

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes

Council Report

Report Number RD2020-007

Meeting Date: August 20, 2020
Title: Use of Off Road Vehicles on Boundary Roads
Description: Response to request from the Township of Cavan Monaghan
Ward Number: All
Author and Title: David Lembke, Public Works Roads Manager West A

Recommendation(s):

That Report RD2020-007, **Use of Off Road Vehicles on Boundary Roads**, be received;

That Council supports the request from the Township of Cavan Monaghan to allow the use of ATV's on designated sections of Dranoel Road and Glamorgan Road; and

That if chosen as the final route by the Township of Cavan Monaghan, that By-law 2019-077 be amended and brought forward to Council for adoption.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

At the Council Meeting of March 19, 2020, Council adopted the following resolution:

CR2020-075

That the January 24, 2020 correspondence from the Township of Cavan Monaghan, **regarding off-road vehicles on boundary roads**, be received and referred to staff for a report back at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

This report addresses that direction.

Although requested to come to Committee of the Whole, due to delays associated with the pandemic, Staff are bringing the report directly to Council in an effort to provide a timely response to the Township.

The Victoria Rail Trail is an 85 km rail trail, with corridors linking Kinmount to Bethany, through Fenelon Falls and Lindsay. It is a public, multi-use trail that is opened year round. It contains hundreds of breath taking views and unique geological formations that are sought after by many. It is a tribute to our rail history, that started at construction in 1874 by the Canadian National Rail (CN).

The Ganaraska Forest is southern Ontario's largest forest, covering approximately 11,000 acres. It contains hundreds of kilometers of multi – use trails that can be accessed by foot, bicycle, horseback and ATV's. It is also home to The Ganaraska Forest Centre, that features overnight accommodations, outdoor education classrooms, and a commercial kitchen. It straddles the Counties of Northumberland, and Peterborough, as well as the Region of Durham and the Kawartha Lakes.

Rationale:

The roads referenced in the correspondence (attached as Appendix A) from Cavan Monaghan dated January 24 2020, if added to the Schedule A of the By-Law would allow the creation of road routes that provide connection between the Victoria Rail Trail Corridor (VRTC) to the Ganaraska Forest.

Staff from Municipal Law Enforcement and Licensing have seen three complaints since 2018 relating to violations of By-Law 2019-077 and preceding By-Laws, being By-Laws to Regulate the Operation of ATV's and ORV's on Municipal Highways. The complaints have been made to report concerns of noise, speeding and damage to the ditch area. Staff would advise that Schedule A of the current By-Law currently allows road access to many roads in the northern portion of our Municipality without significant issues being reported.

To date, there has been no quantitative increase in maintenance costs for the roads listed in Schedule A of the By-Law. Furthermore, as identified in Appendix #1 of the current Boundary Road Agreement between The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes and the Township of Cavan Monaghan (attached as Appendix B to this report), the Township of Cavan Monaghan is listed as the municipality responsible for year round maintenance of 6.7 km of Dranoel Road from Highway 7A North to the rail trail, and from Highway 7A South to Stewart Line. The City of Kawartha Lakes is responsible for maintenance of Glamorgan Road from Solanum Way southerly.

One concern to consider is the safety aspect of off road vehicles and traditional vehicular traffic sharing road networks. With cars travelling at higher rates of speed that off road vehicle speed limits there is increased risk of incident. It should be noted that there is currently shared use in northern areas of the City.

By allowing ATV's to use the aforementioned roads, it would allow for a link to be created between two of Ontario's most unique features. It would connect the Victoria Rail Trail to the Ganaraska Forest. This would enhance tourism for both Municipalities, as well as allow the users more opportunity to explore the sites that are close to home.

Staff is recommending that a connection route as requested is supported by Council.

Other Alternatives Considered:

Council could choose to not enable use of the noted boundary roads for the requested ATV use. This would be achieved by receiving the report and taking no further action.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

The financial impacts on operations are unknown at this time. It is probable that there would be marginal increased maintenance costs to municipal highways such as shoulder maintenance, signage, culverts, and cold mix patching surface treated roads.

Staff from Municipal Law Enforcement and Licensing have reviewed the request and the recommended option. The financial and operation impact will be minor and absorbed within current budget and operations. Staff would advise that Schedule A of the By-Law allows road access to many roads in North portion of our Municipality without significant issues being reported. If this recommendation is adopted, any complaints/concerns received will be tracked and resource impacts considered in future budgets.

Relationship of Recommendation(s) To The 2020-2023 Strategic Plan:

The recommendations set out in this Report would support the following priorities in the Strategic Plan, being:

A Vibrant and Growing Economy

- By creating the trail link, it would enhance tourism and increase the visitor spend in Kawartha Lakes.
- The link will also allow Kawartha Lakes to showcase features that can only be found here.

An Exceptional Quality of Life

- An increase to the trail system will promote personal wellness of the residents of Kawartha Lakes.
- The link will promote access to additional transportation networks.
- Ensures recreation and leisure programs are available to all residents.

A Healthy Environment

- With the creation of the link, it will allow users to travel on an approved road surface. In turn, this will help to protect and preserve our natural areas and prime agricultural lands which are currently used now.
- The approved route will aid in the protection of our native flora and fauna, which otherwise may accidentally be damaged unknowingly by the user in an attempt to find an unapproved link.

Consultations:

Manager, Municipal Law Enforcement
Parks and Recreation Division

Attachments:

Appendix A – Correspondence – Cavan Monaghan



Correspondence -
Cavan Monaghan.pdf

Appendix B – Cavan Monaghan Boundary Road Agreement



Cavan Monaghan
Boundary Road Agr

Department Head E-Mail: brobinson@kawarthalakes.ca

Department Head: Bryan Robinson, P.Eng.