

Joel Watts

From: Jarrett Allan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 1, 2021 11:49 AM
To: Agenda Items
Subject: Petition to Legalize Tiny Houses in the City of Kawartha Lakes

I want to support the petition to Legalize Tiny Houses in The City of Kawartha Lakes, but I can't when its only motivation seems to be a solution to affordable housing. All too often tiny houses are being introduced to the general public as a low-cost alternative to traditional housing. While I concede that their reduced footprint yields inherent savings in material costs, that is a bonus, a side effect of owning/building a tiny house.

They are not shacks, or glorified bunkies, nor are they the next mobile home. They should not be destined for trailer parks. Not that I agree with the stigma there either, let's focus on not adding to it for now. If the average price of a new car is more than what is spent on building/buying a tiny house, you're likely doing it wrong. Many examples exceed six-figure price tags because, as a whole, price is not the focus. Instead, the goal is a high degree of functionality from a small living space.

They are not a solution to affordable housing.

Tiny houses are for people that want to build their own house and either want tight control over the materials or building practices used, or find that a large, two-story house is too much of a task. They are for people who simply don't want a larger space. Perhaps because they no longer care for, or don't wish to have, children. And are seeking a structure akin to a detached apartment. As someone who has moved a few times, I can also see the value of, in the case of tiny houses on wheels, being able to move the entire unit quicker than packing every possession in a box and renting a truck. Of course, an RV or a motorhome would be better suited for frequent travelers, in which case, those are chosen/built instead. Not to mention the minimalist and environmentalist motivations that one may have.

I would like tiny houses to be a feasible housing option. And given that there are few areas in Ontario open to this kind of living, I suspect there will be a lot of interest from outside the Kawarthas. But they are not affordable housing, and, should this motion be accepted, they should not be referred to as such. As it would be false advertising. That is not their sole purpose. So I ask, see and speak beyond the dollar. While I am sure the petition was not written by anyone who reads this. Any further action/promotion should refer to the myriad of other benefits/reasons for choosing this style of living.