

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, May 21, 2010				Report Date	Tuesday, May 18, 2010			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	x	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE									
Request for Province to open Roadside Parks Earlier Report 21/05/10/205									

Subject: Request for the provincial government to open the roadside parks earlier as weather and increased tourism demands.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council adopt the following resolution lobbying the provincial government for change to its existing practise and asking for support from neighbouring municipalities.

WHEREAS the Trans Canada Highway 17 is a major transportation link which runs throughout our municipality with a tourist traffic volume which increases dramatically during the warmer months;

AND WHEREAS changing weather patterns have resulted in increased traffic both earlier and later in the year, outside of normal park opening times;

AND WHEREAS the road-side parks are opened for a short length of time, limiting the availability of washroom and rest stop facilities requiring travellers to use local business facilities often without corresponding compensation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby request that the provincial government commits to reviewing the current structure of its road-side park and rest area schedule with a goal towards increased flexibility depending on changing weather patterns and increased demand;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to Premier McGuinty, our local MPP – John Yakabuski, John Baird - Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, Kathleen Wynne - Ontario Minister of Transportation, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, The County of Renfrew and all local municipalities for support.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As requested at last meeting – a resolution in support of lobbying the province to consider modifying its schedule for roadside park openings in years with varied weather patterns. Due to an early spring, tourism has increased early with a corresponding need for washroom and rest area facilities along Highway 17. With the current schedule these parks do not open until mid May, it is requested that they open earlier and/or close later depending on changing weather patterns.

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact: There is no budget impact for HCM.

Policy Impact: N/A

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,

Municipal Clerk

Melinda Reith