

Police and farmers worry about crop damage from ATVs

In recent weeks, several incidents have been reported to Caledon OPP of All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) riders damaging young crops growing in local fields.

The damages are especially concerning for farmers who rely on growth of the crops to support themselves and their families.

Police are reminding ATV owners that they must ride on their own properties, unless they have prior permission from a land owner to be on his or her land. By not agreeing with this warning, riders could be charged with trespassing.

Remember to always operate an ATV with an approved helmet, eye protection, boots, gloves, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt or jacket. Ignorance of the law is no excuse.

Police are reminding people of the rules aimed at maximizing the enjoyment of ATVs.

Drivers must be at least 12 years of age and wear an approved helmet. The vehicle must be registered and proof must be produced at the trailside. It must also have a properly displayed off-road licence plate. As well, the vehicle must have valid insurance and proof must also be produced at the trailside.

These machines are not to be used on the road. An off-road licence plate does not allow the machine to be operated on any portion of the highway, which includes from fence line to fence line.

Drinking and driving while operating an ATV is a criminal offence and carries the same penalties as operating a vehicle.

Safety tips for ATV riders

? Ride off-road only ? never on public roads.

? Ride with others ? never alone.

? Always supervise young drivers.

? Ride sober ? no alcohol or drugs.

? Respect the environment ? do not litter.

? Be courteous to all you meet.

? Ride within your capabilities.

? Respect riding trail and area rules.

For more information on ATVs, visit www.catv.ca or www.safety-council.org