

Melinda Reith, Head, Clara & Maria

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 10:00 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Algonquin Trail consultation

Dear Mayor, Councillors and CAO

This is in reference to your recent request for meetings and consultations with respect to the development of the Algonquin Trail through HCM.

Unfortunately, I will be out of the country for most of the dates available and therefore I will share my thoughts in this address to you.

As you are aware, I am [REDACTED] which derives business from the local communities and the natural playground (indicated on the boundary signs) found in this municipality. What you may not be aware of is that I am also the owner of property on [REDACTED] and wish to retire at this property when the time comes. What is done with the Algonquin trail will affect me now and for years to come.

We can all speculate on what the future holds for this trail but one thing for sure is that this area will be the last to be developed to the extent that cyclists and the like are going to be riding up and down the trail as they require a more fine substrate and or asphalt. With this in mind we need groups that will put money (independent of the county) into the trail and develop it as time goes on.

You are asking for input. A petition with respect to a snowmobile trail continuing to run through the town of Stonecliffe was submitted last year. Where is there a better place for a trail to go through the town than the Algonquin trail. It is the safest, affects the least number of children, the easiest to maintain and you have a snowmobile association that is willing to spend money developing and improving it yearly. In the summer, you have a select few people walking but the majority will be motorized traffic as well. This is the development opportunity which Council should embrace and work with all parties involved.

I attended a seminar once where the speaker made a statement which I have never forgotten: "You cannot stop progress, you can slow it down but you cannot stop it". There will be growing pains and there will be things that are attempted but fail. This is all part of development. Human nature is to resist change, but it has been proven many times that when change occurs you have people that oppose it and people that support it. The number of people that oppose it significantly reduces as time goes on and they realize the benefits from it.

I hope that this Council reflects on the Mission and Vision statements of HCM and remembers that they represent all ratepayers and that their personal opinions may conflict with what is best for the Municipality. This is not about a select few people.

Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]