

ALGONQUIN TRAIL ARNPRIOR REPORT MAY 2020

MUNICIPALITIES TOWN OF ARNPRIOR and TWP OF MCNAB/BRAESIDE

PREPARED BY OVCATA

Saturday May 2 early afternoon this report covers Algonquin Trail from Red Pine Bay in Braeside into Arnprior across the Madawaska and into Lanark County (8 km and return). The weather was great for getting out with 20 deg temperature, slightly cloudy with little wind. The following trail participants were manually counted:

80-90 walkers 45%

40-50 cyclists 25%

50-60 atvers (mostly side by sides) 30%

TOTAL USERS 170-200

TRAIL CONDITION

The trail surface was hard and smooth. There is a short distance on the trail from Division Street south easterly about 3-400 metres that has a recycled asphalt surface that is rough and uneven particularly for elderly users or parents with baby carriages or similar devices.

As a result of dry conditions dust was encountered when motorized vehicles passed by.

There were several locations on Algonquin Trail where motorized vehicles access properties adjacent to the trail. These access locations are showing some trail deterioration. Mud was observed on the bridge and the trail south east of the Madawaska bridge likely from falling off motorized vehicles that were coming from a muddy area outside of Algonquin Trail on the south east side of the Madawaska River.

Thru rural areas 50km/hr speed signs and thru urban areas 25km/hr speed signs were posted.

Trail rule signs are also posted.

COMPLAINTS

Two people complained of dust and speeding atvs.

A trail bike was observed south east of the hwy 417 bridge structures that slowed to pass but accelerated causing dust and too much noise. The dirt bike did not have a licence plate.

A few people asked for a location of a restroom.

There had been a report of dog feces in plastic grab bags on the trail, but none were observed.

It was quite a surprise to see very artistic work on the structures rather than grotesque graffiti. Perhaps a multiuse theme would be better on other structures on the Algonquin Trail.

PICTURES







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RECOMMENDATIONS

Suggested improvements apply to the **Town of Arnprior** and **Township of McNab Braeside**.

1. Replace or place over the recycled asphalt in Arnprior near Division Street with crushed limestone.
2. Place Garbage and recycle containers in convenient locations.

WISH LIST

1. Designated trail access parking for trailer vehicles transporting atvs and for out of town vehicles transporting bicycles.
2. Washroom/shelter and water source which should be located within view of the Algonquin Trail. Suggested location would be in the Town of Arnprior preferably close to trail head parking.
Red Pine Bay parking area should have direction signs near Algonquin Trail as many people look to park right at the trail at Usborne crossing which could lead to problems. Perhaps handicap parking designation at Algonquin Trail at Usborne crossing.
3. Wayfinding boards having downtown attractions and local commercial outlet locations, events and trail map.
4. Enhance trail access parking and washrooms with landscaping vegetation, flowers, shrubs etc.
5. Posted distance markers along Algonquin Trail. Former CPR had mileage markers posted with starting point being in Smiths Falls.