

**Crowe Valley Conservation Authority**  
**Press Release**  
**August 2020**

**Callaghan's Rapids Conservation Area - Under Attack**

There is no debate, the Callaghan's Rapids Conservation Area is being attacked.

The assault on this natural prime wilderness environment has reached all time highs. Illegal human activities have left paths which crisscross the property like ugly insidious scars of deep wounds. Yes, environmental degradation is happening before our very eyes in our backyard in Eastern Ontario. Natural habitat like Callaghan's can't absorb these brutal acts conducted by those who have no regard for what was once a pristine parcel of natural beauty straddling a portion of the Crowe River.

All terrain vehicles have decimated Callaghan's as they cut trails and run rampant through the area, including driving ATV's and trucks in the river. Illegal camping and partygoers have destroyed habitat by strewing garbage at will and leaving it to further destroy habitat. Broken glass from parties is predominant along the river banks and unfortunately there have even been dangerous confrontations with people who simply want to enjoy the natural features of Callaghan's.

Only minutes from communities like Marmora and Stirling and 45 minutes from Peterborough and Belleville, Callaghan's Rapids Conservation Area is 400 acres of natural wilderness that cradles the Crowe River as it peacefully makes its way to the Trent River. The CVCA became the owner of the property through the assistance of the Nature Conservancy of Canada because the area is so unique. It is part of the landscape where the St. Lawrence Lowlands meets the Canadian Shield. This transition zone creates an area for a wide variety of flora and fauna that is rare to find elsewhere, including many endangered species.

The Crowe Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) simply does not have the resources available to handle the abuse of the area and it is becoming worse every year since those who abuse the conservation area think they are entitled to do whatever they wish. Regrettably, additional visitation to Callaghan's this year has only exacerbated the issue and placed additional pressure on an environment already strained by human activity.

Tim Pidduck, General Manager of the CVCA has confirmed he has noticed "a substantial increase in the number of calls from local residents and visitors over the past few years." He went on to state, "there is a growing concern expressed by the public to put a stop to the damage, but the CVCA's hands are tied due to a lack of resources and as a result, those who are ruining the area are further emboldened since there are no repercussions."

Pidduck commented, "As a community, we need to put an end to the disgraceful abuse that has become Callaghan's legacy. Somehow, we need to prove that the irresponsible actions of those who do not care can be stopped. Unfortunately, it may be too late for some of the endangered species that call

Callaghan's its home. I truly hope not. It would be a sad disgrace to be known as the generation that didn't take the necessary action when we know better. Each of us must become engaged, a champion for the environment that has no voice. Together, we are greater than those who don't care."

Let's unify to stop the degradation, let Callaghan's heal and keep its place as an important piece of a natural corridor for endangered species and for the public to observe and enjoy the beauty it offers. We have choices. We need to act, to be prepared for what will happen again and again.

Callaghan's offers so much and asks for nothing in return but to exist and thrive.

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