

Stakeholder information

1. Future of rail trail

I see the trail as a link between the other communities (Mattawa, Petawawa) involved in this plan to increase economic development for them. I see a trail not completed throughout this township, due to the costs of ensuring that it is safe for all users and built to accessibility standards.

A snowmobile trail is one thing; a multi-use trail for all seasons is something quite different. If the County sees this as a municipal 4 season trail throughout, it better be ready to come up with significant funding to meet the provincial government's accessibility requirements.

Ideally, should development actually make it to our neck of the woods, I would like to see a multi-use trail throughout the length of the townships with detours around the residential areas. There are so many acres of trails in this township on crown land that people do not need to be in the backyards of others.

Having said that, I see the OFSC and ATV clubs lobbying for use – but not the development of a proper trail for some decades simply due to costs in our area.

2. Development I would like to see

This trail will never bring enough people to our area to increase the number of businesses we have. It may provide limited expansion for existing businesses but will not likely affect much more than that.

We are too small to attract additional businesses. If it does, I would like to see businesses complimentary to what we have, trail bike rentals, boat rentals, shuttle services, guiding, a small café or restaurant/bar, but I'm not certain that there is the need, certainly not in the near future. I would suggest that a few bed and breakfasts would be profitable.

With any increased use, we need more washrooms with regular monitoring to take care of cleaning and garbage collecting; otherwise, this will just result in abuse of our existing facilities, more side of the trail use and significant littering.

I would like to see the development of a group of people willing to discuss this issue, to respect opinions different from their own, but mature enough to work towards an amicable resolution for the many questions this trail has raised.

3. Municipal Corporation

Should the trail be a success and in the next decade (or more) see increased regular traffic, it would be good to have a municipally incorporated tourism business to offer services as demanded and to hire locals, with profits going to the municipality. It could be combined with a welcome centre, and/or a museum. The possibilities are endless. People just need to stop being so closed-minded. An effort to capitalize on tourism related attractions could provide increased revenues for all. What about destination gardens to provide an attraction and provide employment for people? Just one idea.

4. Increased development along the trail

The concerns I have with increased development along the trail include the lack of access, roads, tele-communications, increased waste, internet service, water/sewer, and policing, emergency and fire services. However, if those concerns can be met, and if there is any development, it would have to be off-grid which is becoming more feasible every day.

5. Negative effects

The negative effects of this trail that I see is the continued fighting within our community. I have learned over the past year that people I thought were kind, caring and friendly are quite narrow minded, defensive and angry. I don't understand why people cannot have a difference of opinion and still be friends? Or at least polite? I don't understand how some people can be so cruel towards others over a difference of opinion, especially those from the same family. I am shocked and saddened by the positions taken by some people and how their actions have boiled over to other aspects of their lives.

I have heard that we must keep Yate's store open, our community will fail without it? Really? That store has been there for decades and has survived just fine. By not allowing motorized use on the trail through Stonecliffe, suddenly the store will close? Please. Nothing is being taken away, where did that belief originate from?

And when some talk about keeping local businesses open, that the trail must go through to keep local businesses thriving, those same people, will no longer do business with select local businesses.

In response to "I'll call so-and-so to come plow my yard" the response was "we don't do business with him" so someone from outside the community was called. So I guess, local business is important but only if it's a local business person "we" agree with, like or approve of?

The negative effects of the physical trail continue to be the influence of users on those who live beside the trail. People moved to the townships for the peace and quiet; and contrary to popular belief, many of them made their plans AFTER the trains stopped. Noise, trespass, exhaust, littering, speed are all negative effects that have not yet been adequately addressed by any user group.

People need to be compassionate and considerate of the viewpoints of others and inclusive, not divisive, not dismissive of people, because they disagree with their opinions. I cannot believe the hatred being spread by individuals in what was once a friendly welcoming community.

