

March 15, 2019

Dear Mayor Letham and Council,

I am writing to let you know that it was a pleasure and a privilege to have been part of the Healthy Environment Plan working group throughout the past year. Collaborating with representatives from all sectors of the City of Kawartha Lakes along with the team of experts from the consulting firm LURA was a tremendous opportunity to engage in deep, forward thinking that the creation of this plan required. Taking into consideration the greater good for not only the present, but future generations is a vital principle reflected throughout the HEP.

The elements of the HEP are being adopted by municipalities around the world as key to living well and prospering throughout the 21st century. Challenges the world is facing are huge, but every small action in the right direction contributes to effective solutions and positive results. I believe CKL is well poised to join others in moving forward by taking the necessary actions required to sustain a healthy world. However, I am concerned that proactive ideas in the plan might be over-looked particularly when it comes to infrastructure projects. The revitalization of Lindsay's downtown is a case in point. Two of the three strategic goals in CKL's Corporate Strategic Plan are: *An Exceptional Quality of Life* and *A Healthy Environment*. Prioritizing planning for motor vehicles without including other forms of active transportation such as bicycles doesn't support either of these goals. The Community Sustainability Plan of 2014 also promotes active transportation, which is even more relevant now as what makes an *exceptional quality of life* is more clearly understood in this century in terms of how a community responds to the critical necessity of lowering carbon emissions as well as supporting a physically active lifestyle. As a member of this community who chooses to walk or ride a bicycle over driving a car to get around as often as possible, I speak for many others who would do the same if they felt safe. Lindsay and the greater CKL, is a place that could be an attractive destination for the growing number of cycle tourists as well as create benefits for residents who would choose daily active transportation as one way to improve health and lower their carbon footprint if pedestrian and bike friendly zones/lanes were integrated throughout urban areas. This would also support the other CSP goal of having *A Vibrant Growing Economy*.

During the planning process I was heartened to see how important safe-guarding our environment in general, and specifically what we can do as our part in the world-wide effort to mitigate, prepare for resilience and adapt to the inevitable consequences of a changing climate is to all those involved, as well as for whom they represent. The City of Kawartha Lakes is a beautiful place to live and by implementing the Healthy Environment Plan we can continue to adapt and evolve to enhance the quality of life for citizens and visitors alike, now and into the future.

Sincerely,
Deborah Pearson

