

## **LUCERNE NOTICES AND REMINDERS**

At recent Village meetings there have been several complaints concerning increased ATV activity on Lucerne Roads. You may have heard that Lucerne roads are “private” and therefore ATV activity is allowed. This is incorrect. Lucerne’s roads are maintained by the Village of Lucerne for the use of the public. Roads maintained for public use are defined as “*public ways*” in State law and operating ATV’s on public ways is against the law in Maine except in some restricted circumstances where a public way may be legally crossed while riding off-road. In addition to ATVs operating illegally on Lucerne roads, some of the ATVs may be operated by riders who are too young to legally operate them. In Maine, children under 10 years of age may not operate an ATV except on land where they live, land owned by a parent or guardian, or while participating in a state authorized training course. Children older than 10 but younger than 16 years of age, can operate ATVs in areas specified in the law, but must have attended a state ATV safety course with their parent or guardian and must be accompanied by an adult when operating the ATV. All operators and passengers younger than 18 years of age must wear protective head gear. State laws for operating ATVs are aimed at ensuring public safety. Nationwide most ATV fatalities occur on hard surfaced roads not off-road where they are designed to be used. On-road ATV accidents continue to rise. ATVs are not manufactured to the safety standards necessary for use on public roads and most manufacturer’s operating instructions include warnings about their use on hard surfaced, public roads. It is also a violation of Maine law, as a parent or guardian, to furnish an ATV that is used illegally and you have liability for any damage or injuries resulting from illegal use of the ATV. Please help the Village of Lucerne enforce the laws of the State of Maine and protect the safety of our residents and guests.