

ADVOCACY WORK

Below is a brief summary of the work done in 2016:



TRAIL ADVOCACY

Ontario Trail Strategy

- Bill 100
- Aggregates and Mining act
- 3 year plan (2015 – 2018)
- MTCS
 - 2017 Working groups
 - Consultations
- MNRF

Other work

- OPSWG
- ORVI
- HETC
- Forest Mgt

Ontario Trails Strategy

As mentioned in previous newsletters the OF4WD have been involved in the Ontario trails strategy consultations since they started back in 2005. The results of the Trail Strategy are beginning to roll out now with the passing of the Trails Act (Bill 100) in 2016. There is a lot of follow on work that still needs to be done and the next phase is outlined in a Ministry of Tourism Culture and Sport 3 year Action Plan report (2015 – 2018). This will likely be in effect and relevant by 2018/2019.

2017 is going to be a very busy year on the advocacy front for OF4WD. I have a seat on the Trails Etiquette working group and we will be consulted as the Ministry look to define a voluntary Trails Classification system. Whilst it is marked as voluntary clearly we should strive to be included in this recognized provincial standard.

Bill 100 – Trails act

Given the impact the Trails Act could have, I spent quite a bit of time on this.

BILL 100

Our work

- Consulting with other orgs.
- Presentation to Standing Committee at Queens Park – 2 trips
- Submission
- Bill passed
- Ongoing follow up with MTCS and MNRf.

Our Work :

- Continue to build relationships and positions with other like minded organizations.
- Ongoing consultation with Ministry Tourism Culture and Sport (MTCS) and other ministries (MNRf, MTO).
- Present and answer questions at parliamentary standing committee hearing on Bill 100 at Queens Park.

Bill 100 – our comment submission spoke to the following areas :

- Schedule 5 (Public Lands Act changes)
 - The damage regulation.
- Schedule 6 – (Trespass to Property act):
 - Maximum fine limit
 - Minimum Fines
 - Removal of the \$1000 damage limit claim.
 - **A more effective approach to avoid trespass offences.**
- The important areas Bill 100 **does not address**:
 - Aggregate Resources act
 - Mining act
- Background information on our activity and excellent safety record of 4x4.

Bill 100 now passed, contains :

- Public Lands Act
 - A new “No damage to Crown land or property” provision with prescribed types of damage to be covered in a future yet to be drawn up regulation.
- Trespass act changes
 - Max fines increased (from \$2000 now \$10,000)
 - *No minimum fine set*
- Trail easements on private land (voluntary, on title).
- Off Road Vehicle act/Motorized Snow Vehicles act – no impact to us
- Occupiers Liability act – modified duty of care so less liability for land owner.

Aggregates and Mining act – OF4WD request

As part of the Mining and Aggregates act review that took place in late 2016 we requested specific amendments be made that would be more supportive of allowing existing recreational trail corridors to remain across mine and aggregate sites for all recognized trail users where possible.

We consulted with MTCS, MNR Aggregates policy staff and others. We submitted official comment via Ontario Environmental Registry during official comment period.

The impact of mining and aggregate pits on trails could be significant in some areas, e.g. a mining permit is affecting Highlands East plan to establish managed trails use on Greens mountain. The impact of these mining claims impacts all trail users including ATV and Snowmobile.