

Hello Aaron:

Thank you for the opportunity to express our feelings regarding the parking situation in Bobcaygeon. My name is Dave Poole. Our family have owned businesses in Bobcaygeon for over 73 years.

Our current commercial properties include Buckeye Surf Store and Buckeye Centre Motel on the island across from the Bobcaygeon locks, Stonyhurst Motel across the river on Main St. and Kawartha Lifestyle Stores located on Bolton St.

In the early 70s, parking meters were installed by the village not to generate revenue but more to move traffic in the summer months. The proceeds of those meters provided revenue for the village to purchase more off street parking lots in which they did. In the late 90s, after amalgamation, the city opted to remove the meters at the request of some business owners citing it as an inconvenience to customers. Some of the business owners objected at the time feeling we needed the revenue to buy more parking lots for the village as it grew. These meters have been there for many years moving traffic along until recently where their condition has deteriorated with little to no effort on the part of the city to manage or maintain them! The fact that the city reported that they weren't profitable has a lot to do with both their condition and lack of patrolling! As a concerned business owner, I have attended all three parking meetings recently held by the city and have come away with many concerns regarding the study and consultants recommendations.

First, when asked what times of year the consultants conducted their parking study, we were told February, May, August and October. I know these studies were conducted in Bobcaygeon, Fenelon Falls and Lindsay, but I question why they would even bother with tourist towns in the three shoulder seasons. Those time periods are not at all significant!

Recently, we learned that we will be losing an additional 13 spaces on Canal St when reconstruction was completed! This will apply even greater pressure on our available parking inventory during the summer! Also, the available parking inventory that was reported at the parking meeting I attended was inaccurate and impractical from a users' needs being too far away from the stores. We questioned these findings at the meeting, but to no avail.

As a business owner, I was pretty disappointed in the consultant's findings as they were irrelevant to the needs of our community not to mention that you paid them over \$ 125,000 between the three towns.

One of the biggest problems in our town, is the issue of some business owners encouraging their employees to park on city street parking and discouraging their staff from parking on their own property. This is one of the primary reasons that accessible parking is in short supply in Bobcaygeon

We strongly disagree that paying for parking is a deterrent to shopping in our town!  
The real deterrent is not being to find a space that is nearby!  
In our opinion, people expect to pay for parking if it is accessible to their needs!  
When properly monitored, this would reduce the possibility of abusing the available parking spaces.  
There are several other issues that I could elaborate on and would be happy to do so if requested.

In short, I don't understand why the city is so willing to give up the potential revenue generated by parking fees. However, if the city doesn't want to do this let Bobcaygeon have the opportunity to establish its own Parking Authority to manage and maintain our parking with the understanding that we keep the revenue for future community investments such as parking lots.

Otherwise, PLEASE INCLUDE PAY DISPLAY PARKING FOR BOBCAYGEON IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE as we are in an imminent need for more parking inventory and management.

Respectfully: Dave Poole  
Buckeye Sports Ltd. Bobcaygeon ON