

Crowe Valley Conservation Authority  
70 Hughes Lane P.O. Box 416  
Marmora, Ontario K0K 2M0

July 29, 2020

RE: Request for closure of Callaghan's Rapids Conservation Area due to COVID-19

Dear Chair and Board of Directors,

This letter comes you as an urgent request to take the same action with Callaghan's Rapids that the Municipality of Trent Hills has taken with Crowe River Park, and that of Quinte Conservation with Little Bluff Conservation Area and close Callaghan's Rapids Conservation Area immediately.

We speak for a group of approximately 30 people who have come together over deep concern for Callaghan's Rapids Conservation Area in particular and of the entire Crowe watershed in general.

In light of respect for social distancing measures required by the Province and all Ontario public health departments, and with CVCA having no facilities or staffing to manage the influx and protect public health, we ask that Callaghan's Rapids be treated in the same way as Crowe Bridge Park and Little Bluff and be closed for the remainder of the season.

In addition to large numbers of ATV trespassers illegally entering Callaghan's Rapids from the EOTA managed trail, causing irreparable damage to an ANSI habitat, the conservation area is experiencing record numbers of visitors. We have attached google maps obtained from the EOTA website indicating ATV trails throughout the park.

The parking lot is filled and cars are parked a distance along Callaghan's Rapids Rd. There are no toilet facilities or garbage receptacles at Callaghan's Rapids, meaning that human feces, large amounts of garbage, cans and bottles are left behind. Garbage including plastics is being partially burnt in fire pits which line the riverbed.

Local residents have been doing their best to gather the garbage and take it to the dump, where they pay from their own pockets for disposal, but they aren't able to keep up with the volume.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this issue.

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