



**KAWATHA TRANS CANADA TRAIL**

**ADJACENT PRIVATE LAND OWNERSHIP SURVEY**

Al MacPherson, President KTCTA

Dr. John Marsh, Trail Studies Unit, Trent University

October 2015

**KAWATHA TRANS CANADA TRAIL**  
**ADJACENT PRIVATE LAND OWNERSHIP SURVEY**

Al MacPherson, President KTCTA

Dr. John Marsh, Trail Studies Unit, Trent University

October 2015

Introduction

In Ontario concerns continue to be expressed about the impacts of recreation trails on adjacent land owners and uses. Concern has been expressed by some farmers in particular about unintentional and intentional trespassing on farm land causing crop damage or disturbance of livestock. Most recently, agriculture representatives at the provincial government's Ontario Trails Coordinating Committee raised such concerns. Therefore, it is important for the success of trails and the goodwill of adjacent landowners that such concerns be investigated generally and with respect to specific trails, and that any issues be resolved.

The Kawartha Trans Canada Trail Association (KTCTA), after 5 years of operating a 53 kilometer trail on a provincially owned abandoned railway corridor east and west of Lindsay, has been reviewing its operations. This has included undertaking a survey to gain feedback from those property owners who are adjacent to the trail.

The Survey

The survey was conducted in August 2015. An introductory letter, questionnaires, (see Appendices), a trail map and a donation brochure were mailed and hand delivered by the KTCTA with stamped and addressed return envelopes to 41 farm property owners adjacent to the trail. Those sent/delivered this information were given three weeks to reply.

The questionnaire had three questions relating to any incidents of trespass or vandalism due to access from the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail on the owner's property in the last five years. This period of time was selected as this is when KTCTA became involved in the development and management of the trail. Two

additional questions asked for the general location of the property owner and for any additional comments.

### Survey Results

Of the 41 surveys mailed/delivered, 7 were completed and returned and three that were mailed returned undelivered.

In response to question 1 – “Have you had incidents of trespass or vandalism due to access from the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail on your property in the last five years?”

- 2 respondents reported having trespass or vandalism problems
- 1 respondent reported problems with hunters on their property
- 2 respondents reported problems in the trail corridor
- 2 respondents reported no problems of trespass or vandalism

In response to question 2 – “What happened?” –

- Trespass and vandalism: partying, drinking, camping, garbage and debris left behind. (Oakwood/Little Britain area)
- Trespass and vandalism: no details. (Omeme area)
- Trespass: by hunters (Omeme area)
- Trespass: people planted marijuana along the trail (Omeme area)

In response to question 3 – “Did you report this to police or the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail?” –

- Yes. (re. trespass, vandalism) (Omeme)
- Yes, police, police were indifferent. (re. hunters)(Omeme)
- No. (re. dirt bikes, 4 wheelers) (Oakwood/Little Britain)
- Yes. (re. marijuana)

In response to question 4 about the location of respondents:

- 3 stated they were from the Oakwood/Little Britain area
- 3 stated they were from the Omeme area
- 1 stated they were from the Reaboro area

Question 5 asking for comments elicited the following comments from 4 respondents:

- Buffer promotes trespass and vandalism. There was no problem before the ridiculous, completely unnecessary buffer was installed. The buffer encourages trail users to trespass and damage any gate or fence blocking their path. Trail users feel it is their right to leave the rail bed up to a distance of 1 km with no regard to private property. (Omeme area)
- I believe that this trail is a wonderful asset. It is well maintained, and credit to the vision and hard work of Al and his committee. The only problem I have had is that hunters go on a rampage about three times a year and enter my own and neighbouring properties along the trail or at less visible spots on the road. These hunters are local people who consider hunting a part of a manhood ritual. They are not typical of the trail users. (Omeme area)
- We would like to walk on the trail with our dogs, but scared of getting hit. People are on the trail riding their dirt bikes, 4 wheelers illegally as the trail is posted. I had to stop and move over for someone on their dirt bikes. Bike cycles are fine, only have a certain speed.(Oakwood/Little Britain area)
- We collect garbage/trim brush from Emily Park Road to Acreville Road. (Omeme area)

### Conclusion

As many people only respond to surveys when they have concerns or problems, the limited response to the survey probably indicates that few of those contacted had any trespass or vandalism problems due to trail users.

Some respondents reported no problems with the trail, use and appreciate it, help maintain it and commended the trail managers.

The problems caused by trail users on adjacent property were partying, drinking, camping, garbage and hunting but was handled by calling the Police.

Other problems, identified within the trail corridor, were conflict between hikers and motorised users and the growing of marijuana.

There seem to be more problems in the Omeme section with few in other sections.

While respondents were asked to mention problems within the last five years, problems prior to this may have been reported.

One respondent suggested that identifying on a KTRCTA map of the trail a buffer zone beside the trail encouraged trespassing.

Some people noting problems reported them to the KTCTA or police.

The KTCTA should continue to work to address any impacts that a few trail users may have on adjacent property. This should include education and signage emphasising staying on the trail and respecting private property.

The police should be asked to increase patrols on or near the trail.

A more comprehensive survey of property owners adjacent to a representative sample of trails in Ontario should be conducted.

A previous study of impacts of trail users on owners of property adjacent to the trail from Trent University in Peterborough to Lakefield revealed that most adjacent property owners did not experience problems due to trail users.

A literature search should be conducted to identify any other studies of the impacts of trails and their use on adjacent property, especially farms.

### Appendices

Introductory letter

Survey

Map of KTCT





## **SURVEY**

### Adjacent Private Land Ownership To Kawartha Trans Canada Trail

The Kawartha Trans Canada Trail Association (KTCTA) is reviewing its operation. It has been over five years since the charitable, not for profit community volunteer KTCTA developed and operated the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail located on the 53 kilometer provincially owned abandoned railway corridor.

If you haven't already, you may wish to review information about the KTCT on our website ([www.ktct.ca](http://www.ktct.ca)). As a reminder, we do not receive any City of Kawartha Lakes funding to cover our annual operating cost. The trail is supported by private donations, some provincial/federal grant funds when available and lots of volunteer work by individuals and organizations along the trail route.

As part of this operational review we would like feedback from those property owners who are adjacent to the trail. The information collected will be used to help us in our management of the trail. Your individual response will not be shared with anyone else. You do not need to identify yourself.

It would appreciate if you could reply by completing the survey and mailing it back to us in the self address envelope before August 21, 2015.

Thank you

Al MacPherson  
President  
KTCTA  
c/o Fleming College  
Lindsay, Ontario  
K9V 5E6

**SURVEY- please return before August 21, 2015**

Question#1

Have you had incidents of trespass or vandalism due to access from the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail on your property in the **last five years**? If NO please skip to question#3

- a. YES
- b. NO

Question#2

What happen?

- a) Trespass
- b) Vandalism
- c) \_\_\_\_\_

Question#3

Did you report this to the police or the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Question#4

Please choose the option that best describes your area of residency:

- a) Manilla area
- b) Oakwood/Little Britain area
- c) Lindsay area
- d) Reaboro area
- e) Omemee area
- f) Oranges Corner area

Question #5

Is there anything else you would like to share about the KTCT in your area? Share your thoughts here.

\_\_\_\_\_ (use back survey for more space)

Thank you for helping us ensure the trail is a good neighbor.

*Enclosed:  
Map of Trail and Donation Brochure*

# MAP – KAWARTHA TRANS CANADA TRAIL





