



OFF ROAD MOTORCYCLING

For close to the past 50 years, off road motorcyclists have been enjoying the pleasure of trail riding the Simcoe County Forest. The first land use agreement in the area was in the mid-1930s when the British Empire Motorcycle Club (BEMC) used to purchase Wasaga Beach for one dollar for a weekend event and then sell it back to the province on the Monday.

The first club to regularly ride the area and maintain trails in Simcoe and Dufferin Counties is the Halton Off Road Riders Association (HORRA). They have been active with its members since the early 1960s including a charity trail ride for the Heart and Stroke foundation each spring near Midhurst known as the Jim Kelly Memorial Ride.

The second local club, incorporated last year is The Simcoe County Off Road Riders Association (SCORRA) and was founded to fulfill the trail stewardship and maintenance duties as specified in the Simcoe County Forest Recreation Policy.

HORRA and SCORRA are responsible for promoting responsible riding through education and safety awareness while encouraging riders to obey the code of conduct of the Ontario Federation of Trail Riders (OFTR).

The OFTR is the provincial organization for 23 off road motorcycle clubs in Ontario and provides funding for trail initiatives such as signage, noise reduction and responsible behavior and hosts a series of trail rides across Ontario each summer.

The OFTR is the “Voice of Off Road Motorcyclists” in Ontario and works with the provincial ministries and national off road council for its members and is establishing a designated trail network with the promotion of proper trail etiquette, through education, signage, and trail stewardship.

The OFTR and its member clubs are regularly promoting rider learning clinics that safely help introduce new riders and their families to the sport, such as the one recently hosted by the CMT Canadian Motorcycle Training Services Inc. at Horseshoe Resort Riding Adventures facility.

According to a recent study at York University, recreational off road motorcycling is a heart-healthy activity with health benefits that exceed running. Off road motorcycling is also a part of the Ministry of Health Promotion’s “Ontario Trails Strategy” and “Active 2010”.

For more information visit www.scorra.ca or www.oftr.ca