

December 19, 2018

Libby Clarke, Reeve
Corporation of the Township of Tudor and Cashel
371 Weslemkoon Lake Road
Box 436, RR2, Gilmour, ON K0L1W0
By email to reeve@tudorandcashel.com
Cc: Councilors and Clerk

RE: December 17th letter regarding proposed By-Law that attempts to limit liability on township roads

Dear Ms. Clarke,

As many in the township are aware, the Steenburg Lake Community Association (SLCA) is a non-profit organization representing the 200+ properties around Steenburg Lake. In fact, next year will mark our 61st year of proudly supporting our members and the community.

We had recently learned that your township has a proposed a by-law that would impose seasonal restrictions against motorized vehicles on Steenburg Lake South Road during the winter months. This is a road that serves roughly half of our membership, over 100 properties.

Understandably, this proposal was met with shock and disbelief by our community at large, because the desire for increased maintenance has been a hot topic for years. Most impacted are the 50+ members that frequently use that road throughout the winter months. Furthermore, ten (10) of those properties are residential home of citizens that work, children that go to school, and retirees that have chosen to settle into this community.

Clearly these families will have no choice but to ignore your by-law and continue to use your road, despite your intent to limit your liability, because there is no reasonable other way for them to access their homes. And as much as you would like to selectively restrict what type of vehicles can use the road, it is entirely unclear who you believe should have the liability for the vehicles that are providing the essential services to our members on your road during these months, such as fuel, electrical, telecommunication, and emergency services vehicles.

We've only started to study the indirect financial consequences this proposal might impose on the properties that are served by that road, but we are hopeful you can see the flaws in this proposal before it gets too far.

Over the years, the SLCA has met with many challenges. Our strength is an ability to work together and address problems openly and with a common interest in mind. We've seen a shift in what was once considered a community of cottage owners, to a community of homes, with a growing number of retirees. Our economic contribution to the area is significant and on the rise. Older cottages are being transformed into four season homes, and time spent in the area has never been limited to the summer months.

Libby, for the reasons noted in this letter, the **SLCA believes this by-law is unacceptable, and under no circumstances should you expect our members to require liability insurance to use your township's road.** This is a responsibility you cannot simply download onto our members with the stroke of a pen.

Most disappointing to the SLCA is that this by-law suggests that we have not done enough to work with your township, and help resolve the boundary road issues and joint maintenance agreement required with Limerick Townships for Steenburg Lake South Road. To that end, the SLCA would be prepared to form a committee representing our members that can work with these townships that are providing this vital access to our community.

In summary, we would respectfully request that the township of Tudor and Cashel immediately reconsider this by-law, and we look forward to a continued dialogue focused on moving our communities forward.

Best Regards and happy holidays on behalf of the Steenburg Lake Community Association.

Anthony Genovese
416-721-3443
SLCA Board member since 2009
Property owner on Steenburg Lake Road South