



## PROMOTING pathways FOR WALKING AND CYCLING IN NORFOLK

May 19, 2017

Mr. Joe Jeles  
Jeles Design and Construction  
36 Paris Road  
Paris ON N3L 3H8

Dear Mr. Jeles,

On behalf of Norfolk Pathways for People, I am writing out of concern for recent events at Norfolk County Council. But first, let me introduce Norfolk Pathways for People, a community coalition that advocates for the development and improvement of connected pathways in Norfolk County. Our objectives include:

- Advocating for new and improved trails and pathways [which include sidewalks] in Norfolk County.
- Building a **healthier, accessible and connected** community.

It is our understanding that Jeles Design and Construction entered into an agreement with Norfolk County to develop the Bluegrass subdivision in Delhi, which incorporates sidewalks. We applaud you for this. It is also our understanding that Norfolk Council has directed Public Works staff to request an amendment to the agreement which would result in no sidewalks being installed. This is of grave concern to our group.

Norfolk County has a policy requiring sidewalk installation in developments such as yours. Where gaps in sidewalks currently exist, it is the intention of the Public Works and Environmental Services Department to fill these gaps as part of their ongoing road reconstruction projects.

In addition, Norfolk County has recently approved the Active Transportation Strategy, as part of its overall Integrated Sustainable Master Plan [<http://www.norfolkismp.ca/>]. One of the recommendations of this strategy is that sidewalk installation be made a priority within the walkable area of local schools. Specific to this development, any school-aged children will not be eligible for bussing to attend St. Frances Cabrini School on Northern Ave or Delhi District Secondary School on James St. Sidewalks would provide a safe means for these children to get to school.

The importance of sidewalks in our communities cannot be stressed enough. Community design best practices put the safety of ALL residents first. Sidewalks create an environment that supports more walking – for those who choose to walk rather than drive and for those who have no alternative due to



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age, ability or cost. Walking is recognized as the only mode of travel that is universally affordable, and allows children and youth, older adults and people using mobility aids, to travel independently.

Speaking of age... According to the 2014 Population Projection Study, Norfolk County, like many rural communities in Ontario, has a higher than provincial average proportion of older aged residents, with 19% of the County's current population over age 65, and 35% over 55. Within Norfolk, the communities of Port Dover, Simcoe and Delhi have the highest proportion of older residents.

Pathways for People respectfully requests that Jeles Design and Construction maintain the plan to incorporate sidewalks into this development, for the health and safety of current and future residents.

Respectfully,

Gordon Mason, Chair

Norfolk Pathways for People

519-429-3980

[www.norfolkpathways.ca](http://www.norfolkpathways.ca)