

HISTORIC NEIGHBOURHOODS STRATEGY

People led planning for Barrie's Neighbourhoods

March 26, 2014

City of Barrie

Dear Sirs:

At the February meeting of the Historic Neighbourhood Strategy Committee it was noted that the City of Barrie is not plowing the Sophia Street West walkway that passes through Queen's Park.

In the 1850s this section was used as a road. In 1868 the land now known as Queen's Park was sold to Barrie for use as a park. We are uncertain when the roadway was turned into a footpath, now a paved walkway, but we do know that up until a few years ago this walkway was regularly maintained through the winter. Sadly this is no longer true.

We have the following concerns:

- The H.N.S. report that was submitted, received and accepted/approved by Council clearly requests that park paths be cleared of snow and maintained in the winter months (recommended action plan item 2.3).
- The Barrie Downtown Neighbourhood Association has three times requested that this particular path be plowed.
- This walkway is used on a regular basis by many including parents escorting children to and from Hillcrest Public School, by daycare workers from the daycare centre located on Eccles Street, by high school kids who attend Central Collegiate, by residents walking from downtown to Wellington Plaza or Wellington Medical Centre, by seniors from Victoria Village, and by residents wishing to walk their dogs.
- The city plows a path and clears the surface of the ice rink in the park which serves far fewer people than those using the walkway.
- The City has initiated an Active Transportation Committee but they have not done anything to address this issue.

We recognize that the City of Barrie cannot afford to clear snow from pathways in all city parks. However the walkway through Queen's Park is actually a roadway as it is a continuation of Sophia Street, and is used as such. It is not difficult or a hardship for cars to go around Queen's Park but it is for the many pedestrians that use this pathway throughout the year.

The Historic Neighbourhood Strategy Committee requests that City of Barrie Council reconsider prior decisions and ensure that this particular walkway/road allowance is added to the City's list to clear and maintain throughout the winter months.



Christine Manewell
Vice Chair
H.N.S. Committee

