



## Committee of the Whole Report

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**Report Number:** PR2025-004  
**Meeting Date:** April 8, 2025  
**Title:** Victoria Rail Trail By-Law Update  
**Description:** Revisions to the existing By-Law 2007-107  
**Author and Title:** Ryan Smith, Manager, Parks and Recreation

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### Recommendation(s):

**That** Report PR2025-004, **Victoria Rail Trail By-Law Update**, be received;

**That** a By-Law to Repeal and Replace By-Law 2007-107, being the By-Law to Regulate and Govern Trail Uses Along the Rail Trail Corridor in the City of Kawartha Lakes, be approved;

**That** the By-Law, substantially in the form attached as Appendix B to Report PR2025-004, be brought forward to Council for adoption; and

**That** this recommendation be brought forward to Council for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting.

**Department Head:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial/Legal/HR/Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chief Administrative Officer:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Background:**

The City of Kawartha Lakes has long recognized the importance of the Victoria Rail Trail (VRT) as a key recreational and transportation asset. The existing By-Law 2007-107 was established to regulate and govern trail use, ensuring safety, accessibility, and sustainability. However, as community needs, environmental considerations, and recreational trends have evolved, it has become necessary to update the By-Law to reflect current best practices and address emerging challenges.

In 2022, the City undertook a comprehensive Trails Master Plan Update to assess the current state of trail infrastructure, usage patterns, and public expectations. The plan outlined strategic recommendations to enhance trail connectivity, safety, and user experience while promoting responsible and sustainable trail use. Among its findings, the Trails Master Plan Update identified the need for revisions to By-Law 2007-107 to better align with the City's long-term vision for trail development and management. Recommendations contained within the Trails Master Plan Update have also been incorporated into the bylaw. Since the By-Law was created, numerous revisions were adopted. There is now a need to incorporate additional updates, and this report identifies the updates required.

## **Rationale:**

The proposed updates to By-Law 2007-107 are essential to ensuring that the Victoria Rail Trail (VRT) continues to meet the evolving needs of the community while aligning with the City of Kawartha Lakes' long-term strategic goals for trail management. The existing By-Law, enacted in 2007, does not fully reflect current best practices in trail governance, emerging recreational trends, or modern accessibility and environmental standards.

The Trails Master Plan Update identified several key areas where improvements are needed to enhance the safety, sustainability, and functionality of the VRT. These include clearer trail use designations to minimize conflicts between different user groups, updated enforcement measures to improve safety and compliance, and enhanced environmental protections to preserve the natural surroundings. Additionally, accessibility improvements will ensure that the VRT remains an inclusive public asset that can be enjoyed by individuals of all abilities.

By updating the By-Law, the City will reinforce its commitment to responsible trail stewardship, improve user experiences, and enhance the long-term viability of this

critical recreational and transportation corridor. The recommended changes will provide a clearer regulatory framework for enforcement, maintenance, and permitted uses, ultimately fostering a safe, well-maintained, and accessible trail system for residents and visitors alike.

### **Other Alternatives Considered:**

Council could choose to reject the proposed revisions and retain the existing By-Law.

### **Alignment to Strategic Priorities**

The 2025 Parks and Facilities Bylaw Update report aligns with the following strategic priorities within the 2020-2023 Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan:

Healthy Environment-by encouraging active recreation

An Exceptional Quality of Life-by improving the health and well-being of residents

Good Government-by ensuring municipal assets are well maintained and managed.

### **Financial/Operation Impacts:**

There is no direct financial impact because of the recommendations within this report.

### **Consultations:**

Manager, Municipal Law Enforcement and Licensing

Supervisor, Trails and Cemetery Operations

### **Attachments:**

Appendix A – Original By-Law 2007-107 with track changes



2007-107  
Consolidated Trails By

Appendix B – By-Law to Repeal and Replace By-Law 2007-107 – amended version



2007-107  
Consolidated Trails By

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