

**To: Mayor Letham and Council**

**Regarding: Decision on ATV Route through Lindsay**

Today, you will be deciding whether to approve an ATV route through Lindsay.

The decision you make will, for me and for other Lindsay residents to whom I've talked, say much about your values and priorities.

Council has heard from the Medical Officer of Health that ATV accidents have increased in Kawartha Lakes; that being on roadways increases the risk of collisions with other motor vehicles; and that certain design characteristics of these vehicles, particularly ATVs, make them unsafe on roadways. She has stated that from a public health perspective the preferred best practice is to restrict ORVs to trail use only.

Frankly, that in itself should be enough, but you've also heard the safety concerns of your Director of Public Works, and are aware that ATV manufacturers and ATV Safety associations state clearly that off road vehicles should not be driven on roads.

The City's Insurance Risk Management Officer outlined her concerns in the report received at the Committee of the Whole.

Any activity involves some risk, as was acknowledged at the meeting. But ATVs on roads is a predictable and an unnecessary risk: ATV users already have safe access to hundreds of kilometers of trails within the City of Kawartha Lakes.

To create a "pilot project" and ignore all expert advice is to roll the dice and take unacceptable and avoidable risk.

The reports are all there, in the agenda and minute packages from the Council meetings. At no point have the wide range of concerns been discussed and weighed by Council in public (nor by the Task Force).

**Public health and safety is more important than the convenience of a link on roads through town to trails to north and south.**

**Council cannot ignore the predictable risk and increase in ATV accidents for operators and others, liability and costs that would be borne by the City and its taxpayers should accidents occur.**

**Please take the professional and expert advice you have been given and vote no to the proposed Lindsay pilot.**

**My thanks for including this letter in the agenda package.**

**Jamie Morris**