

October 21, 2007

Mr. David Coulas  
Park Superintendent  
Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park  
106 Monck Street, P.O. Box 500  
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SENT VIA EMAIL AND CANADA POST

David,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Cavendish Community Ratepayers Association (CCRAI), which represents approximately 400 property owners in the on the west side of the KHSS. This letter represents the comments from the CCRAI regarding the KHSS PPMP EBR#PB05E6008.

As a member of the Stakeholder Groups of the Kawartha Highlands (SGKH), the CCRAI reviewed the response being sent in by that organization, and in principle, we support their document. Our primary concern with the PPMP is that there have been some fundamental changes in both intent and spirit, as it relates to the KHSS Charter and the KHSSP Act. The CCRAI supports the recommendations of the SGKH in this area of their comment document.

The main concern that the CCRAI has with respect to the PPMP, is that there is no long term commitment for funding for the park operations, infrastructure and resources. In the absence of this commitment, no real planning can be done on a forward looking basis as everything becomes projections or conjecture. Secondly, the absence of funding precipitates concerns over many other issues related to services, site management, road access, facilities, ecological and environmental issues, negative impacts to private land owners in the park and around the park, health and safety, natural heritage and tourism. Thirdly, the absence of funding could result in additional costs and expenses to be borne by the local townships and municipalities which will result in additional increases in realty taxes in areas where there have already been significant increases over the last several years. Much like any project or initiative, be it private sector or public sector, with a long range plan, there has to be an associated commitment to fund that project or initiative in the long term, otherwise, the result will be a short lived and unsuccessful endeavor.

We have also sent in comments to Karin Wall with respect to the draft environmental study and you were copied on that communication as well. There are concerns being raised by property owners, cottage associations and land owners regarding the proposed use of Beaver Lake Road as the primary western

access road to the park. In summary, our concerns with the draft environmental study are;

1. It uses a weighting formula that is fundamentally flawed because it does not balance the interest of all constituents and factors impacted by the KHSS and the recommended access roads.
2. The comparison between the access road alternatives for the west side is not a fair comparison as Beaver Lake Road is not as sensitive an area in terms of ecological and environmental impacts as the area for the proposed new access road to Bottle Lake. Coupled with a weighting formula that is flawed, the outcome of the study can only result in one answer.
3. It assumes a funding commitment to support the recommended activities, which is not the case and will ultimately lead to increased expenses at the township and municipality level. This will most certainly result in an increase in realty taxes to all land owners in the surrounding area to support those new and unplanned for expenses.
4. The very ecological and environmental impact that the study is trying to avoid by not recommending the proposed new access road to Bottle Lake, is already starting to happen and will happen. There is a five year forest management plan that will conduct selective deforestation/harvesting of trees the area north of Lake Catchacoma which will require that logging roads be built. In addition, there has already been a road built into that area by a local mining company that has mineral and exploration rights in the same area.

The larger and most concerning issue is that the output of the draft environmental study re-confirms our concerns relating to the lack of long term funding for the park operations, infrastructure and resources. The recommendation to utilize Beaver Lake Road and Anstruther Lake Road is clearly the least cost alternatives for the Ministry of Natural Resources and thereby Ontario Parks. While anyone can debate the environmental and ecological issues, the cost issue is fairly simple. If the Ministry of Natural Resources and thereby Parks Ontario are following the least cost alternative, then we can only assume that the park will likely never have the budget required for staff and infrastructure to properly manage a park covering this large of a land mass, and enforce the proper usage of the park given the number of campsites and projected park visitors. As a result, all constituents will lose, the public looking to enjoy the park, land owners, cottagers and residents who want to minimize traffic, garbage and noise, and environmentalists, who will see the area be impacted by additional visitors as the park moves towards operational status without adequate measures in place to protect the lands.

Further, we are also very concerned about the “Do nothing” alternative, which is not a viable option as the community has already been experiencing issues relating to park visitors and this trend will only continue with a “Do nothing”

approach. In addition, the “Do nothing” alternative will only result in more expense to the local township and municipality for which there is no plan for or budget for. Further, if the township does have to absorb additional unplanned expenses, it will ultimately result in increased realty taxes for land owners in the area.

We believe the first priority should be securing a long term commitment for funding for park operations, infrastructure and staff. The funding needs to be sufficient for the KHSS to be self funding. The KHSS project should not require local township or municipality funding to become a reality. This is a provincial project and it should be properly funded as one by the province. Once this is done, then the issue of access roads, services and facilities required, operational requirements, staffing, and any cost sharing proposals with local townships and municipalities can be discussed with a greater level of certainty. In the absence of a long term commitment to funding, we recommend that KHSS not proceed any further with respect to increased operational status and not undertake any other new initiatives in that regard.

If you would like to discuss any of our comments in more detail, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Gary W. Jarosz  
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- c. Mr. T. Flynn – Township of Galway-Cavendish-Harvey
- Ms. I. Smith – Ontario Parks
- Mr. D. Ramsay – Ministry Of Natural Resources