

All paths lead to Shelburne

When Shelburne set out to design a master plan for its system of 'active transportation' and parks, the planning promise was that 'all trails will lead somewhere.'

But town council was clear in its position that it could not be all things to all people, and various community groups would have roles to play in the ultimate development of the recreational system, although the town itself would take the lead.

Among the concerns of the residents of Shelburne and the surrounding areas was the use of the former rail corridor, especially with respect to the rail bed itself in view of a plan to place a 230kv transmission line along its length from Melancthon to a substation near Orangeville.

Some opponents of the line were not convinced that the proponent was seeking no more than an easement along one side of the corridor, and those opponents had fears that the power line would interfere with recreational use of the corridor.

Sentiments locally appear to be strongly in favour of recreation. The county is adding bike lanes to at least one of its north-south roadways. Shelburne's service clubs have been participating in the trail system and have developed recreation.

Rotary Club of Shelburne continues to support Rotary International in its ongoing campaign to defeat Polio. A few years ago, it strongly supported an artificial limb program for victims in war-torn countries.

But Rotary also completed a BMX Park at Greenwood Park this year, and is understood to have supported a number of other causes.

Town planner Steve Wever said Shelburne is developing on soccer pitch in co-operation with a subdivision developer and has grant approval for another one. It is in discussions with the soccer clubs in completions of these projects.

He said the over-arching principle in development of the master plan is dialogue with the community, but there is no set formula for what each group should contribute.

By Wes Keller