HCM Algonquin Trail Consultation

1. What do you see as the future of the rail trail within Head, Clara & Maria?

I believe that the Algonquin Trail through HCM should be a multi-use trail as envisioned by the County of Renfrew. It is my belief that the trail will evolve to the way people who live, work and play in HCM wish to use it.

HCM is the third and last section of trail to be developed. The timeline is unknown right now but will definitely be years away. We should closely follow the trail section developments that precede us and learn from them, the successes and failures.

I have been snowshoeing on the snowmobile trails here and the experience has always been favourable. I particularly remember a wonderful Family Day weekend snowshoe from Pine Valley Road to Smith Lake for the MLSC Family Day event. Every time snowmobilers saw us on foot, the machines slowed and waved as they passed.

2. What development would you like to see within Head, Clara & Maria to take advantage of increased traffic from all users along the rail corridor?

I have read with great interest the ideas of business opportunities that have been part of the Algonquin Trail development discussion as described in the clerk's report "Algonquin Trail in HCM – Moving Forward" on February 13, 2018 and again at this month's council meeting update report on April 17, 2018. There are many that I would welcome in HCM – a local brew pub would be great!

I would like to point out that HCM already has a myriad of choices when it comes to campgrounds! I have done a quick survey of campgrounds here – from east to west we have 6 campgrounds (seasonal and overnight) with approximately 275 campsites and 27 roofed accommodations. Perhaps when the trail is fully developed (10 years from now?) we may need more camping spaces but certainly not at this time.

I would welcome new municipally owned and <u>maintained</u> washroom facilities that would be part of 2 small welcome centres at the east and west end of the trail in our township. It could be an excellent summer job for students (part time winter work for residents?) and a great opportunity to "sell" HCM to travellers!

3. How do you feel about the potential for creation of new business through a municipal corporation to raise funds for the municipality through methods other than taxation?

Absolutely not!

I do not think that it is wise or reasonable for a municipality of our size to create new businesses through a municipal corporation. Let's not pretend that our municipality can run a corporation with volunteer labour!

It is my belief that new business should come from the private sector. Municipal government should be in the business of providing services for the ratepayer. However, the municipality should definitely consider forming an Economic Development committee to help foster growth, develop strategies to entice new businesses and market our area appropriately.

At this week's County council meeting there was an excellent presentation by EORN to update the council on its progress on the current initiative of cellular/broadband connectivity. From the concerns I heard from our neighbouring municipalities, without continuing improvement of connectivity in the upper Ottawa valley there is no economic development! Yes, even for area promoting a recreational trail. This should be a focus for our municipality's development plans.

4. Do you have any concerns with increased development along the trail? For you personally? For the community? For residents who live along the trail?

Not too sure what you mean by increased development along the trail?

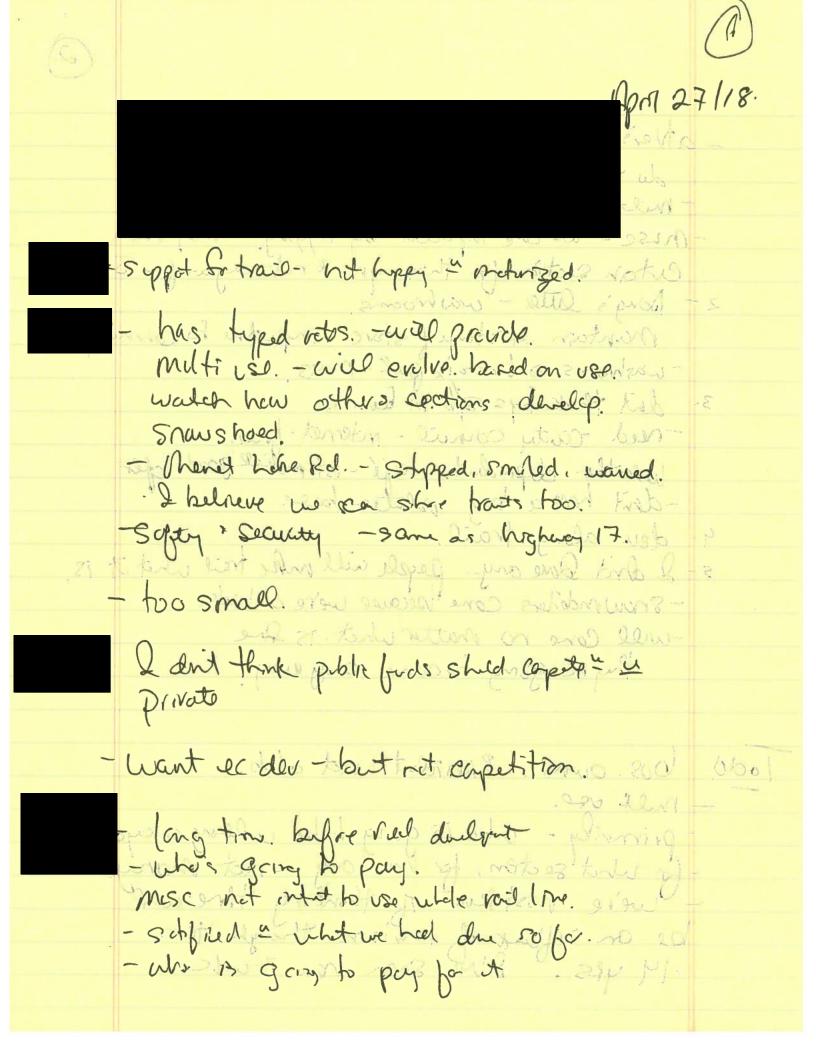
Safety and security, but that has always been the case with the presence of Highway 17 running through the length of the community. As a resident who lives along the trail the same was true when I purchased my property with the train running by me! It was far noisier then as well.

5. Are you concerned with any negative effects of the trail development? For you personally For the community? For residents who live along the trail?

I think that if there are any negative effects of the trail development those effects can be overcome with thoughtful governance. Most people will resist change but we need to remember that change is a process and it will take time.

Instead of contemplating our ultimate doom, we should be watching the Algonquin Trail develop ahead of us and learn lessons.





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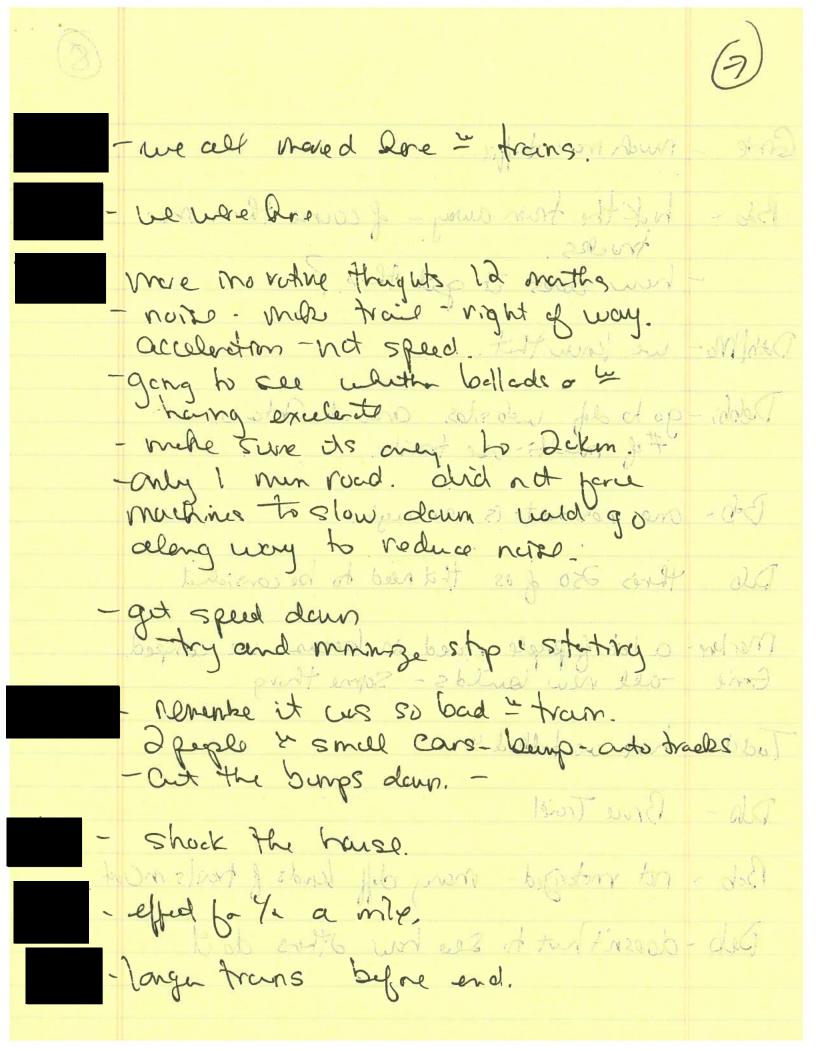
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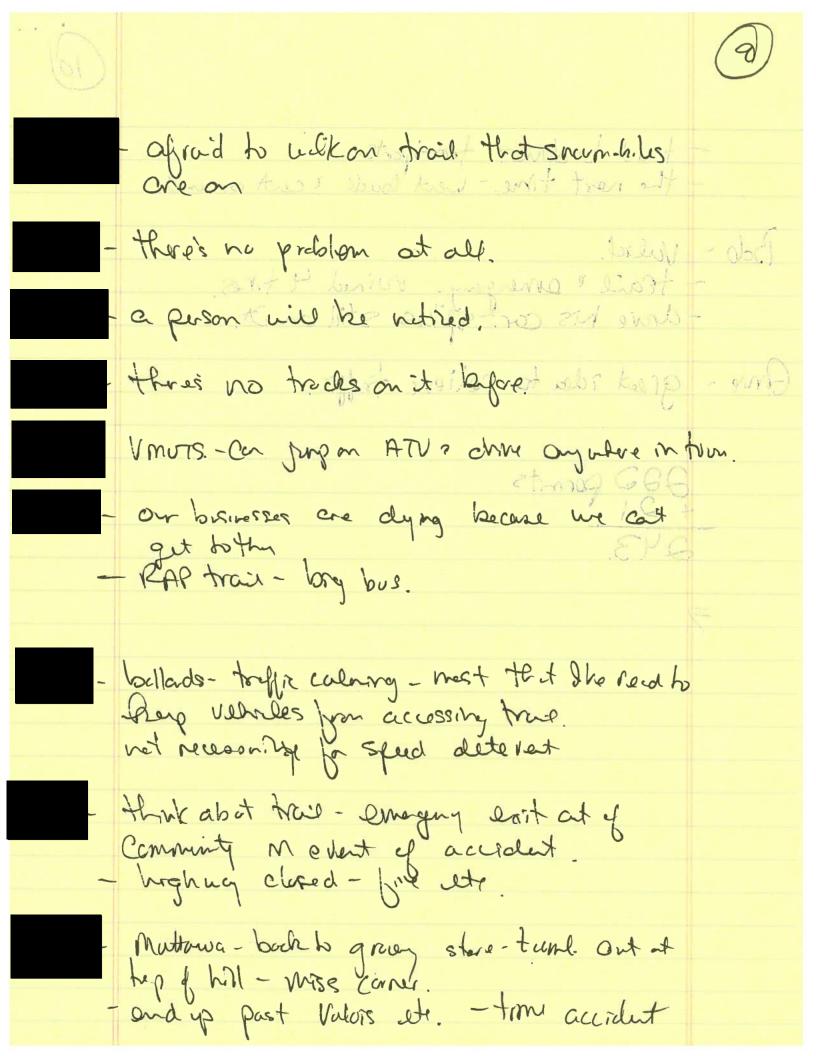
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