

Making Victoria Street/Upper Lorne Beach Road into a through street for personal vehicles in the worst winter weather is a very perilous idea. I sincerely hope enough of you realise this and vote to keep the gate closed and the emergency access used as an emergency access as per the present policy.

The paved section of Victoria Street is already breaking up at the edges causing local traffic to keep towards the centre of the road and with possibly several thousand vehicles travelling the road, conditions will deteriorate quicker. There is no real shoulder of the road to pull over onto and when vehicles are parked along the road, that particular lane is not useable for through traffic. If you travel this road after a storm you will see three clear paths indicating the centre path is used by the drivers side tires of both southbound and northbound traffic. Factor in the blind corners and lack of the availability of plowing during this proposed "gate opened" period, this road will be very dangerous to the additional drivers as well as the local residents.

You have already previously heard that all the stakeholders (I'm not quite sure why local residents were left out of this category) are happy with the policy as it is. It is available for emergency use at any time. With larger volumes of traffic on the road emergency requirements of the local residents could very well be jeopardised or at least limited. If a fire happened to start on a snowy windy night it could easily get out of control if fire truck access was limited due to lines of vehicles using the road.

When winter weather visibility is limited people should stay off the roads as the OPP indicated. By giving drivers an alternate route you would be encouraging them to take to the roads and possibly put more strain on the police forces at times when they are severely taxed. Can you envision the extra time required getting an ambulance to an accident near the Victoria Street bridge with poor visibility, hundreds of cars on the road, and people out of their cars trying to see what the problem is ahead? Do any of you think this is a good option to put in place?

It's easy for you to think of someone getting out of the wind and having a better drive home. That's the best side of the scenario. At work when we are getting ready to do a job safely we have to consider "what's the worst that can happen" and try to plan the job to reduce this possibility to the minimum. With your new policy proposal you are reducing the risk on the B-line but transferring that risk totally to Victoria Street/Lorne Beach Road. The risk of damages or death is not reduced but now put in your laps as you are knowingly routing excess traffic on a substandard road. Do you seriously think there will be no lawsuits resulting from automobile or property damage accidents? This new policy could be a very costly decision at a time when Kincardine does not have that money.

With the present policy stakeholders are happy, the large majority of local residents are happy, and no extra money has to be spent. Why change it? The people that are on the roads in poor weather are making poor choices. You shouldn't be part of helping them make that poor choice!

Robert Taylor