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Mission Minor Hockey Association  
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### ATV enthusiasts aim to find Lost Creek garbage

By Kristine Thiessen  
Mission Record

Sep 13 2007

Trash sullies the Lost Creek Forest Service Road in Mission, and not just wrappers and cans tossed during a jaunt.

Piles of household garbage, household appliances like freezers and fridges, and the occasional stolen car and barrel of hazardous material can be found discarded along the busy recreational route.

The disgusting state of the road prompted a group of ATVers through Quads.ca to act.

Last November about 50 people drove up the road, north of Sylvester, with their ATVs and supplies. They trucked loads of illegally disposed trash to dumpsters, with most volunteers working over a seven-hour period.

A few sealed barrels were discovered, flagged, and the Ministry of Environment's Hazardous Materials team was called to investigate. In total, the group removed 6.59 tonnes of garbage, not including the scrap metal collected, such as a pop machine.

Through the forum on Quads.ca, members chatted about making the event an annual thing, and encouraged a province-wide clean-up day.

This year, ATV groups in Mission, Fort St. John, Comox, and Golden will grab their gloves and garbage bags Sept. 23.

For local ATVers, this is a way of giving back to the community. The effort is both focused on the environment and safety, since it can be dangerous for any road user to ride or run around broken, discarded items.

Greg Sue has ridden ATVs since 2000, and created Quads.ca as a way to communicate with other riders in B.C.

Another ATVer brought the idea of a clean-up to his attention.

"It's one of the areas we ride, and we like to see it clean," said Sue.

He said people often dump their waste along the forest service road, which is a provincial road and not gated, because it's a convenient dumping ground if they don't want to pay or wait at the landfill.



QUADS.CA PHOTO

Members of Quads.ca clean up a massive pile of trash illegally dumped alongside Lost Creek Forest Service Road last year. On Sept. 23, the Fraser Valley ATVers head up there for a second time.

#### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Should 9/11 ceremonies be scaled back as the years go by?

Yes No

"It might be even worse this year because the transfer stations were quite busy with the [Vancouver] strike," he said.

The burgeoning effort to keep B.C. trails clean caught the attention of a number of businesses and B.C. ministries.

The Ministry of Forests and the Ministry of Tourism are donating rolls of garbage bags, gloves, and meals.

The district will provide the group with free use of the landfill, and other services have stepped in to provide disposal bins, two-way radios, coffee, and tow trucks if needed.

The ATVers will meet at 8 a.m. at the Junction Tim Hortons, and will be at the Lost Creek road entrance by 9 a.m. Those who wish to attend can visit the forum at [Quads.ca](http://Quads.ca) for more information. Volunteers should bring hiking boots, work gloves, and a metal rake.



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