a museum or art gallery	7,861	258	148 <sup>E</sup>	407	161	2,193	2,750	161	200	537	1,021
Visit a zoo, aquarium, botanical garden	4,664	61 <sup>E</sup>	F	161	133	1,273	1,710	84	F	464	681
Visit a theme or amusement park	5,147	74 <sup>E</sup>	157	135	233	1,512	1,802	F	F	682	376
Visit a national or provincial park	13,186	286	181	547	350	2,769	3,991	588	426	1,838	2,182
Visit an historic site	9,509	394	197	532	267	2,237	3,605	258	181	625	1,195
Go to a bar or nightclub	17,669	386	114 <sup>E</sup>	827	474	5,310	6,362	395	518	1,357	1,910
Go to a casino	4,913	F	F	254	F	1,005	2,523	144	223	263	448
Take a cruise or boat trip	4,150	171	F	186	66 <sup>E</sup>	628	1,964	57 <sup>E</sup>	76 <sup>E</sup>	72 <sup>E</sup>	852
<b>Participation in sports/outdoor activity<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>49,307</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>1,509</b>	<b>1,085</b>	<b>15,349</b>	<b>17,039</b>	<b>1,563</b>	<b>1,493</b>	<b>4,298</b>	<b>5,927</b>
Swimming	12,370	127	115	365	253	2,867	5,691	626	399	760	1,166
Boating (motor, sail, kayak, canoe, other)	8,282	85 <sup>E</sup>	F	162 <sup>E</sup>	83 <sup>E</sup>	2,069	4,221	344	251	322	720
Other water-based activities	2,723	F	F	F	F	645 <sup>E</sup>	1,320	107 <sup>E</sup>	107 <sup>E</sup>	97 <sup>E</sup>	323 <sup>E</sup>
Golfing	4,540	55 <sup>E</sup>	75 <sup>E</sup>	152	85 <sup>E</sup>	1,092	1,602	234	325	331	589
Hunting	1,041	F	F	F	F	F	241 <sup>E</sup>	F	33 <sup>E</sup>	F	F
Fishing	6,225	96 <sup>E</sup>	F	F	F	1,550	2,819	339	198	358	681
Bird or wildlife viewing	3,498	57 <sup>E</sup>	F	F	49 <sup>E</sup>	1,310	1,326	69 <sup>E</sup>	56 <sup>E</sup>	154 <sup>E</sup>	361
Cross-country skiing	1,093	F	F	F	F	708	F	F	F	F	F
Downhill skiing	3,301	F	F	F	F	1,353	690	F	F	482 <sup>E</sup>	608
Snowmobiling	1,313	F	..	F	F	694 <sup>E</sup>	306 <sup>E</sup>	F	31 <sup>E</sup>	63 <sup>E</sup>	F
Walking or hiking	20,936	321	111 <sup>E</sup>	653	429	6,936	7,342	622	479	1,495	2,536
Cycling	4,625	F	F	F	F	1,895	1,528	227 <sup>E</sup>	74 <sup>E</sup>	186 <sup>E</sup>	465
Other sports or outdoor activities	14,165	213	107	577	380	4,279	4,883	437	562	1,374	1,348

See footnote(s) at beginning of statistical tables.

**Appendix I: Average Household Expenditures in Ontario – Statistics Canada**

Average household expenditures, by province and territory (Ontario,)		
2004		
Ont.		
Household characteristics		
Estimated number of households	4,451,030	
	Average expenditure per household	Households reporting expenditures
	\$	%
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>71,583</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Total current consumption	51,047	100.0
<b>Food</b>	<b>7,106</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Shelter	14,679	99.6
Household operation	3,264	100.0
Household furnishings and equipment	2,304	94.8
Clothing	2,830	99.2
Transportation	9,851	98.2
Health care	1,471	97.0
Personal care	959	99.6
<b>Recreation</b>	<b>3,883</b>	<b>98.2</b>
Reading materials and other printed matter	310	83.4
Education	1,383	45.3
Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages	1,535	83.7
Games of chance (net amount)	275	69.8
Miscellaneous	1,196	91.3
Personal income taxes	14,593	96.6
Personal insurance payments and pension contributions	3,946	82.3
Gifts of money and contributions	1,996	80.2

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM, table (for fee) 203-0001. Last modified: 2005-12-12.

**Appendix J: Off Road Vehicle Dealer Survey**

The following people at six businesses selling/dealing with off-road vehicles were contacted and interviewed:

1. Tom Irwin owner Irwin Supply, Cornwall Ontario, (613) 933-4600  
In business since 1937, sells ATV's, Snowmobiles and Motorcycles (motorcycles his main line).
2. Matthew Dillabough co-owner Superior Motorsport, Johnstown, Ontario, (613) 925-5353  
New business, sells snowmobiles, off road (dirt) bikes and ATV's.
3. Jamie Fitzgerald, business manager Motorsport plus, Kingston, Ontario, (613) 544-4600  
In business 25 years, sells Motorcycles and ATV's.
4. Marty Grant, owner Marty's Small Engine and Motorcycle Repairs, Kemptville Ontario, (613) 258-1003.  
New business, former mechanic for Kemptville Motorsports.
5. Brian Bulloch, sales, Carson's, Perth Ontario, (613) 267-3499  
In business since 1949, sells motorcycles, ATV's and snowmobiles.
6. Fraser Hambleton, sales manager, Brockville Honda Outdoor Centre, Brockville Ontario, (613) 342-0319  
In business 8-9 years, sells ATV's.

**Appendix K: Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Bylaw #4648** - Regulating the Use of  
ATV's on County Roads.

**THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED COUNTIES**

**OF STORMONT, DUNDAS AND GLENGARRY**

**BY-LAW NO. 4648**

**A BY-LAW to regulate the use of All Terrain Vehicles on Stormont Dundas and Glengarry County Roads.**


**WHEREAS** the Highway Traffic Act, Chapter 8, RSO 1990, Section 191.8 subsection (3) as amended provides that "The council of a municipality may pass by-laws permitting the operation of off-road vehicles with three or more wheels and low pressure bearing tires on any highway within the municipality that is under the jurisdiction of the municipality, or on any part or parts of such highway," and;


**WHEREAS** it is deemed in the best interest to regulate, govern, limit or prohibit the operation of off road vehicles within the municipality, and;

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the Corporation of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry enacts as follows:

1. All the provisions of Ontario Regulation 316/03, "Operation of Off-Road Vehicles on Highways" shall apply to this by-law.
2. The operation of those Off Road Vehicles described as "All Terrain Vehicles" shall be permitted on those County Roads or portions thereof listed in Schedule "A"
3. County roads listed in Schedule "A" must:
  - a) conform to county policy outlined in Schedule "B", and
  - b) must be included in a formal application form attached as Schedule "C".
4. Signage of road segments shall be provided by others and in accordance with the requirements of the Ontario Traffic Manual.
5. Any person who contravenes any section of this by-law is guilty of an offence and upon conviction is liable to a fine as provided for in the Provincial Offences Act.
6. This by-law shall have full force and effect from the date of its passing.

**READ** and passed in Open Council, signed and sealed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2004.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
WARDEN

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK

**Appendix L: Township of South Frontenac, Bylaw to Regulate ATV Use on Municipal Highways.**

**SOUTH FRONTENAC TOWNSHIP**

**BY-LAW 2006-34**

**A BY-LAW TO REGULATE THE OPERATION OF ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES ON MUNICIPAL HIGHWAYS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH FRONTENAC.**

**WHEREAS** Section 191.8(3) of the Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990, Ch. 8, as amended, provides that a municipality may pass by-laws:

- i) Permitting the operation of off-road vehicles with low pressure bearing tires on any highway within the municipality that is under the jurisdiction of the municipality, or on any part or parts of such highway;
- ii) Prescribing a lower rate of speed for all terrain vehicles by regulation on any highway within the municipality that is under its jurisdiction, or on any part or parts of such highway including prescribing different rates of speed for different highways or parts of highways.

**NOW THEREFORE THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH FRONTENAC, BY ITS COUNCIL, HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

**1. Definitions.**

1.1 "All Terrain Vehicles" shall mean an off-road vehicle that:

- (a) has four wheels, the tires of which are in contact with the ground;
- (b) has steering handlebars;
- (c) has a seat that is designed to be straddled by the driver; and
- (d) is designed to carry a driver only and no passengers.
- (e) Has headlights, tail lights, that must be on at all times.
- (f) Must have operating brake light.
- (g) Has all terrain vehicle license plate and insurance.

1.2 "Highway" shall include a common and public highway, street, avenue, parkway and driveway, any part of which is intended for use or used by the general public for the passage of vehicles and includes the area between the lateral property lines thereof.

1.3 "Low Pressure Bearing Tire" shall mean a wide, balloon type tire with a rounded cross sections and no distinct shoulder area and that is designed to operate with inflation pressures of no greater than 70 kpa (10 psi).

1.4 "Off Road Vehicle" shall mean an off-road vehicle within the meaning of the Off Road Vehicles Act, O. Reg. 316/03, S.1.

**2. Regulation of All Terrain Vehicles on Highways.**

2.1 An all terrain vehicle shall not be operated on highways unless it meets the equipment requirements of Sections 7 to 15 of O. Reg. 316/03 and is operated in accordance with Sections 16 to 24 of O. Reg. 316/03, S.6.

2.2 An All terrain vehicle shall not be driven at a rate of speed greater than:

- (a) 20 kilometers per hour, if the speed limit established under the Highway Traffic Act or by municipal by-law for that part of the highway is not greater than 50 kilometers per hour;
- (b) 50 kilometers per hour if the speed limit established under the Highway Traffic Act or by municipal by-law for that part of the highway is greater than 50 kilometers per hour.

2.3 An All Terrain Vehicle shall comply with the following provisions.

- (a) No driver of an ATV vehicle shall drive on a Municipal road without wearing an approved helmet.
- (c) No driver of an ATV vehicle shall operate such vehicle on any Municipal road without a valid driver's license.
- (c) No driver of an ATV vehicle shall carry any passenger while operating on any Municipal road.
- (d) No driver of an ATV vehicle shall operate without valid insurance coverage on said vehicle on any Municipal road covered by this by-law.
- (e) No driver of an ATV vehicle shall operate on any Municipal road covered by this by-law without licensing such vehicle.
- (f) Driver must operate ATV in same direction as traffic.
- (g) All ATV's shall travel on shoulder of road, but may operate on road if shoulder is not safe.

3. General

3.1 Operation of all terrain vehicles shall be permitted, by by-law, upon all highways under the jurisdiction of the Corporation of the Township of South Frontenac.

3.2 Operation of all terrain vehicles shall be permitted on the extreme right hand side of the highway road surface only and in accordance with Regulation 316/03 of the Highway Traffic Act and the Off Road Vehicles Act, as amended.

4. Penalties

4.1 Any person who contravenes any section of this by-law is guilty of an offence and upon conviction is liable to a fine as provided for in the Provincial Offences Act.

5. Validity

If any section, clause or provision of this By-Law is for any reason declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of the by-law as a whole or any part thereof other than that section, clause or provision so declared to be invalid and it is hereby declared to be the intention that all the remaining sections, clauses or provisions of the By-law shall remain in full force and effect until repealed, notwithstanding that one or more provisions thereof shall have been declared to be invalid.

6. That this by-law shall come into force and take effect immediately upon the passing thereof by the Council of the Township of South Frontenac.

**Dated at the Township of South Frontenac this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April 2006.**

**Read a first and second time this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April 2006.**

**Read a third time and finally passed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April 2006.**

**The Corporation of the  
Township of South Frontenac**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Bill Lake, Mayor**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Gordon Burns, Clerk-Administrator**

**Appendix M: Canada Safety Council Report on ATV's**

Vol. XLVII No. 2

April 2003



**SAFETY CANADA**

The member newsletter of the Canada Safety Council

**The All-Terrain Vehicle Boom**

The all-terrain vehicle (ATV) first appeared in Canada in the 1970s. It was designed and sold as a multipurpose utility and recreational vehicle.

ATVs are used in farming, forestry, natural resource exploration, law enforcement and peacekeeping. In recent years, they have become very popular for adventure tourism, trail riding and camping.

Between 1996 and 2001, ATV sales in Canada tripled. This explosive growth, largely due to recreational use, has led to the formation of provincial ATV federations. The aging population is a factor. People who enjoy the outdoors, but can no longer walk long distances, can venture into the back country on ATVs to enjoy nature.

**Injury Alert**

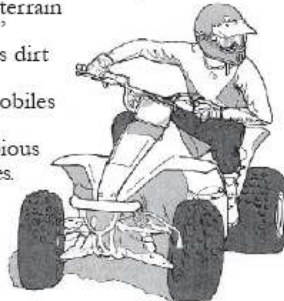
With increased exposure has come a rise in injuries — most of them preventable. Speed, inexperience, improper apparel, non-use of helmets and alcohol are common factors. ATV injuries are more likely to happen to boys aged 15 to 19 than any other group. A US study found that only four per cent of the drivers involved in injury incidents reported having had any training.

In February 2003, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) reported a 50 per cent increase in hospitalizations due to ATVs over

the past five years (from 1,693 in 1996/1997 to 2,535 in 2000/2001). In the category of sports and recreation, ATV-related activities are now the third most common cause of severe injuries next to cycling and snowmobiling.

According to CIHI, children between the ages of five and 19 accounted for more than one-third (36 per cent) of all ATV-related injuries. Of the 92 ATV-related severe injury admissions in 2000/2001 where alcohol involvement was recorded, 26 per cent had consumed alcohol. The provinces with the largest increases in ATV-related injuries were New Brunswick (90 per cent) and Alberta (89 per cent).

In November 2000, the New Brunswick government established a task force to address issues surrounding the use of ATVs, including public safety. In New Brunswick legislation, the definition of an "all-terrain vehicle" includes dirt bikes, snowmobiles and amphibious machines.



From 1997-1998 to 2000-2001 the number of ATVs registered in that province rose by over 50 per cent. Reported accidents increased by about 75 per cent from 1996 to 2000. Over half of the collisions were on roads and highways, and almost one-third involved an ATV colliding with an on-road vehicle.

Of 112 reported injuries in 1999-2000, children under 16 represented 20 per cent. Almost 1/4 (24.1 per cent) of the total injuries were to the head. In 1999-2000 alone, there were six ATV-related fatalities.

The Alberta Centre for Injury Control and Research examined the 20 ATV-related deaths that occurred in that province between July, 1999 and June 2002. Among its findings:

- The majority (55 per cent) occurred in the summer, between July and September.
- Eighty-five per cent of the deceased were the drivers of the ATV.
- At least 60 per cent of the fatalities were due to head injuries.
- Children and teens represented 45 per cent of those killed, including two passengers and seven drivers. The deceased drivers were all from 10 to 15 years old.
- Alcohol was involved in 45 per cent of the deaths.

*Continued on page 4...*

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**Spectator Safety for Indoor Arenas**

The Canada Safety Council has a longstanding concern that flying pucks can injure spectators in hockey arenas. Deaths are rare, but injuries — some quite serious — are not uncommon. Most of Canada's 3,500 community arenas date back at least 30 years. That means that many are due for renovations, when features could be incorporated to protect the fans. However, the absence of a national standard makes it hard to determine what is needed for optimal safety.

In line with its public health and safety mandate, CSC will provide seed funding for a national standard on spectator protection for indoor arenas. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Canadian Recreational Facilities Council (CRFC) have endorsed the development of the standard. CRFC represents the owners and operators of over 3,500 facilities across the country.

The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) will develop a voluntary standard targeted to owners, operators and designers of indoor arenas. Topics in

*To page 2...*

*ATVs, from page 1.*

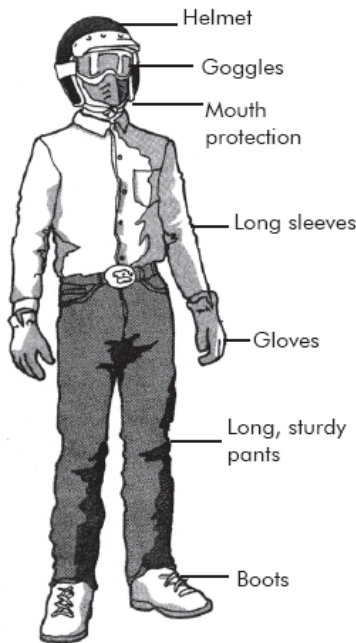
**Are ATVs safe?**

Obviously an ATV offers less personal protection than a car. It lacks a solid frame, seatbelts and airbags to protect riders in a crash.

In the mid 1980s, three-wheel ATVs were withdrawn from the American and Canadian markets due to safety-related concerns. Some old three-wheelers are still around, but today's ATVs are primarily four-wheelers. These vehicles are built to meet or exceed stringent safety standards in such areas as vehicle stability and brake performance.

ATVs also come in different sizes. Manufacturers clearly warn that children under age 16 should not operate vehicles over 90 cc. Smaller youth models have a reduced speed capability and some have a tether strap that allows a parent to stop the machine. These youth models, used under adult supervision, are designed to be safe for children under 16.

With any vehicle — be it a bicycle, a car, an ATV or an 18-wheeler — there is no substitute for a responsible driver.



*Wear a helmet and protective clothing.*

**Speed, inexperience, improper apparel, non-use of helmets and alcohol are common factors in ATV crashes.**

**Young Riders**

An ATV is not a toy. A child involved in a crash could suffer life-altering injuries. If and when your child is ready to use an ATV, match the size of the vehicle to the child, make sure he or she wears protective clothing (including a helmet), and supervise closely. If possible, take the special Canada Safety Council course for children.

Across Canada, regulations vary regarding the minimum age to operate an off-road vehicle on public land. A majority of jurisdictions have legislation that mentions the age of 14, but children who are supervised may operate the vehicle under certain

conditions. Following is the recommendation of the New Brunswick task force:

*That youth between the ages of 14 and 16 years be required to obtain an all-terrain vehicle learner's permit, for which they must have parental permission. The learner's permit should only be obtained under the following conditions:*

- *must successfully complete a mandatory Canada Safety Council approved training course;*
- *must be supervised at all times by a parent or legal guardian who has successfully completed a Canada Safety Council approved training course and has a valid driver's licence; and*
- *the size of the all-terrain vehicle being operated cannot exceed the size recommended for their age by the manufacturer.*

Regulations controlling ATV use on private property would be difficult if not impossible to enforce. Ultimately, the adults in charge must actively supervise and make sure all safety precautions are taken.

**Why does an ATV have such a large seat?**

- A. To carry a passenger.
- B. To carry a backpack.
- C. So the operator can move around to balance the ATV.
- D. All of the above.

*C. You have to shift your weight to control the vehicle. A passenger gets in the way of this, increasing the risk of a mishap.*

**Safe Rider Code**

- Ride off-road only, never on public roads.**
- Know your owner's manual.**
- Wear your helmet.**
- Protect your eyes and body.**
- Check the ATV before you ride.**
- Ride with others — never alone.**
- Carry no passengers.**
- Always supervise youngsters.**
- Keep noise levels low.**
- Ride sober — no alcohol or drugs.**
- Lend your ATV to skilled riders only.**
- Preserve the environment.**
- Be courteous to all you meet.**
- Ride within your skill.**
- Respect riding area rules.**

**ALWAYS RIDE SAFELY AND RESPONSIBLY.**

**Sharpen Your Skills**

The Canada Safety Council's *ATV RiderCourse* is a hands-on training program led by certified instructors. It offers an enjoyable and structured approach to proper ATV operation. For information contact George Smith at (613) 739-1535, ext. 227.

CSC's interactive CD-ROM, *ATV Smart Rider* addresses how to make manoeuvres, carry cargo, descend or ascend a hill, and ride in winter conditions, as well as basic maintenance and precautions when travelling in a group. You can order it for \$19.95 by calling (613) 739-1535, ext. 223; or use the order form on the Council's Web site ([www.safety-council.org](http://www.safety-council.org)). •

**References:**

- Alberta Centre for Injury Control and Research, Injury Control Alberta, August 2002: *All terrain vehicle deaths in Alberta*
- Canadian Institute for Health Information, February 5, 2003: *All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Injuries Resulting in Hospitalization on the Rise*
- Government of New Brunswick, *Report of the New Brunswick All-Terrain Vehicle Task Force*, 2001
- US Consumer Product Safety Commission, *All-Terrain Vehicle Exposure, Injury, Death and Risk Studies*, April 1998
- ATV Safety Institute, *ATV RiderCourse* (available through the Canada Safety Council)

**Appendix N: Telephone Survey Results** – 31 people interviewed, April to July 2006.

**QUESTION#1:**

**As you know, the trails in all Limerick Forest parcels are currently multi-use which includes non motorized recreational use such as walking, bicycling and horseback riding and motorized recreational use such as ATV's, snowmobiles and dirt bikes as well as hunting is permitted. Do you agree with the multi use policy, overall?**

28-YES, 2-NO, 1-NOT SURE

*Comments:*

- Respect for all users is important.
- Unless environmentally sensitive areas are at risk.
- This is to be determined by the new management plan.
- Limit ATV use in spring because they are chewing up the trails.

**QUESTION#2:**

**Do you think that some areas or trails should be restricted to certain recreational activities only?** 23-YES, 6-NO, 1-Not Sure

*Comments:*

- No ATV's on the boardwalk from a practical standpoint. No motorized use in ecologically sensitive areas.
- Restrictions should be based on the time of year.
- Some nature trails should exist with walking only. Bicycles shouldn't go on the boardwalk-walking only.
- From a safety aspect; mixing different types of use (motorized v/s non motorized and dogs not under control.
- Four wheel vehicles are an issue with me; not necessarily just ATV's the larger vehicles (4X4's) are a problem in all areas.
- Motorized vehicles are an issue period in some areas; it's not just the path they leave but the noise, smell and tranquility that is disturbed.
- Only for ecological reasons.
- Some trails should be set aside for non motorized use. If they were designated as such I would pay to use them.
- Single track trails are perfect for bikes; the ATV's ruin these trails and should be restricted from them.
- Certain activities should be limited during some times of the year.
- Hard to enforce. Might be better to have some areas with no noise. "Suggested Uses" are good.
- Should be restricted if forest trails get busier than they are now. Right now I cross country ski only during the weekdays; I don't go on weekends because snowmobiles are there.
- I'd like to see an area with no hunting; particularly the chalet area. Then it would be safer to walk.
- Some trails are ecologically sensitive and should be protected; not restrict all sensitive areas but some should be set aside.
- Go with the status quo. Before opening new trails or new areas all aspects should be considered.
- It's important that all recreational use trails are represented in an equitable way.

**QUESTION#3:**

**Which of the following outdoor recreation activities have you participated in Limerick in the past year?**

23-Hiking /Walking, 3-Running/jogging, 11-Dog Walking, 6-Picnicking, 1-Fishing, 12-Outdoor photography, 12-Bird watching, 18-Other Wildlife viewing, 3-Canoeing/kayaking, 5-Hunting, 2-Horseback riding/driving, 4-Dirt biking, 6-ATV'ing, 5-Mountain biking, 11-Cross-country skiing, 0-Snowboarding, 8-Tobogganing, 3-Snowmobiling, 3-Snowshoeing, 6-Geocaching, 2-Dog Sledding, 17-Open Doors events at chalet.

**OTHER...**1-Four wheeling (truck), 1- Interpretation of Trails/Education, 2-Painting.

**QUESTION#4:**

**If the following activities were available in Limerick, would you participate?**

a) **11-Campground camping**

*Comments:*

-Camping is important for cubs/scouts/guides etc. Group camping would be good.

b) **15-Wilderness camping**

c) **27-Visiting cultural/historical sites-old cemeteries, farming sites etc.**

d) **6-Target shooting**

e) **22-Guided nature education walks**

f) **21-Nature Education workshops**

*Other:* My interest is in geology-any activities or interesting finds in Limerick I would be interested in finding out more.

**QUESTION#5:**

**Would you be willing to pay a fee for participating in any of these activities?**

28-YES, 3-NO

*Comments:*

-For a nature walk with experts, yes. I would be afraid of a backlash from tax payers who have to buy a pass or pay for a card. One idea to consider would be to have someone who is associated with a club recommend that the club give a donation to the forest in appreciation.

-It would depend on the type of activity; for example for camping, yes, for hiking, no.

-Nominal, voluntary donation only.

-Yes for the use of a hunting camp. I go to a camp on private land now.

-Camping only; I like the idea of being able to camp in Limerick Forest.

-A modest fee only and only if there is a cost to Limerick i.e.: to hire a speaker etc.

-Prefer not to.

**QUESTION#6:**

**How important are family geared activities in Limerick to you?**

For this Question I received quite a number of reactions ranging from great enthusiasm on the subject to not being interested at all. I have categorised these responses as follows:

14-VERY IMPORTANT, 5-SOMEWHAT OR SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT, 3-NOT VERY IMPORTANT, 6 NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL.

Note: 3 said it wasn't important to them personally but still classified family geared activities very important for others.

*Comments:*

-For my grandchildren it is very important.

**QUESTION#7:**

**What areas of Limerick Forest do you currently use?**

13-North Tract (off Craig or Scotch Line Roads), 26-South Tract (off Limerick Rd or Forsythe Rd), 4-North Augusta, 5-Other: (1-Various other snowmobile trails, 2-Cranberry Lake, 1-Township of Rideau Lakes-properties/wards of South Crosby and Bastard, 1-Kitley Township)

1-Not Using Right Now: (Too difficult to dog sled with so many other users although still feel Limerick should be multi-use.)

**(A) Do you feel any of these areas are being over-used?**

4-YES, 23-NO, 3-NOT SURE.

*Comments:*

-The Y and Pit. I see a lot of traffic; it seems like a high volume but not sure if there's any damage being done.

-ATV trails over-used spring and fall. Forest is over-hunted and various debris left by hunters (garbage).

-Some trails in the "Y" area are getting "banked"; this causes problems for horse driving. If this process continues the trails are no longer multi-use (suitable for all users).

-The snowmobile trails are not over used due to the nature of the trail; they tend to just drive through to another destination rather than going around and around like ATV's and dirt bikes.

**(B) Have you turned away from using any areas for any reason?**

15-YES, 16-NO

*Comments:*

-I used to site my gun at the gravel pit; it used to be good evenings and weekdays but not on weekends. Now I don't go at all because it's too busy-not safe-too many people.

-South entrance to boardwalk behind chalet; too mucky.

-I was threatened in Limerick 4-5 years ago by hunters; not sure if they were serious or not. I reported it, still not comfortable going there.

-I don't like to see damage from ATV's when hiking so if I see this I go elsewhere.

-Four years ago there was hardly any motorized use and it was easier to horseback ride.

-I don't walk my dogs in Limerick during hunting season

**QUESTION#8:**

**Given the fact that maintenance of trails, signage and education all cost money...would you be willing to pay a nominal fee for any of the following?**

- a) **Membership in LFAC?** 23-YES, 8-NO

*Comments:*

- Depends on cost and how the dollars are being used.
- One idea would be to have a voluntary donation option to a group such as “The Friends of Limerick Forest”, like a minimum \$10 per year.
- Liability increases with membership.
- Since LFAC is an official committee of Public Works Committee for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, no.

- b) **Fee per year to use the forest for any recreational activity?** 25-YES, 6-NO

*Comments:*

- Through an organization only-not on an individual basis.
- Fees are one way, yes but fundraisers should be explored.
- It would be sad if this had to happen to maintain control over users.
- Agree with user fee in general but not sure how it could be implemented.
- If you want to use the forest you should make a contribution through user fees.
- A donation box would be an idea in main areas.

- c) **Maps with detailed information on trails?** 27-YES, 4-NO

- d) **As a member of a recreational organization, have part of your membership dues go to Limerick?** 21-YES, 8-NO, 2-DOESN'T APPLY

*Comments:*

- Not everyone who belongs to a recreational organization uses Limerick Forest therefore they wouldn't perhaps want to pay for an area they're not using.
- This would be an administrative nightmare.
- Too few users are members of groups. User fees are good but must be for everybody.
- This would be hard to implement. A lot of groups are doing the work now and expectations would be higher of what they get in return; ownership a problem.
- Not as part of fees-have it as a donation for groups per year (charity donation0.

- e) **Yearly sponsorship of a trail-your name or group would go on trail?** 23-YES, 8-NO

*Comments:*

- One idea would be for only the users pay for the “right’ to use the trail and they would maintain it. Similar to registered trails in Quebec on Crown land. Person or group who registers it maintains it and determines who uses it.
- Women’s Institute may go for that. Most members are older and don’t get out to the forest but appreciate what is there and would want to preserve it. If there was a “friends of Limerick Forest’ they may want to sponsor a trail as support for the community.
- Nice idea, but yearly would be too short to actually see changes to the area due to clean up. Should be more than one person per trail. Signage could be an issue; more trouble than its worth-maintenance, time etc.
- User fees should apply to everyone. I think you should implement permits and have wardens.
- Community service would be good; in-kind only with no fee involved.

- I like the idea but for my limited use it wouldn't be cost effective; need more details and feasibility of use.
- This is a good idea for businesses to sponsor a trail and in turn get a sign. It's a feel good thing for the public; part of buying with a conscience.
- Education is very important. This would work well for school groups, boy scouts etc.
- This, unfortunately, implies ownership.
- Good idea.

**QUESTION#9:**

**Would you like to see more organized outdoor activities in Limerick Forest?**

18-YES, 12-NO, 1-NEUTRAL/NO ANSWER

*Comments:*

- I grew up in the city and now appreciate Limerick. Education is very important and is lacking in Limerick Forest. I feel there should be day walks and educational events on a weekly basis.
- Need to have more organized out door activities for educational purposes-to explain what it is all about.
- Yes, horseback riding related activities.
- Good idea. I would like to see other groups encouraged to use limerick for their activities.
- Anything to get out to the forest; any type of reason to be there.
- More organized recreational activities.
- Both recreational and eco-tourism.
- The more opportunity to reach people to educate, the better.
- No, I like the way Limerick has been forever under-used; unorganized nature.
- Not for me personally; I wouldn't be involved.
- This really doesn't appeal to me although an archaeological dig/event would be nice. Organized trail riding using borrowed/rented horses would be another event I'd be interested in.

**OTHER GENERAL COMMENTS:**

- The parking lot at the Y and the Pit only has about 2% of the vehicles in it on weekday's v/s weekends.
- There needs to be tables out at the chalet year round for someone to stop, sit and have a bite to eat. Even seats alone would be good.
- I would like to see more schools involved in Limerick Forest; education and as a research resource.
- It would be nice to have specific cross country ski trails.
- As a new comer to the area I discovered that the chalet is not common knowledge with the locals. It took me a long time to find out about it; I had been living here for a long time and didn't know. It needs to be advertised more.
- I wouldn't want to see all snowmobile trails turned into combined use trails.
- I used to use Limerick more but now go elsewhere. I like Ganaraska Forest where there is a lot of horse activity. My friends have horses that are not used to bikes and Limerick was therefore a problem for them. Some of these people would like to try and come back to Limerick again.
- I have a problem with the through traffic on Limerick Rd by the chalet. It is difficult crossing the road safely with horses. Even during an event where signs are clearly warning people cars drive too fast.

-Although I don't currently hunt in Limerick, as a hunter I would like to make sure hunters still have access to Limerick Forest.

-Re fee per use issue: In the USA organizations are buying parcels of land and then leasing them out "pay to play". This is also happening in Northern Ontario.

**Appendix O: Recreation Workshop - Survey of Attendees, May 13, 2006**

31 present at workshop, 21 responded to survey

**1. Do you belong to an organized recreational group? 15 said YES; 6 said NO**

Membership as follows:

5-Bytown Motorcycle Association (BMA)
4-Ontario Federation of Trail Riders (OFTR)
2-Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
2-Grenville Fish and Game Club
2-Ducks Unlimited
1-Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC)
1-Eastern Ontario Horses of Course Club
1-Leeds County Draft Horse Club
1-RETREADS (street bike group)
1-National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF)
1-Harley Owners Group (HOG)
1-Ottawa Valley Touring Group (OVTC)
1-OTRR
1-Ontario Dual Sport Club (ODSC)
1-Madawaska Pleasure Riders, Lanark County
1-Ontario Recreational Trail Riders Association
1-Leeds County Stewardship Council
1-Cat Trail (Canada Trail)
1-North Leeds Birders
1-Johnstown ATV Club
1-Ontario Equestrian Federation
1-Ontario Dual Sport Club (ODSC)
1-Halton Off Road Riders Association (HORRA)
1-Haliburton Highlands Trail Riders Association (HHTRA)
1-Ruffed Grouse Society
1-Delta Waterfowl (research group out of Winnipeg)

**2. What outdoor activities do you participate in within Limerick Forest?**

- HIKING-13
- MOUNTAIN BIKING-5
- DIRT BIKING-5
- ATV-4
- SNOWMOBILING- 3
- CROSS COUNTRY SKIING-3
- BIRDWATCHING-3
- HORSEBACK RIDING- 2
- HUNTING-2
- TRAIL MAINTENANCE-1
- RUNNING-1
- SNOWSHOEING-1
- ASTRONOMY-1
- NATURE STUDY-1
- NATURE EDUCATION (TEACHING)-1

**3. I am presently doing a tourism and recreational development study to help with the future planning of Limerick Forest. If I have not already contacted you for your thoughts and opinions, I may be doing so in the next few weeks. If you would like to be sure you are contacted, please indicate here by circling "YES" responses = 10**

**4. What other recreational areas besides Limerick do you presently use (parks, conservation areas, community forests etc.)?**

Ferguson Forest and Calabogie had the most respondents at 4 each.  
 Crown Land, Private Land and Rideau River had 3 respondents each.  
 Algonquin Provincial Park and Marlborough Forest were next at 2 each.

The remaining areas were all given one mention each by the respondents:  
 Private Land/Managed Forest, Bruce Pit, Ottawa, Larose Forest, Road Allowance,  
 Corporate Land, Utility Corridor in Pakenham Area Lanark County, Rideau Valley

Conservation Areas, RVCA: Baxter, Rideau Park, Gatineau Park, Kemptville Creek, Murphy's Point Provincial Park, on Rideau River, Foley Mountain in Westport, Experimental Farm in Ottawa, Almonte/Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority: Burntlands Alvar, South Nation River and Private Conservation Area.

**5. Other Suggestions or Comments?**

-Workshops are a great way to share ideas.

-Web site is great.

-Continue to promote the inclusiveness of LFAC. If this is lost then the real strength and foundation will be undermined.

-Need a better "recreation" component on the Limerick website.

**Respondents were asked how long they have been an LFAC member. Choices and numbers responded were as follows:**

Years -11

Months - 4

Weeks - 3

Note: 3 people were Non-Members



**Appendix Q: Ontario Trails Council** – Information from their website:

[www.ontariotrails.on.ca](http://www.ontariotrails.on.ca)

**ONTARIO TRAILS COUNCIL**

**OTC Trail Etiquette**

Trails are a wonderful way to spend a safe, enjoyable day, relaxing and taking in the sights. The OTC has produced an instructional video providing graphic examples of safe and shared trail experiences.

**General Rules of Etiquette**

- 1. Please stay on the main trails! Some areas have rare and sensitive plants and small animals that can be easily damaged or destroyed. Don't make new trails or use unmarked (unsigned) trails.**
- 2. Some areas may require user fees. Please be sure to check with the Trail Association or Conservation Area and be prepared to pay a daily or weekly fee. These monies help to maintain the trail.**
- 3. Some trails may close seasonally. Watch and obey any trail closure signs in the area. Check the trail condition before going too far. If you are leaving tracks over 1.5cm deep you really shouldn't be there. Most trails experience problems in the spring. If there are no signs posted, but weather conditions have been bad, please do not use the trail.**
- 4. Please stay to the right to allow other users to pass to your left.**
- 5. Please respect neighboring landowners by staying off private property, and avoid excessive noise.**
- 6. Please leave the trail as you found it, whatever you pack in, pack out.**
- 7. Maintain control of your pets. Carry a leash for your dog and be prepared to use it. Some urban areas have strict leash laws.**
- 8. When stopping for a rest, please move to the side to allow other users room to pass on the thoroughfare.**
- 9. Leave the wildflowers and wildlife for others to enjoy.**
- 10. Please respect trail signs and use only trails that are signed for your user group. Some trails are user specific i.e. hiking or snowmobile trails.**

[Order our etiquette video @\\$11.50 a copy \(incl. GST\)](#)

Trail user organizations have guidelines for specific activities. They are designed to make trails more enjoyable for all. The Ontario Trails Council encourages you to know and follow this advice.

**DO NOT TRESPASS  
VERIFY PERMITTED USES  
BEFORE ACCESSING THE TRAIL**

## **Appendix R: Ontario Federation of Trail Riders** – From their website: [www.oftr.org](http://www.oftr.org)

### **About Us**

The Ontario Federation of Trail Riders (OFTR) was incorporated in 1992 with the goal of educating riders and promoting safe and responsible riding.

### **MANDATE**

To source, create and maintain a trail network in Ontario for safe, family use by off road motorcyclist, as well as any other good intentioned users. To provide a strong voice supported by a substantial membership to represent trail users to ensure, to our best ability, that these trails continue to be available.

### **AGENDA**

- to promote safe off road trail riding as a family sport
- to organize as many Ontario Trail Riders as possible
- to host an annual Corporate trail ride for all OFTR Corporate and Committee members
- to encourage OFTR members to become involved in local chapters
- to educate the general public about the benefits of off-road riding
- to provide an OFTR internet web site and a member list service

## **Code of Conduct**

- Do Not Trespass on private property. Ride on existing trails.
- Respect nature.
- Expect and Respect others who have the right to be on the trails. Be courteous to others.
- Remember that few other vehicles are as manoeuvrable as bikes, so give the others lots of room and pass on the right.
- Other user groups do a lot of trail grooming - respect their efforts.
- STOP when you see a horse, shut off your engine immediately. Then take off your helmet and ask for instructions from the rider.
- Comply with all legislation, bylaws and insurance requirements.
- Always wear a helmet and other safety gear. (Take off your helmet if you talk to someone)
- Whatever you pack in, pack out. Do not litter, and leave the place better than you found it.
- Use trails only according to the permitted uses indicated. Some trails are seasonal and can experience problems in the spring. Check the trail conditions.
- Do not use any Alcohol or Drugs if you plan to ride.
- Keep your bike QUIET. More sound = Less ground!

**Appendix S: Ontario Federation of ATV Users (OFATV) - Information taken from their website: [www.ofatv.com](http://www.ofatv.com)**

**Organization**

The OFATV was initiated on Saturday, June 12, 1999. It was the result of a stakeholders' forum at The Canadian Ecology Centre, Friday, November 13, 1998. At the fall meeting the CATV (manufacturers), safety officials, government officials, educators, and environmental representatives came together to discuss how ATVs and sustainable outdoor tourism are related.



**Safety**

Under Ontario's Off-Road Vehicle Act ATVs must be registered with the Ministry of Transportation and drivers must be 16 years of age or older. Upon registration the owner will be supplied with a vehicle permit and a license plate. Persons under the age of 12 are not permitted to drive an ATV except on land owned or occupied by the vehicle owner, or under close supervision of an adult. A helmet is mandatory for all ATV drivers. ATVs are not to be driven on or along a highway (some specific exceptions under the Act). ATV riders must have a valid driver's license to cross a highway.

Note: It is anticipated that there will be changes to the Highway Traffic Act that will allow ATVs additional designated driving privileges. The changes require provincial legislation and then municipal bylaws, similar to that of snowmobiles.

**Environment - Trails**

The OFATV, its clubs and members are committed to conserving the environment. The OFATV believes that ATVs are best utilized on recognized trail networks.

The OFATV believes there should be single-use trails, such as hiking trails. Also, there can be shared or multiple-use trails where interactions do not have to create conflict. It is important that all trail users recognize they can cause damage to the environment if they ride irresponsibly.

**Safety Course**

The OFATV is working on promoting the Canada Safety Council course for all new and young ATV drivers. It is anticipated that the CATV and dealers will help sponsor this program and that there may be a reduced insurance premium upon completion of the course.

**Trail Safety**

The OFATV Trails Committee is looking into proper signage and standards in conjunction with insurance coverage. Standardization and consistency will make for a better provincial trails system. Also, the OFATV endorses signs that inform all trail users of ATV use when used on multiple-use trails.

**Forest Industry**

The OFATV is establishing a working relationship with the forest industry of Ontario. In many areas of the province there are thousands of kilometres of forest access trails that could be

utilized by ATVs. Properly signed, they are the foundations of good trail networks. The OFATV, clubs, and members believe in sustainable forestry and recognize that the forest industry has developed these roads. In times of harvesting and silviculture trails used by many users may have to be re-routed or temporarily closed. The OFATV recognizes the importance of the forest for its ecological, economic and recreational values.

### **OFSC**

The OFATV has many things in common with the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs. Many snowmobilers have started ATV clubs in their areas. ATVs, snowmobiles and other trail users share some trails, particularly on Crown land. Dialogue continues to evolve.

### **Ontario Trails Council/Trails Fees**

The OFATV is a sitting member of the Ontario Trails Council, the umbrella organization representing trail users and their interests in Ontario. The OFATV shares similar concerns regarding trail usage and the intent of developing a shared, graduated, sustainable trails fee/card system.

### **Government Liaison**

The OFATV is working with several government ministries and at a number of levels. Keeping officials informed of OFATV developments is important, as the numbers of ATV riders increases dramatically along with new trail development. FedNor made a significant contribution in launching the Mattawa pilot project and the OFATV.

### **OFAH**

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters have a large membership many of whom utilize an ATV for their outdoor pursuits. Working with the OFAH will further our goals with regards to trail usage.

## **Appendix T: International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA)**

### **Welcome to IMBA Canada**

In 2004, IMBA opened our first Canadian office in the town of Collingwood, Ontario, at the base of the Blue Mountains.

The Canadian office is staffed by Ontario natives **Mark Schmidt and Lora Woolner**, both three-year veterans of the award-winning Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crew program.

IMBA Canada's mission is to create, enhance, and preserve trail opportunities for mountain bikers throughout Canada.

Our goal is develop the following for Canadian mountain biking:

- Convenient access to appealing trails
- Trail building expertise
- A positive image
- Political influence

IMBA Canada

PO Box 404

Collingwood, ON

L9Y 3Z7

(705) 441-6901

[canada@imba.com](mailto:canada@imba.com)

<http://www.imba.com> > [canada](#) > [history.html](#)

### **Rules of the Trail**

The way we ride today shapes mountain bike trail access tomorrow. Do your part to preserve and enhance our sport's access and image by observing the following rules of the trail, formulated by IMBA, the International Mountain Bicycling Association. These rules are recognized around the world as the standard code of conduct for mountain bikers. IMBA's mission is to promote mountain bicycling that is environmentally sound and socially responsible.

#### ***1. Ride On Open Trails Only.***

Respect trail and road closures (ask if uncertain); avoid trespassing on private land; obtain permits or other authorization as may be required. Federal and state Wilderness areas are closed to cycling. The way you ride will influence trail management decisions and policies.

#### ***2. Leave No Trace.***

Be sensitive to the dirt beneath you. Recognize different types of soils and trail construction; practice low-impact cycling. Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable to damage. When the trail bed is soft, consider other riding options. This also means staying on existing trails and not creating new ones. Don't cut switchbacks. Be sure to pack out at least as much as you pack in.

#### ***3. Control Your Bicycle!***

Inattention for even a second can cause problems. Obey all bicycle speed regulations and recommendations.

#### **4. Always Yield Trail.**

Let your fellow trail users know you're coming. A friendly greeting or bell is considerate and works well; don't startle others. Show your respect when passing by slowing to a walking pace or even stopping. Anticipate other trail users around corners or in blind spots. Yielding means slow down, establish communication, be prepared to stop if necessary and pass safely.

#### **5. Never Scare Animals.**

All animals are startled by an unannounced approach, a sudden movement, or a loud noise. This can be dangerous for you, others, and the animals. Give animals extra room and time to adjust to you. When passing horses use special care and follow directions from the horseback riders (ask if uncertain). Running cattle and disturbing wildlife is a serious offense. Leave gates as you found them, or as marked.

#### **6. Plan Ahead.**

Know your equipment, your ability, and the area in which you are riding -- and prepare accordingly. Be self-sufficient at all times, keep your equipment in good repair, and carry necessary supplies for changes in weather or other conditions. A well-executed trip is a satisfaction to you and not a burden to others. Always wear a helmet and appropriate safety gear.

*Keep trails open by setting a good example of environmentally sound and socially responsible off-road cycling.*

**Appendix U: Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) –**  
information from website: [www.ofsc.on.ca](http://www.ofsc.on.ca)



The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs is a non-profit, volunteer driven organization, mandated by its member clubs to act on a provincial level for the greater good of organized snowmobiling. Ontario's 250 local snowmobile clubs are formed into 17 districts, each represented at the provincial level by an elected Governor and an Operations Director. The Board of Governors meet six times throughout the year to set policy, undertake long term planning and oversee the provincial operations and budget on behalf of the clubs. The Operations Directors meet twice yearly to deal with trail-related issues and internal district concerns.

As the coordinating body for organized snowmobiling in Ontario, the OFSC provides advice and guidance to member clubs on a broad range of topics to ensure provincial objectives are met. The Federation is also responsible for activities that the clubs deem are best handled at the provincial level such as policy and procedures, the user pay system, TOP Trail planning, insurance, environment, and safety.

Proceeds from the sale of trail permits provide primary funding for both the trail operations of local snowmobile clubs and their provincial organization. With family membership now standing at about 200,000 the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs is the largest snowmobiling organization in the world.



### Canadian Snowmobile Code of Ethics

- Snowmobiling is a great source of recreation
  - Everyone enjoys the outdoors
  - Snowmobilers always come home



**I understand and accept the risks associated with snowmobiling and I will take responsibility for my own actions...**

**As a responsible snowmobiler, I will...**

- ride in a manner that is a credit to our recreation
- influence other snowmobilers to adhere to this Code of Ethics
- respect the rights of others including property owners and other outdoor enthusiasts
- protect and preserve our natural environment
- ride in a responsible manner and I will use only marked trails; areas or roads open to snowmobilers
- not harass or harm wildlife or the natural surroundings
- minimize my impact on the environment
- ride smart, be prepared and stay in control
- check ice and weather conditions before riding
- help those in distress
- obey all laws and rules governing our recreation
- promote proper snowmobile education and training
- practice Zero Tolerance with respect to impaired riding

## Appendix V: Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

### About the O.F.A.H.



Since 1928, outdoor opportunities have been saved – and improved – thanks to victories by the O.F.A.H.

The Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters is Canada's leading conservation organization. The O.F.A.H. is a non-profit, registered charity, dedicated to protecting woodland and wetland habitat, conserving our precious fish and wildlife stocks and promoting outdoor education.

The Federation is recognized as an influential environmental watchdog, lobbying for conservation of our natural resources at all levels of government. The O.F.A.H. represents tens-of-thousands outdoor enthusiasts and gets results for conservation.

Together, the Voice of Anglers and Hunters continues to block political attacks on our outdoor traditions as well as animal rights campaigns that are already targeting classrooms and the media.

When it comes to speaking up for anglers and hunters the O.F.A.H. is a voice to be listened to and reckoned with. Here's a glimpse of what the O.F.A.H. has accomplished on your behalf:

- Saved fishing and hunting on Crown land
- Demanded Cormorant control program
- Exempted ice-fishermen and hunters from snowmobile trail permits on Crown land
- Pushed for multiple deer tag system
- Finding answers to declining walleye numbers
- Leading the crusade to scrap the Federal gun registry
- Stopped "no discharge of firearms bylaws" in several municipalities
- Founded wild turkey reintroduction in Ontario
- Launched lawsuit to bring back the spring bear hunt
- Saved wolf hunting in Ontario
- Supports the conviction of poachers
- Promotes hunting dog traditions
- Proposing province-wide Sunday hunting
- Scrutinizing moose tag allocations
- Spoke-out against "anti" campaigns in our schools and in the media
- Expanded bow hunting opportunities
- Against unjustifiable bans on all fishing gear containing lead and brass
- Funded fish stocking, stream rehabilitation and research programs
- Supported the reintroduction of elk, pheasants, barn owl, Trumpeter swan, and other species



[www.ofah.org](http://www.ofah.org)

**Appendix W: Local Municipal Contacts:**

The following contacts were chosen due to their close proximity to larger or more popular Limerick Forest parcels or due to the amount of tourists they would see in the run of a year.

1. The City of Brockville Tourism/Chamber Office, (613) 342-4357  
Tanya Hutton, staff

Currently a Tourist Destination Project Survey is being conducted to help produce a strategic action plan for the regional tourism industry. This will cover four geographic areas within the region; The Thousand Islands-St Lawrence Region is one. Agencies involved are: Brockville Chamber, 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber, Cornwall and Seaway Valley Tourism and the Kingston Economic Development Corporation. The Brockville Chamber's area includes the townships of Elizabethtown-Kitley, Front of Yonge, Athens, Augusta and Edwardsburgh-Cardinal. Limerick Forest staff has been asked to participate in this survey.

2. The Town of Prescott Tourism/Chamber Office, (613) 925-1861  
Monica Whitney, Coordinator Support for tourism, economic Development and Chamber of Commerce

3. Township of Augusta, (613) 925-4231  
Donna Burke, staff

4. Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal, (613) 658-3055  
Vicki Cucman, staff

5. Village of Merrickville-Wolford, (613) 269-4791  
Diane Bates, staff

6. Merrickville Chamber of Commerce, (613) 269-2229  
Mary Jean Jakielaszek, staff

7. Municipality of North Grenville, (613) 258-9569  
Brenda Leizert, staff

8. Kemptville Chamber of Commerce, (613) 258-4838  
Wendy Chapman, staff  
Meetings of a newly formed "175 Sub Committee" have taken place to look into what North Grenville has to offer to its citizens and to attract tourists. The 175 represents 175 km. bicycle trails they are looking to establish. Information on what Limerick Forest has to offer was taken to one of these meetings.

### **Appendix X: Contacts in Merrickville**

Meetings were held with owners of three accommodations establishments in the Merrickville area. These businesses are three of the twelve listed in "*Accommodations at a Glance, Historic Merrickville*" brochure produced in February 2006.

1. Alleyne Hardaker, Acton House B&B, (613) 258-9966
2. Lisa Clarke, Sam Jakes Inn, 1-800-567-4667
3. Carol Carty, Wolford House Bed & Breakfast, (613) 269-3112

-All three agreed that they would like to offer their guests a location for them to participate in passive outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, bicycling, cross country skiing and snowshoeing.

-All felt that the Limerick Forest North tract would be suitable for such non-motorized activities and would like to offer their guests maps of marked trails for them to explore. It was felt that the following would have to be provided for this to take place: parking area with signs, outhouse, detailed maps and a well marked and maintained loop trail.

Other suggestions that were posed in the conversations were:

- Non-hunting areas would be a benefit.
- Offer some guided walks.
- Packages they would offer could include a packed lunch for the hike.
- They could offer the use of snowshoes or skis to their guests.

### **Appendix Y: Owners of Property Near Limerick**

Twelve owners of property near Limerick Forest parcels were contacted and asked if they felt that increase in use due to promotion to locals or tourists would affect them.

South Tract of Limerick:

- No problem now, none for future.
- Problems with trespassing in the past-resolved now. No problem with increased use in future within Limerick.
- No problem now, none for future.
- Has seen an increase in ATV use and hunters in the area.
- Still problems with people burning stolen cars in pit area.
- A few problems now with trespassers hunting; fences not clear, not clear where Limerick Forest ends.

North Augusta:

- No problems now, none for future increase.
- Hardly anyone using this area now.

North Tract:

- If promoted would want the area promoted as an eco tourism site.
- No problems now but would be concerned with traffic.
- No problems now, none with increased use; hardly sees people there now.
- Has only seen occasional hikers and mountain bikers.
- No problems now or for increased use.
- No problems now, none for increased use. Would like to see area promoted; noted that more mountain biking trails would be nice.

Near Elgin:

- No problems now, this area very dense and no trails. Used primarily by locals to hunt.
- Only problem with increased use would be trespassing.

Near the Wolford Centre parcel:

- Problems now with motorized use of that area; noise and damage. Also concerned with walking there due to hunting.
- Would want to be informed if that area were to be promoted and could have more traffic.
- Not bothered now, sees parking on the road but not an issue with use now or if it were to increase there.

**Appendix Z: Recreation Workshop Results** - Break Out Group on Tourism and Promotion

RECREATION WORKSHOP  
Breakout Group-Tourism & Promotion  
5 people in this group

**Question #1**

**A) *Should Limerick Forest be promoted as a tourist destination on a regional, national or even international scale?***

**Answer:** All 5 in this group said yes, but only on a regional (Eastern Ontario) level and with a well thought out and prepared plan in place.

**Comments:**

- We need to be prepared; trails, signage etc.
- We need to take baby steps.
- Promote, yes, but not without a plan.
- Infrastructure has to be in place first before we go further in promotion.
- The ends have to justify the means; if costs are incurred to promote there needs to be a way to recoup these costs.
- Certain markets should be targeted, not everyone all at once.
- Suggestion: target organized groups/clubs with organized activities; they will police themselves, clean up etc.
- Perhaps promote one area at a time, not all Limerick lands at once.
- Stipulate a “code of conduct” for recreational users.

**B) *What are the implications of increasing the level of recreational usage of Limerick Forest on the forest, current users and adjacent property owners?***

**Answers:**

- i) The forest:** Fire, garbage, liability, damage to vegetation, wildlife being disturbed.
- ii) Current users:**
  - Growth has to be managed; the plan should address this by promoting certain areas only.
  - Some users could feel overcrowded by other users
  - Education and awareness should alleviate conflict.
  - It was suggested that certain areas could be promoted for certain recreational activities.
  - Don't lose sight of the users that are there now when trying to make room for others.
  - Credit should be given to groups who are developing and maintaining the trails.
- iii) Adjacent property owners:** -Traffic, noise, garbage, trespassing, parking.

**Question #2**

***Should tourism dollars be collected by the U.C.L.G. to offset costs incurred by a possible increase in use?***

**Answer:** No

**Comments:**

- Not “dollars” collected but returns “in kind”.
- Dollars are hard to police
- Local groups, non profit groups and educational endeavours need to be looked after first.

- Money to promote to tourists and to prepare for tourists could be obtained through funding/grants which are available.
- Money is not necessarily generated, UCLG will benefit by money being spent in the area by tourists.
- A “vision has to be defined; if costs are attached to do signage, maintenance of trails, pit toilets, promotion brochures etc., we should be providing this free of charge to tourists.
- We provide the labour (Leeds and Grenville), apply for and obtain the grant money and get donations. The spin off is that the people (businesses etc.) of Leeds and Grenville benefit from increased tourism and awareness of the area.
- Advantages of living here is that we have Limerick Forest. This is a good reason to live here and it could encourage others to move here.
- Other; health benefits

### **Question #3**

*Should only certain types of recreational usage be promoted? Or, what types of tourist usage would be most desirable?*

**Answer:** No discrimination; multi use.

**Comments:**

- A plan needs to be put in place; be prepared to address certain types of recreational use i.e.: providing cross country ski trails for skiers to maintain themselves. Make sure that they are aware that others may use their trails though.
- Promote the multi use aspect; but suggest certain types of recreational use for areas/trails that are more suited to those uses. Provide a code of conduct or proper etiquette for everyone to follow.
- List activities that are possible in Limerick.

### **Question #4**

**A)** *Should for-profit tourist organizations or businesses be allowed to conduct organized activities in Limerick Forest? (For example, a local hotel which advertises cross country skiing in Limerick Forest as part of a “package”).*

**Answer:** Four said Yes; one said No.

**Comments:**

- This issue is not cut and dry. The “yes’s” felt that it needs to be addressed on a case by case basis.
- Dependant on the type of activity.
- Criteria needs to be established to determine if they should be allowed or not.
- Steps to include: environmental assessment, determine if it follows Limerick and LFAC’s goals, vision.
- Do not want Limerick Forest to become commercialized or be exploited.
- The person who said “no” felt that it would be very hard to determine who is allowed to operate and who isn’t; this could lead to conflict.
- Commercialization would be a problem if this were allowed.

**B)** *Should a fee or income be realized for the U.C.L.G. from these activities?*

**Answer:** If it is decided to allow this, yes.

**C) Should non-profit groups or organizations be treated in the same manner?**

**Answer:** Yes, but with stipulations

Comments:

- must have insurance coverage
- Must meet safety requirements.
- Everyone would go through the same screening criteria.

**D) Should UCLG charge non-profit groups to use Limerick Forest for events?**

**Answer:** No, except for the use of the chalet as it is now. The only other reason would be if equipment at Limerick is being used.

**Question #5**

*What other benefits could be realized by increasing awareness of Limerick Forest in the tourism sector?*

**Answer:**

- Local businesses and the economy benefit.
- Physical fitness levels increase
- Education and awareness of Leeds and Grenville and facilities here.
- Opportunities for educational activities in the forest.
- Increased value of quality of life to live here.
- Positive community feedback.
- Being a good citizen.

## **RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- Limerick Forest Long Range Management Plan, 2003 - Copies available from the forest manager, (613) 342-9246 ext 12416.
- World Tourism Organization website: [www.world-tourism.org](http://www.world-tourism.org)
- Canadian Travel Survey Results & Domestic Travel in Canada - Statistics Canada website: [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)
- Regional Tourism Profiles, CD 07: Leeds & Grenville United Counties – Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation website: [www.tourism.gov.on.ca](http://www.tourism.gov.on.ca)
- Fit Facts for Children and Youth website: [www.in-motion.ca/youth/facts.php](http://www.in-motion.ca/youth/facts.php)
- Respect For the Environment - Study supported by the Bronfenbrenner Life Course Center and College of Human Ecology, both at Cornell – website: [www.news.cornell.edu/stories/March06/wild.nature.play.ssl.html](http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/March06/wild.nature.play.ssl.html)
- ACTIVE2010 Ontario Trails Strategy – Ministry of Health Promotion, [www.mhp.gov.on.ca](http://www.mhp.gov.on.ca), [www.active2010.ca](http://www.active2010.ca)
- Irwin Supply, Cornwall, Ontario, (613) 933-4600
- Superior Motorsport, Johnstown, Ontario, (613) 925-5353
- Motorsport plus, Kingston, Ontario, (613) 544-4600
- Marty's Small Engine and Motorcycle Repairs, Kemptonville Ontario, (613) 258-1003.
- Carson's, Perth, Ontario, (613) 267-3499
- Brockville Honda Outdoor Centre, Brockville, Ontario, (613) 342-0319
- The Off-Road Vehicles Act (ORVA) and Highway Traffic Act (HTA) Ontario Ministry of Transportation website: [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca) or E-Laws website: [www.e-laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca)
- United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry, (613) 932-4333, website: [www.sdg.on.ca](http://www.sdg.on.ca)
- Township of South Frontenac, (613) 376-3027, website: [www.townshipsouthfrontenac.on.ca](http://www.townshipsouthfrontenac.on.ca)
- Canada Safety Council website: [www.safety-council.org](http://www.safety-council.org)
- Bytown Motorcycle Association website: [www.bytown-motorcycle-assoc.ca](http://www.bytown-motorcycle-assoc.ca)
- Ontario Trails Council website: [www.ontariotrails.on.ca](http://www.ontariotrails.on.ca)
- Ontario Federation of Trail Riders website: [www.oftr.org](http://www.oftr.org)
- Ontario Federation of All Terrain Vehicles website: [www.ofatv.com](http://www.ofatv.com)
- Johnstown ATV Club website: [www.johnstownatvclub.org](http://www.johnstownatvclub.org)
- International Mountain Biking Association website: [www.imba.com/canada](http://www.imba.com/canada)
- Brockville Endo Mountain Biking Club website: [www.endo.newpublishing.com](http://www.endo.newpublishing.com)
- Equine Canada website: [www.equinecanada.ca](http://www.equinecanada.ca)
- Ontario Equestrian Federation website: [www.horse.on.ca](http://www.horse.on.ca)
- Eastern Ontario Horses of Course Club website: [www.igs.net/~vkirkwoodhp/eohc.htm](http://www.igs.net/~vkirkwoodhp/eohc.htm)
- Leeds and Grenville Snowmobile Association website: [www.home.ca.inter.net/~lgsa/](http://www.home.ca.inter.net/~lgsa/)

- Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs website: [www.ofsc.on.ca](http://www.ofsc.on.ca)
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters website: [www.ofah.org](http://www.ofah.org)
- Grenville Fish and Game Club website: [www.grenvillefishandgame.com](http://www.grenvillefishandgame.com)
- Ducks Unlimited Canada website: [www.ducks.ca](http://www.ducks.ca)
- Recreational Areas – Contact individual locations for specific information.
- Ministry of Natural Resources website: [www.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca)
- Bike South Grenville website: [www.bikesouthgrenville.com](http://www.bikesouthgrenville.com)
- Geocaching websites: [www.geocachingontario.com](http://www.geocachingontario.com), [www.ontgeocaching.com](http://www.ontgeocaching.com)
- The City of Brockville Tourism/Chamber Office, (613) 342-4357
- The Town of Prescott Tourism/Chamber Office, (613) 925-1861
- Township of Augusta, (613) 925-4231
- Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal, (613) 658-3055
- Village of Merrickville-Wolford, (613) 269-4791
- Merrickville Chamber of Commerce, (613) 269-2229
- Municipality of North Grenville, (613) 258-9569
- Kemptville Chamber of Commerce, (613) 258-4838
- Acton House B&B, (613) 258-9966
- Sam Jakes Inn, 1-800-567-4667
- Wolford House Bed & Breakfast, (613) 269-3112
- On-line Survey results available by contacting the Limerick Forest Manager, (613) 342-9246 ext 12416.