



HALDIMAND COUNTY

Memorandum: PED-PD-M01-2013

Date:	December 13, 2012
To:	Mayor Hewitt and Members of Council
From:	Shannon VanDalen Planner
cc:	Senior Management Team Clerk
Re:	Proposed Official Plan Amendments - Trails

Haldimand County Council approved the Trails Master Plan (TMP) on October 13, 2009. The Plan is administered by the Community Development and Partnerships Division and is the document used to guide development of a long range plan and implementation strategies to create a County-wide trail network. In June 2012, Council subsequently approved a framework and implementation plan for the TMP. Part of the plan includes the need for inter-departmental coordination and policy development. To that end, the Planning and Development Division is tasked with including the existing and proposed trail network within the County's Geographic Information System (GIS) and incorporating policies within the Official Plan to protect and create trail links consistent with the TMP when development is proposed.

Building off of the above, Planning and Development staff has completed work relating to the incorporation of the 'trails layer' on the County's GIS. With that work complete, staff is now initiating an update to the Haldimand County Official Plan relating to policies for trail development and active transportation. The update will include new policies and revised wording to existing policies to strengthen, implement and engrain the general direction of Council through the Trails Master Plan. The intent of such policies will be to promote viable, healthy and walkable communities in line with Provincial policy and with general public interest principles. The creation of policies will also ensure that the Trails Master Plan becomes an integral part of all future planning approvals.

Staff are presently researching the approaches of other municipalities and reviewing the Trails Master Plan in an effort to draft policies specific for the Haldimand County context. Staff will conduct formal public consultation in the Spring of 2013 and the current general schedule is as follows:

- First Quarter 2013: draft policies and present to Council prior to public consultation.
- First Quarter 2013: consult with relevant agencies and parties (Health Unit, Province, CDP Division, EDT Division, FAPO Division and Support Services Division).
- Early Second Quarter 2013: conduct public open house to present and discuss potential policy options.
- Late Second Quarter 2013: complete general amendment to Official Plan and conduct a formal public meeting on the matter as prescribed by the *Planning Act*.

Planning staff will keep Council informed as the project progresses.

CLERK'S DIVISION REVIEW
Memorandum: PED-PD-M01-2013 - Proposed Official Plan Amendments - Trails

COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE: January 15, 2013
RECOMMENDATION NO: 4

Received as Information

COUNCIL: January 21, 2013
RESOLUTION NO: 25-13

Received as Information

Council Direction (if applicable):