

September 2, 2022

Dear Mr. Peabody and Council;6

On August 31, my husband and I were on a walk along the Saugeen River Trail north of Durham Rd in Walkerton. It is a path we have walked along many times since we moved to Walkerton 16 years ago. But the peaceful/beautiful walk we have come to love was not the same. It hasn't been the same for some time now. We felt very uneasy this time as we happened upon several homeless people and a couple campsites along the way. One site appeared to be broken down, but garbage and debris remained (pics attached) and another area housed a large tent; there was a fire burning at the time we walked by. We were flabberghasted at the mess as well as saddened that these people had no homes, or apparent support.

It is with mixed emotion that I write this complaint because I am very empathetic to the situation these people are in, but at the same time I am mother, a tax payer, and a recreational trail user. We use these trails for biking, walking, and nature bathing for stress relief. However, I am extremely upset as it appears to me the Municipality is not monitoring their trails/park system continuously for the safety of the community. There are children that use these trails and I am very very concerned for their safety as I fear they will hurt themselves on debris, or worse, come across drug paraphernalia or a stranger who could harm them. In my opinion, and many others who live in this community, it appears the Municipality is not considering the safety of it's residents by not staying on top of this situation. The Municipality should develop a task force to address this situation and you should prioritise keeping the trails clean and free of garbage and squatters.

I suggest the Town take care of the garbage, tents and squatters as soon as possible to regain a measure of safety along our recreational trails - before something bad happens. The attached photos were taken along the trails north of Woodfired Pizza. Feel free to reach out to me to discuss this matter further. I'd be glad to assist with this matter in any way I can.

Kind Regards,

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[REDACTED] [REDACTED]









