

York, Kittery, share new ATV for water-district patrol

Purchase accomplished through grant money



SUSAN MORSE PHOTO From left, York Police Sgt. Tom Baran, Lt. Charles Szeniewski, Water District Resource Protection Manager and police officer Gary Stevens and Kittery Water District Superintendent Mike Rogers stand next to the all-terrain vehicle purchased through a grant in order to patrol the trails around York and Kittery water sources.

By **Susan Morse**

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YORK — York and Kittery officials have teamed up to get grants to patrol the 3,000 acres in their combined water districts.

Since 2006, York police and the York and Kittery water districts have received \$40,500 in ATV (all-terrain vehicle) law enforcement grants through the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, according to York Water District Superintendent Don Neumann.

"We just completed the purchase of a new all-terrain vehicle to replace an existing ATV," Neumann said. "The two water districts and the York police have worked jointly to see that the region is protected."

Also benefitting are people who use the trails. The wooded areas include numerous trails that may be used for hiking, skiing, mountain biking, hunting and ATV riding, the latter requiring a permit.

Since 2006, the ATVs have been used to rescue 20 people who were lost, according to Gary Stevens, the York Water District's resource protection manager who is also a police officer. Three individuals rescued had broken bones, he said.

The ATVs also aided in fighting a forest fire on Third Hill and in rescuing a dog whose leg was caught in a trap.

The equipment is also offered to the Maine Warden Service for patrol, said York Police Sgt. Tom Baran.

"It's a true partnership," said York Police Lt. Charles Szeniewski. Portland has started a similar program, modeled after York, he said.

Not allowed in the protected area is swimming, boating or fishing. This includes Chases Pond, Welchs Pond, Folly Pond, Middle Pond, Bell Marsh Pond and Boulter Pond.

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