

Jump In Kawartha Lakes

Stop the Somerville Concession #3 Bridge

Nov 13, 2024 - Feb 18, 2025

Project: Online Petitions

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Petition Request: We the undersigned, petition the Council of the City of Kawartha Lakes to pause on approving funding for the Somerville Concession #3 environmental assessment and bridge design until ALL options have been explored and a proper consultation with affected stakeholders is conducted.

Petition Background: On September 24, 2024 the City of Kawartha Lakes voted to proceed with an environmental study followed by a bridge design for a crossing over the Burnt River at Somerville Concession #3. This project is intended to allow heavy truck traffic to bypass the town of Fenelon Falls and connect from Highway 35 to Highway 121 more easily.

If built, the bridge will force the expropriation of at least four homes, and will destroy the quality of life of those who chose to settle along this section of Concession #3 and the Burnt River. The noise from engine brakes and the exhaust generated by the heavy trucks crossing the river and ascending and descending the substantial hill on the road will carry for hundreds of metres. The increased traffic will also present a very real danger to the residents of this area and the many users of the Victoria Rail Trail, which crosses Concession #3 right where trucks will be starting to accelerate uphill or will be downshifting.

This plan will also do nothing to improve the traffic situation in the town of Fenelon Falls. The traffic backups are generated mostly by cars, not trucks, and happen on weekends when we have more visitors. We also don't know whether those visitors are heading north on Highway 121 from Fenelon Falls, so there's no evidence they would use a bypass. And if cars are going through Fenelon Falls to shop on their way north, is it really in our best economic interest to divert them?

There is also no evidence that the planners have considered the effects of spring flooding at Concession 3, which is a yearly concern. This also seems to be a more expensive option than others which will affect our tax bases for decades to come.

At this point it is too late to argue with the lack of public consultation that led to this decision. At a public meeting on October 8, 2024 – where the new transportation management plan for the Kawartha Lakes was presented with the bypass as a done deal – City officials said the only way to stop this is to make our voices heard.

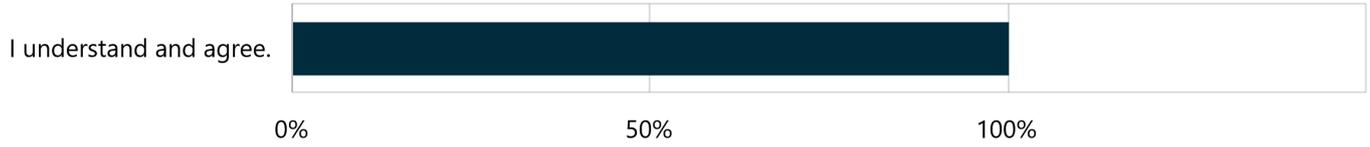
Signing and presenting this petition to our elected officials is a way to get our voices heard.

Petition Organizer: J. Waldorf of Fenelon Falls

Petition Disclaimer: The City of Kawartha Lakes does not support, endorse or detract from the Petition Request above until a formal resolution regarding this matter is adopted by City Council. The City of Kawartha Lakes also cannot attest to the factual accuracy of the background material, as it has been solely provided by the Petition Organizer.

5. Signatories to a petition waive any expectation of privacy as a result of the petition being created for review by City Council and the General Public in an Open Session of City Council. Your personal information will not be published on any Kawartha Lakes website, however will be made available to any member of City Council upon request, and may also be publicly released in a Freedom of Information Request. Questions about the collection and disclosure of personal information provided by me on this petition should be directed to the City Clerk's Office. Required

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 33 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
I understand and agree.	100.00%	33