

September 12, 2018

To the Mayor and Council of the Township of Douro-Dummer

I understand that Council has spent time twice in the past month discussing a proposal from the Birchview Property Owners Association (BPOA) that a walking path or trail be built alongside the Birchview Road.

As a permanent, tax-paying resident of Douro-Dummer for almost 30 years, I want to express my response to this request.

I am completely supportive of walking as a healthy activity. Much research supports this position. However, I want to add that many roads in our township are similar to Birchview Road, and many people also walk along these roads. Our road (Sawmill Road) is much like the Birchview Road – ie narrow, without lane marking, hard surfaced, many blind curves and bends in the road and now marketed as a cycling route. I agree that all these factors pose safety concerns. However, at no time in my 20 years of living on this road has there been a request to council to build a walking path or sidewalk.

If a similar walking path were to be built alongside Sawmill Road, it would be used 12 months of the year, not just 4-5 months. An alternative solution to the safety concerns expressed by the BPOA would be to lower the speed limit on Birchview Road. We live in a rural area, not the City of Peterborough or the City of Toronto.

As a taxpayer, I am opposed to having any amount of taxpayers' money spent on the request to build a trail along Birchview Road. If such a trail is to be built or a feasibility study initiated, the cost should be borne entirely by the members of the Birchview Property Owners Association.

I hope that council will take these comments into consideration as they continue to consider this citizen request.

Sincerely,



Jane Bremner 395 Sawmill Road