This page was exported from - Shelburne Free Press
Export date: Fri Oct 30 21:20:17 2026 / +0000 GMT

Off-road vehicle riders must obey the law, says Dufferin OPP

Dufferin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers are reminding off-road vehicle (ORV) riders to operate responsibly and only in areas where they are legally permitted to ride.

Dufferin OPP continues to receive complaints involving dirt bikes and other off-road vehicles being operated on private property without permission. Recent incidents have resulted in damage to golf courses, residential lawns, community parks, agricultural land, and trails throughout the county.

These concerns are not limited to traditional gas-powered dirt bikes. The growing use of electric dirt bikes and other electric off-road vehicles is also contributing to increased complaints. Regardless of how a vehicle is powered, all ORVs are subject to the same laws and must only be operated in permitted areas.

?Public roadways are not trails and should not be used for recreational riding or ?exploring' with dirt bikes or ORVs unless specifically authorized by the local municipality. Riders must also ensure they hold the proper driver's licence and, where applicable, have valid registration and insurance,? reads a press release from Dufferin OPP.

?Operating an off-road vehicle on private property without the owner's consent is illegal and can result in charges, fines, and liability for damages.?

The Dufferin OPP is also reminding the public that stickers or manufacturer labels indicating a suggested minimum age for operation do not replace legal requirements. Riders and parents are strongly encouraged to do their own research to ensure they! understand the laws in their area before operating or allowing the use of these vehicles.

The Dufferin OPP is reminding parents and guardians of the important role they play in ensuring young riders understand and follow the rules and responsibilities associated with these vehicles. Before purchasing a dirt bike or off-road vehicle, residents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with where and when they can be legally operated. Allowing youth to operate these vehicles without proper supervision or understanding of the law can lead to serious consequences, including property damage, injury, and legal liability.

Dufferin OPP will continue to investigate complaints and conduct enforcement initiatives where necessary. Residents are encouraged to report illegal off-road vehicle activity and provide as much information as possible, including descriptions of the riders, vehicles, and locations involved.

Anyone wishing to report illegal off-road vehicle activity is encouraged to contact the Dufferin OPP at 1-888-310-1122.