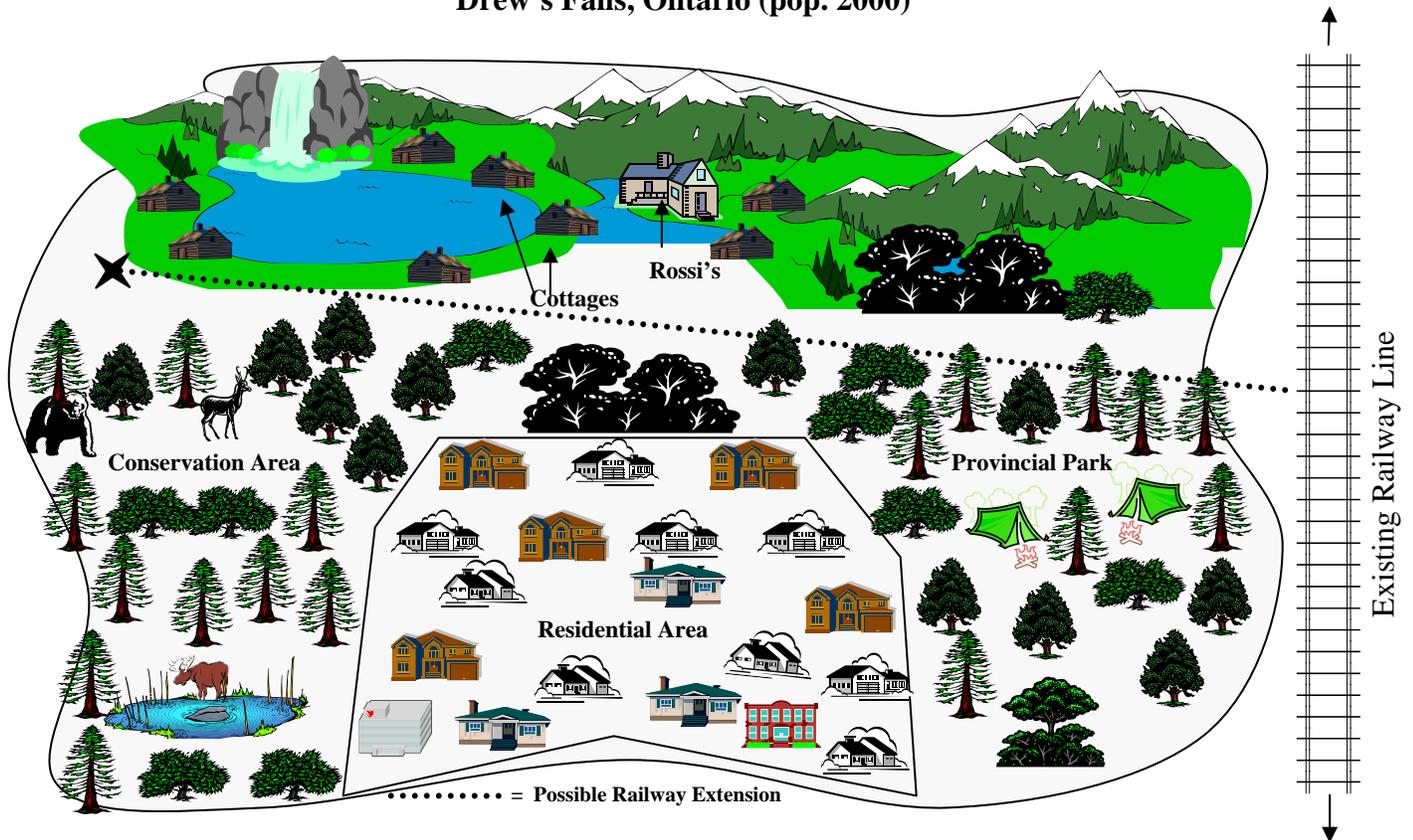


To Mine or Not To Mine...That is the Question
Drew's Falls, Ontario (pop. 2000)



Drew's Falls is a small town in northern Ontario. The main type of industry in Drew's Falls is tourism. A lot of people visit the town in the summertime to visit the conservation area, see the animals, swim in the lake, go mountain climbing, and camp in the provincial park. In the wintertime, a lot of people visit Drew's Falls to go skiing and snowboarding. Drew's Falls is two hours north of a big city and many of the city residents own or rent cottages in Drew's Falls. Drew's Falls is a small town, but they have a strong economy because they are a popular tourist spot.

A copper deposit has been found recently in the town of Drew's Falls. The copper deposit is shown on the map as X. There has been much debate about whether the copper should actually be mined. Some people do not want the mine to be built because it can pollute the lake, ruin the conservation area, destroy the falls, and endanger animals in the conservation area. In order to transport the copper from the mine, they need to extend the railway line (this is shown as the dotted line). The railway will be very close to the mountains and the homes, and it may cut through the provincial park.

But, many people believe that the mine would be a great idea. By developing the copper mine, a new type of industry will grow and the economy will benefit. There will be more jobs for the town residents: they can help build the mine, work in the mine, build the train tracks, or work for the train company. Once the mine closes, the trees can be replanted, the lake can be cleaned, and the animals will return. So, everything will go back to normal.

Your job is to choose one of the following people and write a 1-2 page report on why the mine should or should not be built.

Richard Fernandes, town resident: “I think the mine is a great idea...there will be new jobs in the area. I was thinking of moving down to the city because there wasn’t any work for me here, but if we build the mine, I’ll stay in Drew’s Falls.”

Beth Hanson, town resident: “Building the mine will be the worst decision this town has ever made! The train tracks will come too close to our homes—it will be dirty and noisy and it will ruin our lake, trees, and parks. Many people will sell their homes or cottages because they won’t want to live so close to a mine. We can’t let a mine be built.”

Marie and Paul Rossi, owners of Rossi Ski Lodge and Cottages: “Our business will be ruined if the mine is built...people come to Drew’s Falls all winter long to ski, snowboard, and enjoy the beautiful scenery. In the summer, our tourist industry is strong because many people rent cottages along the lake...nobody wants to come visit a dirty mine!”

Steven Keppa, president of SK Mining: “Drew’s Falls will benefit greatly from our mine—not only will jobs be created in the mining industry, but more factories can be built...that means more jobs. And once we begin our operations, we can determine whether there are more mineral deposits nearby and if more mines can be built. Drew’s Falls will become a rich town.”

Joseph Kim, park ranger: “People must understand that a mine would destroy the surrounding habitat...our conservation area will be deforested to make room for the mine, the animals will be left without a home, the lake will become polluted, and they will cut down more trees in the provincial park to make room for the train tracks. Developing a mine would have tremendous consequences on the environment.”

Michelle Cameron, mayor: “Drew’s Falls will benefit greatly from a mine. Not only will more jobs be developed, but also our town will make a lot of money. With this money, we can improve our schools, build a larger hospital, fix our roads, and lower taxes. Once the mine is closed, we can work to reestablish our tourism industry.”

You must choose one character and write your report as this character. In your report, state who you are, what you do, and how the mine influences your life. Explain whether you want the mine to be built or whether you believe it’s a bad idea. Whatever your choice, you must *explain fully* why you think so. Use the information provided to form your opinion and use this information as evidence to support your case. Your report should be 1-2 pages, typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, and in proper essay format (introduction, body, conclusion). Your report is due in one week.