

Council of Head Clara and Maria

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March 31, 2017

Due to the disappointing postponing of the MASC 'A' trail re-route stakeholders meeting this Sunday until the fall, I would like you to know of my concerns as a resident and property owner adjacent to this re-routed trail. I have expressed some of my main concerns with (MASC) Todd Dousser.

This meeting should have been held with the stakeholders long before any re-route was undertaken or approved without public input. I do not feel it should be postponed till the fall - as snowmobile trail plans will be well underway and any re-route would be difficult (although not impossible) - and before the 4 wheeler season starts, because once a trail is established they come.

I was under the impression earlier in the railway dismantling that the "Renfrew County Trail" development would be non-motorised but multi used; walking, biking, X-C skiing snowshoeing etc.

I have the following concerns

after observing the results of the re-routed trail adjacent to the over 1000' that my property backs on to the trail. My home lies ~ 200' from the rail property and I spend a lot of time out doors enjoying my property. This year during the snowmobile season it was at times ^{like} living next to the snowmobile race tracks in Egauville. The straight stretch of (rail line) trail causes some riders to either rapidly accelerate and or 'burp' their engines as they fly down the trail. Without any respect for adjacent land owners. A problem has been created that has an effect on the enjoyment of my property and I am not happy.

At times ~~where~~ where the re-routed trail crosses Goat Launch Road the groomer has left 4 to 6 inches of trail across the road creating a hazard for vehicles using the road. (I am not allowed to put snow on the municipal road)

An increase in the number of snowmobilers while racing down the trail ~~are~~ ignoring the stop

signs and 'flying' across Boat Launch Road. This poses a great danger to anyone on the road.

There is an alternative to having the trail run thru the center of Stonecliffe: Menet Lake to (196) Grant Creek with access trails to Pine Valley Road from Menet Lake Road and 'Sesime Street' to Buckshot Road to Yates General Store. It is my feeling that if at all possible, snowmobile trails should avoid residential areas.

I have been involved in snowmobiling for ~ 40 years and realize that these concerns are not new to the sport. I also appreciate that the noise, speed and flying thru stop signs are almost impossible to police - but - this has been put in my back yard and I don't like it.

Jim Walter
52 Boat Launch Road
Stonecliffe, Ont.

Sunday April 2, 2017

TO: Reeve and Council of Head, Clara, Maria Townships

RE: Snowmobile Trail along CP rail bed in Stonecliffe

We are writing to voice our opposition to the establishment of the new snowmobile trail. As long time residents and homeowners with property which runs alongside the trail we have a number of grave concerns we wish to share.

First of all, we have found that our private crossing, which is the sole access to our home, has become one of extreme danger for ourselves and visitors. Too large a number of drivers ignore the stop signs on the trail and we have had a number of close calls. The lack of visibility due to so many pine trees in either direction, and the layout of the crossing forces us to drive onto the edge of the trail before seeing clearly what is coming.

Secondly, we were shocked at the large amount of traffic and the noise it generated. We have multiple snow shoe trails throughout our property and had always looked forward to the winter season for being outside to enjoy the peace and quiet and wildlife. This year the noise from the machines totally ruined the season with some machines so noisy that it seemed as if they were on the road to our house. There were times when we could hear the machines from inside the house which created anxiety and anger on our part. We purchased this property and established our home here to enjoy nature and the quiet beauty of the area.

Thirdly, we were upset that the trail was established without any consultation with the residents who have been so drastically affected by it. We don't understand why there was a need for this trail to be put where houses are so close to the trail, when there is ample crown land that has been used for decades.

When CP gave up the railway we had thought the trail would be used for non-vehicular summer and winter sports. We never heard whether this option was ever considered or discussed. Another concern we have is that the next step will be to allow 4 wheeled vehicles and dirt bikes to use the trail in the summer. On top of everything else, the establishment of this trail while ignoring our rights as residents, will have a negative affect on our property value.

Please consider our comments and pass this letter on to appropriate personnel at the County level.

Sincerely,



Robert Elder



Jancis Elder

To the Attention of Council

I, as a resident and ratepayer, would like to express my concerns about the MLSC trial re-route.

My first and biggest concern is the safety of myself, family and particularly two young children. This is not just an inconvenience. This has been compromised by snowmobilers speeding, not stopping or slowing down at intersections and driving on either and both sides of the road. The groomed trail has been created on the right side of the road leading into an oncoming intersection with riders coming off the railroad and up Yates Road into oncoming traffic!

Another safety related concern is the fact that the groomed trails on Yates Road take up space on the right side of the road. It is not possible to have two vehicles driving up and down Yates Road at the same time, as the trails have taken over the road. I am offended by remarks made that suggest the situation has been exaggerated or that I have extended the truth for my own personal benefit. As clearly demonstrated in the pictures provided, snow was placed on the roads to create a groomed snowmobile trail. Another prime indication that groomed trails existed, is that our snow removal contractor was reprimanded by a MLSC operator for plowing the snowmobile trail off Yates Road. Not only does it pose a safety risk to residents and the travelling public, rate payers are paying to have snow plowed, only to be put back on by a groomer. I have witnessed this first hand. Even though the trail re-route is not an ideal situation from my standpoint, never mind having created safety issues; I would not extend or exaggerate the truth.

Aside from the safety issues already mentioned, the trail re-route has also created some "inconveniences".

Trespassing- It has become apparent that there have been snowmobilers in our yard, multiple times, while we were not home. I'm not so sure that this is an inconvenience as much as breaking the law, but nonetheless it is a reoccurring practice. It started off with riders just turning around at the mouth of our driveway, but some think it is ok to enter onto the property.

Urinating in public – I made a complaint to MLSC on January 27th regarding a group of riders coming off of buckshot onto Yates Rd and parking along the trail. One man proceeded to urinate in plain view, despite just having come out of the bush, where my daughter could clearly see out of her window. This has happened once more after I submitted a complaint.

Noise – quite irritating, especially at 6:00 am or 11:00 pm, but otherwise not my biggest concern.

I am not against snowmobiling in our municipality whatsoever, and that should be apparent from my family's past participation. However, I do not feel that full time residents and rate payers should have to compromise their safety and comfort for a snowmobiler's weekend experience, especially when there is a perfectly acceptable solution to the issue.


Sincerely

Crystal Fischer

Melinda Reith, Head, Clara & Maria

From: Alanna Taylor <alanna.taylor@kibl.com>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 11:47 AM
To: Melinda Reith, Head, Clara & Maria
Subject: RE: snow on roads and municipal liability

Hi Melinda,

You have done a great job on your response on the bylaws and regulations, your recommendations are great. You have addressed the issue with the groomer leaving extra snow on the road as soon as you became aware of it. You are also correct – snow should not be deposited on the road - and your plows do have to remove it. 

I am concerned about the barriers shown in the photo. You should not create your own. If there is a product designed and sold for snowmobile clubs already, you could ask the club to purchase & install them. If the municipality puts something up themselves and someone gets hurt you will have more liability exposure.

Let me know if you need any more clarity on this. You did a great job on this from my perspective!

Thank you

Alanna

From: Melinda Reith, Head, Clara & Maria [<mailto:hcmclerkmreith@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 11:37 AM
To: Alanna Taylor
Subject: FW: snow on roads and municipal liability

Good morning Alanna

I wonder if you've had time to follow up on this issue. It is becoming a huge issue here and I do require an opinion from the perspective of municipal liability and our insurance provider.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

M. Reith
Clerk/CAO
Head, Clara & Maria

From: Alanna Taylor [<mailto:alanna.taylor@kibl.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2017 8:43 PM
To: Melinda Reith, Head, Clara & Maria
Subject: Re: snow on roads and municipal liability

Hi Melinda,

Let me look into it first thing in the morning.. and I will draft you a response.

Have a great evening.

Alanna

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 8, 2017, at 8:03 PM, Melinda Reith, Head, Clara & Maria <hcmclerkmreith@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Alanna

I am once again in the midst of a community discussion and would appreciate any information you might have – cases, writings etc. on this issue. We have a local snowmobile club who is looking to council for permission to operate their snow machines on two of our municipal roads in order to connect/link to their trails.

Council gave general permission for machines to use the roads however; that permission has evolved into snow accumulating on the roads, after they have been plowed. Even when the groomer does not actively draw snow onto the road, repeated use by snow machines create a slushy or soft depth of snow, certainly not the hard pack that exists on our other gravel roads. (all class 5 or 6, council has adopted Class 5 MMS by by-law)

Of course I am concerned about liability, our MMS and having clear roads. Any suggestions? Comments? Would failing to stop this practise limit/void our insurance?

Respectfully,

Melinda Reith, Dipl. M.M.

**Clerk and Chief Administrative Officer
The United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria
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