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Support Sidewalks in your Neighbourhood!

As you know, reconstruction work in the Orchard Avenue / Chapel Street area is slated for 2010 / 2011. This work includes installation of new sidewalk on streets where they don't currently exist, namely Chapel Street and Richard Avenue.

The Orchard Avenue / Chapel Street Area Reconstruction report is going to Council on **Monday, January 18th, 2010, at 5pm**. Norfolk Pathways for People encourages you to take this opportunity to make your neighbourhood a walkable community for ALL residents and visitors.

What can you do?

1. **Make a deputation to council in support of sidewalk installation.** Give written notice to the Clerk/Manager of Council Services, Bev Wood, by noon Thursday, January 14th, 2010. This can be delivered to the County Administration Office, Box 545, 50 Colborne St. S., Simcoe, ON N3Y 4N5, or e-mailed to bev.wood@norfolkcounty.ca, or faxed to 519-426-8573.

2. **Contact your Ward 5 Councillor to show your support.**

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Simcoe, Ontario N3Y 2S2
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Norfolk Pathways for People is a citizen group that focuses on:

- Advocating for new and improved trails and pathways in Norfolk County.
- Building a community that supports walking and cycling as a mode of transportation.
- Promoting the safe use of local trails and pathways.

What is a Walkable Community?

A walkable community is one in which there is street lighting, availability of continuous sidewalks, and a variety of shops, services, parks, schools, and workplaces within walking distance of homes. In addition, it is a community where the walking routes are safe, direct, comfortable, and convenient for all pedestrians.

Walkable communities are an important aspect of a healthy and vibrant community. To encourage citizens to rely on their cars less and choose walking more often, the environment in which they live, work, learn and play must support walking as a form of everyday transportation.

There are many benefits of building and sustaining a community that supports walking as a primary mode of transportation. They include:

Health:

Reducing the health risks such as obesity, diabetes and heart disease currently faced in our communities.

Environment:

Replacing short distance auto trips that damage the environment by impacting air and water quality.

Safety:

Reducing road congestion and improving safety by calming auto traffic and reducing maintenance costs. This provides an environment in which people feel safe and comfortable walking increases community safety for all.

Accessibility & Equity:

Walking is a free and direct means of accessing local goods, services, community amenities and public transit and allows children and youth, and people with specific medical conditions, to travel independently.

Society:

Promoting community cohesion and a heightened sense of place. Discouraging street crime by increasing pedestrian and cycling traffic. Reintroducing residents to the street to enhance their awareness of the environment.

Economy:

Reducing health care costs by increasing the health of residents. Improving access to employment, education & social services.

Community Cohesion and Vitality:

A pedestrian-friendly environment encourages and facilitates social interaction and local economic vitality.

Thank you for your support!



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.