

## **Canadian ATV Safety Institute (CASI) offering a new national ATV *Ridercourse*<sup>sm</sup>.**

The joke that Canada has two seasons, winter and construction isn't far off. Canadians get it! And so do ATV and off-road motorcycle (ORM) enthusiasts. They will also tell you that there is no better way to shake off construction season than being outdoors riding the trails on a sunny day. They know this is a day that couldn't get much better.

We agree! But, as an industry our top priority is rider safety. When statistics report that vehicle misuse is present in 92% of ATV fatalities, industry realizes there is a need to constantly educate and inform riders on how to minimize risks.

Taking the time to learn or taking an ATV refresher course is a smart way to begin your riding season and key to helping youth and adults better understand the responsibilities associated with choosing to ride.

This is why the Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council (COHV) working with the All-Terrain Quad Council of Canada (AQCC) recently announced that the Canadian ATV Safety Institute (CASI) a division of the AQCC is now offering a new national ATV *Ridercourse*<sup>sm</sup>.

Danny Gagnon AQCC President and chair of the CASI safety committee pointed out that, "The CASI's purpose is to improve the safety of ATV riders through a nationwide ATV education program." Gagnon added "In addition, the CASI Instructors are specially trained by certified Chief Instructors, so it is important for the AQCC as a national ATV federation to provide our instructors with materials that are highly relevant and up to date." If you want to learn more about the ATV ridercourse or the rider training location nearest you call: 1-888-613-AQCC (2722) or email: [info@atvquad.ca](mailto:info@atvquad.ca).

Along with the new ATV training program, COHV member companies have introduced new youth ATV models that are now categorized differently for varying ages, with differing speed limitations.

Youth-model ATVs were previously produced in just two categories, Y-6 and Y-12 and were tied to specific engine displacements up to 90cc. These classifications and engine size limitations worked for some younger riders but were less helpful to older and bigger riders, resulting in some 14 and 15 year olds choosing to ride adult-model ATVs.

In support of these changes, COHV has introduced a safety DVD "Ride Safe, Ride Smart" to demonstrate the safe and responsible use of ATVs with the goal of assisting riders in reducing accidents and injuries that could result from improper ATV operation. This nine-minute video is a rider-friendly look at how to get a proper start in ATV riding.

Along with the DVD, COHV has introduced, the **Parents, Youngsters and All-Terrain Vehicles** booklet that is intended to assist parents in determining if your youngster is ready to ride all-terrain vehicles.

Remember, ATVs are not toys. Proper instruction and practice are important. This booklet will assist parents with information on choosing the correct youth size model that is recommended for use by your youngster's age group.

COHV and its member companies continue to work with and fund provincial ATV and Off-Road Motorcycle Federations across Canada in our shared endeavor to educate off-road riders on how to ride safe and how to ride smart. COHV supporting members are Arctic Cat, BRP (*Can-Am*), Honda, Kawasaki, KTM, Polaris, Suzuki and Yamaha.

For more information or to order COHV safety materials check out the COHV website at: [www.cohv.ca](http://www.cohv.ca) or email [safety@cohv.ca](mailto:safety@cohv.ca) .

Jo-Anne Farquhar is the Director of Communications & Public Affairs for the Motorcycle & Moped Industry Council (MMIC) and the Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council (COHV) and can be reached at 416-491-4449 or toll-free at 877.470.2288 or by email at [jfarquhar@cohv.ca](mailto:jfarquhar@cohv.ca) or [jfarquhar@mmic.ca](mailto:jfarquhar@mmic.ca).