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Deputation to Norfolk County Council

Thank you for the chance to present before Council. I am here tonight representing Norfolk Pathways for People. Many of you are already familiar with our group but we thought it would be a good opportunity to introduce ourselves to the new members of council.

Norfolk Pathways for People is a community coalition, supported by the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit, and is made up of volunteers from community trail groups, avid walkers and cyclists, Public Health and the Community Services Department. Pathways for People is represented on the Norfolk County Trails Advisory Committee.

Our mission is to promote pathways [this includes sidewalks] for walking and cycling in Norfolk County for health, recreation and active transportation.

We have four main objectives:

- To advocate for new and improved trails and pathways in Norfolk County
- To build a healthier, accessible and connected community.
- To promote the safe use of local trails and pathways.
- To provide input to Norfolk County Trails Advisory Committee.

Over the last four years, we have been involved in a number of activities.

- We organize three public trail events per year where we lead walkers on hikes on different trails across the county.
- We organized an “open streets” event for World Health Day in Port Dover last spring. 400+ people attended.
- We have written letters and made deputations to council in support of County projects dealing with sidewalk repairs and installations.
- We have provided input to the Norfolk County Trails Master Plan.
- During the last municipal election, we submitted a Letter to the Editor posing questions to candidates on their beliefs and attitudes surrounding walkable communities. These same questions were submitted at candidates’ meetings.
- We’ve connected with various county departments, community groups and agencies to advance our objectives [Tourism, Engineering and Roads, Planning & Economic Development, BIAs, Board of Trade, Rotary, etc].

- Most recently, we have just released our first newsletter [bring copies] and we have a new website: www.norfolkpathways.ca where we'll highlight area trails and our activities / events.

We'll be partnering with County staff on a number of projects this year:

- Share the Road initiative to increase safe use of roads by drivers and cyclists;
- The official opening of the newly completed trails in June; and
- A Trails Open event in Waterford in August.

We will continue to be a voice advocating for public spaces that put people first. We hope to build more public support and demand for infrastructure changes [sidewalk improvements, installations and connections] that will make our communities more accessible and safer for users of all ages and abilities. Improvements to the built environment, that support walking and cycling, help to make the healthy choice the easy choice. Regular physical activity reduces risk for many chronic diseases, which are expensive to treat and rehabilitate. More people moving more often is good for everyone's health and bottom line!

We encourage members of the public to bring forward areas of concern. Our contact information is on our website: www.norfolkpathways.ca .

Thank you.

Alan Ladd
Pathways for People member



Health Action is funded by the Ministry of Health Promotion and supported by the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit. Health Action partners with 30 individuals and organizations, and promotes integration, communication and support environments that encourage people in our communities to live healthy lives.