

## GANARASKA FOREST CONDITIONS OF USE

All users must comply with the permitted uses and location of permitted uses as approved by the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority and the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee. Forest users must also obey Forest signs posted under the provisions of the Occupier's Liability Act and the Trespass to Property Act.

- All open fires and camping are prohibited.
- Littering is prohibited. Please take your litter with you.
- Consumption of alcohol is prohibited in the Ganaraska Forest.
- Users of the Forest accompanied by dogs or horses must be capable of restraining their animals and should ensure they have up to date health vaccinations and parasite control. Dogs must be leashed while in the Central Forest.
- Hiking, biking, dogs, and horses are not permitted on the cross-country ski trails during the ski season.
- Organized and/or advertised events of 10 or more people require the purchase of a permit. Call 905.885.8173 for information.
- The Ganaraska Forest will be closed to non-motorized use, with the exception of hiking and cross-country skiing, from March 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. \*\* See footnote.

### **While using the forest, please respect the following signs:**

- Red Markings indicate private property. Entry is prohibited.
- Yellow Markings with a 'C' indicate the Central Forest Area. In this area, only non-motorized recreational uses are permitted.
- Yellow Markings with a 'W' indicate the Western Forest Area. Both motorized and non-motorized recreational uses are permitted in this area.
- Yellow Markings with an 'E' indicate the Eastern Forest Area. Both motorized and non-motorized recreational uses are permitted in this area.

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority does not accept liability for accidents resulting from the use of the Forest.

## **MOTORIZED VEHICLE OPERATION**

Operation of motorized vehicles must comply with the provisions of,  
The Highway Act

([http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_90h08\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90h08_e.htm)),

The Motorized Snow Vehicle Act

([http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_90m44\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90m44_e.htm))

The Off-Road Vehicle Act

([http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_90o04\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90o04_e.htm)),

and the following regulations and rules of etiquette when operating on Forest property:

- Motorized vehicles must be registered with the Ministry of Transportation and display license plates as issued by a motor vehicle licence office.

- Motorized vehicles must be covered by liability insurance. The driver of the vehicle must carry proof of insurance.
- Use only those trails authorized for motorized use. The Central Forest is a non-motorized zone.
- Keep noise created by your vehicle to a minimum. Keep your speed and engine RPM's low, especially when near homes or when approaching other forest users.
- When meeting a horseback rider, pull off to the side of the trail, shut your engine off, and let the horse pass. Look and listen for instructions from the rider.
- ATV's are prohibited on single-track trails.
- The Off-Road Vehicles Act states that off-road vehicles may not be driven along a highway which includes, but is not limited to, all maintained municipal roads.
- Operators of off-road vehicles require the permission of land owners to ride on all trails on private land including those shown as snowmobile trails on the forest map.
- Motorized vehicles are to use only existing trails.
- Motorized snow vehicles must not exceed 50 km/hour. Other motorized vehicles must not exceed 40 km/hour.
- Motorized and off-road vehicles (any two or more wheeled vehicle designed primarily for recreational use) must comply with noise limits and standards as set by the Canadian Motorcycle Association.
- Unloading and loading of off-road vehicles is not permitted at the Ganaraska Forest Centre parking area.
- The Ganaraska Forest will be closed to motorized use, with the exception of snowmobiles, from December 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. \*\* See footnotes.

### **HUNTING AND FIREARMS**

- All hunters must comply with the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, and all applicable municipal by-laws.
- The discharge of firearms is prohibited except for the purpose of hunting.
- Construction of permanent tree stands is prohibited.

### **TRAIL ETIQUETTE – ALL USE**

- Use only trails and roads that are open for use. Do not create new trails.
- Make safety your primary consideration in all recreational activities. Be aware that all trails are multi-use and that you may encounter another forest user at any time.
- Try to stay in the middle of the trail to avoid widening of them.

- Stay off soft, wet roads and trails that can be easily damaged.
- Avoid wetlands, water courses, steep slopes and other environmentally sensitive areas.
- Yield to passing groups or those travelling uphill.
- Make other forest users aware of your presence when approaching from behind by calling out or ringing a bell. This is particularly important when mountain bikers are intending to pass horseback riders.
- Always be courteous to other users and respect the forest environment that enables you to enjoy your recreational activities.

**\*\* Foot note regarding winter trail closures**

Conservation Authority staff may make changes to winter closure dates based on trail conditions and weather patterns experienced each year. Updates on closure dates can be obtained by calling the Ganaraska Forest Centre at 905.797.2721, or the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority at 905.885.8173, or by visiting our website at [www.grca.on.ca](http://www.grca.on.ca).

**REPORTING EMERGENCIES**

Forest fires and other emergencies should be reported immediately by calling 911.

The nearest forest reference marker (white letter and number symbols on a green background) should be reported where possible, to aid in locating the site of an emergency.