

Headquarters

47 Don Hillock Drive
Aurora, ON L4G 0S7

**Media Relations**

1-866-876-5423 ext. 2664
email: 1667@yrp.ca, 1899@yrp.ca,
1339@yrp.ca

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA INVITED TO ATTEND THE LAUNCH OF OPERATION SAFE TRAILS

York Regional Police, in partnership with the City of Vaughan and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, will be launching *Operation Safe Trails*, a joint-forces initiative focused on educating off-road vehicle riders about the safety concerns and restrictions on the use of these vehicles.

The media are invited to attend this event which will take place on Friday, May 30, 2014, at 11 a.m. Media are asked to attend a staging area in the parking lot of Rainbow Creek Park which is located at 5450 Highway 7 in the City of Vaughan.

As the summer begins, York Regional Police and the City of Vaughan By-law and Compliance Department often see an increase in complaints and calls for service regarding the use of off-road vehicles in public parks or residential streets. Off-road vehicles include ATVs, dirt bikes, pocket bikes and any other type of motorized bike or scooter. These vehicles are completely prohibited in any parks, woodlots or open spaces that are not private property, or on any road or highway anywhere in the City of Vaughan.

Representatives from York Regional Police, the City of Vaughan By-law and Compliance Department, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, York Region Emergency Services and Vaughan Fire and Rescue will be present at the event to speak about the different types of off-road vehicles, the requirements to use these vehicles and the dangers riders face when safety precautions are not followed.

Examples of the off-road vehicles will be on site and officers will be out on bikes and ATVs conducting enforcement and patrols in the park.

While officers will be enforcing the Highway Traffic Act, the Off-Road Vehicles Act, the Trespass to Property Act and City of Vaughan Bylaws, the focus of this blitz is to educate the public and raise awareness about off-road vehicle safety and the laws governing their use.

York Regional Police remains committed to working with our community partners towards making our region's roads, trails and parks the safest possible for our citizens. Through continued strategic enforcement, education and community engagement, our members remain vigilant in promoting and enhancing safety for all.

For more information you may contact the York Regional Police Corporate Communications Bureau at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 2664.

Prepared by: Constable Laura Nicolle
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