

Cameron Lake South Shore Residents Association  
c/o Michael Brooks  
67 Reeve Drive, Markham Ontario  
L3P 6C2  
July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

Mayor and Councillors  
City of Kawartha Lakes  
322 Kent Street  
Lindsay Ontario

Dear Mayor and Councillors

Re: Grove Road Limited Service Agreement: July 28<sup>th</sup> Council Agenda Item 10.1.11

I am the president of the Cameron Lake South Shore Residents Association. And a resident at 15 Grove Road.

**About Grove Road:** Grove Road is a ~ 100 year old road on the outskirts of Fenelon Falls, off County Road 8. It is a pretty waterfront road, with many century cottages, but also brick homes and many year round residences. Probably over 100 taxpayers. A walk to Sobeys and Tims. It's a class 5 or 6 road under current Municipal Act lexicon.



The City of Kawartha Lakes and its predecessor municipal entities have plowed and graded Grove Road for all of those 100 years I understand, given the long history and generations of families located on the road. It also receives garbage collection weekly. It predates the current Municipal Act standards for class 5 or 6 roads. ***We believe that “grandfathering” should entitle Grove Road to continued limited service.***

**Context:** Discussions about replacing the expired Limited Service Agreement were put on hold several years ago as the City went through its municipal expenditure review. A new narrative emerged 2 years ago from the city Roads Department about the non-compliance of Grove Road with then current Roads Department standards.

I have taken two walking tours of Grove Road with roads officials, mostly concerned about Road encroachments from trees and rocks, and the occasional gate or protective fence, into a 4 m wide notional corridor that apparently a full-size grader requires to plow snow and grade the road. Most of that overgrowth is in the upper part of Grove Road, between County Road 8, and Hughes Point. After that it widens out, and there are few trees and no width issues. We have taken steps as residents to prune trees and bushes to maintain the width of the road as is, particularly upper Grove Road.

Except that now, 100 years later, apparently that's not good enough.



“upper” Grove Road looking westward

**City Roads Report June 30<sup>th</sup> is Inaccurate.** I received the inspection report of the Roads Department dated July 16<sup>th</sup> 2020, reflecting the results of a road inspection of Grove Road on June 30<sup>th</sup>. This document appears to be a clear set up for a denial of further service to Grove Road, imposing standards that are difficult or impossible for the residents to meet, or that are in fact the City's, or Ontario Hydro's,

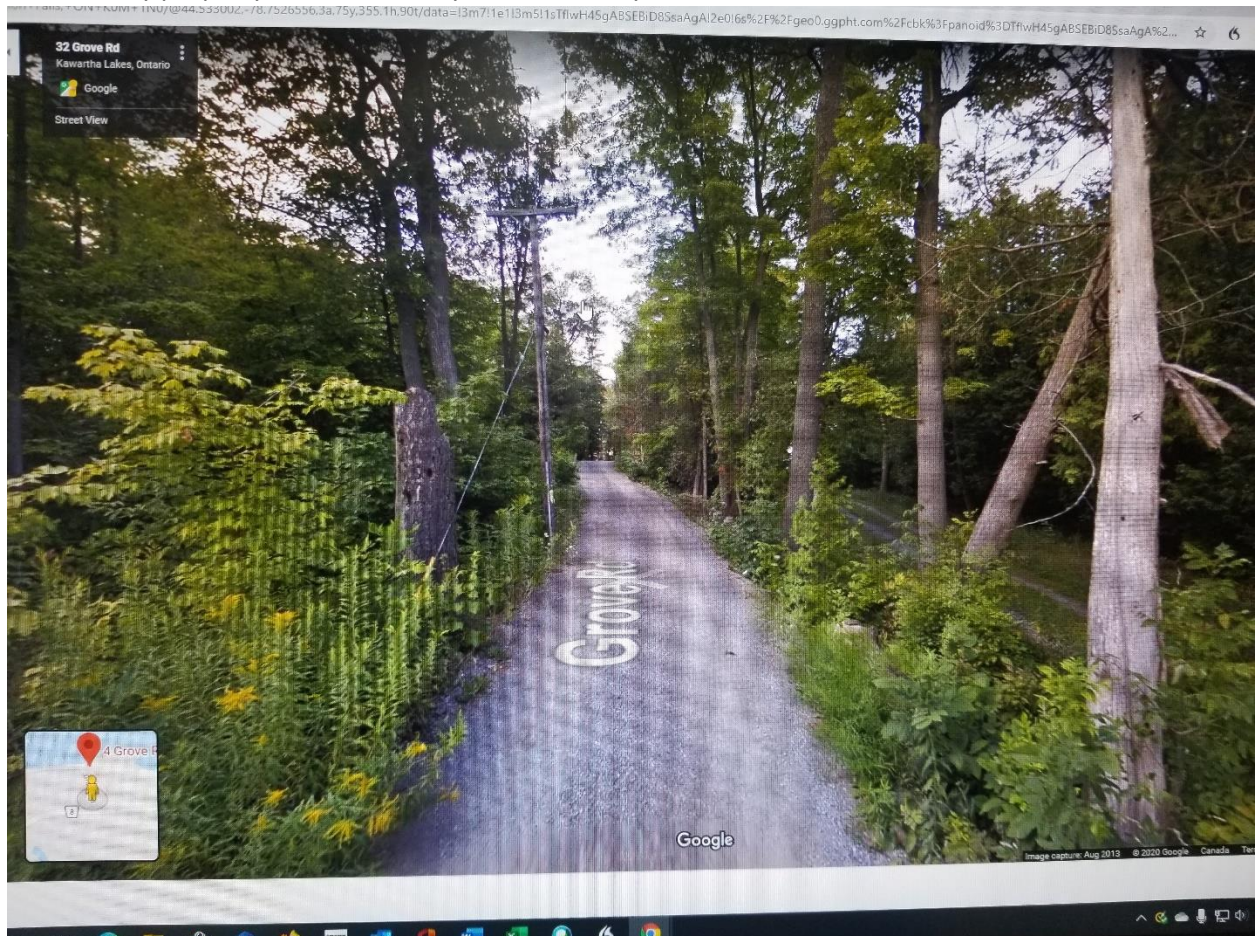


responsibility, with a recommended deadline of September 30th. It will be quite easy for the Roads Department to then claim the deadline has not been met and refuse service.

It's a clear set up.

Some specific inaccuracies in the Roads Department report;

1. **Its not the whole road.** The 4 metre width is only challenged in the upper Grove Road area – maybe 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the total road length. To meet this requirement may also require healthy trees to be removed, or Hydro holes to be moved, or both. Residents do not have the right to chop down trees on city property, nor to move Hydro holes. Why is the onus on us to do so?



2. **Which encroachments?** Roads staff have failed to properly document exactly which man-made encroachments are an encumbrance to see the machinery, nor stipulate how far they are to be moved in which direction and why. While a few residents have stones identifying the edge of the road (to keep cars and trucks off their properties), these are not generally impediments to a small snowplow or a small grader. The City needs to be much more specific about what the impediments are, where they are, and where they are to be moved to and why. In the age of smart phones this is easy. Take a photograph! Or take a drive through video with annotation. Some of these are lovely gardens and plantings. Which of these are necessary to be destroyed?
3. **Not built to 4m:** Most of the *gravelled* portion of Grove Road was never 4 m wide, and still isn't. If the city is offering to widen the gravelled portion of Grove Road, it should do so by setting

clear boundaries and properly rebuilding the road to that width, including installing culverts where overland drainage tends to wash the road out. There may be survey issues on some spots.

4. **5M overhead brushing?** No resident is able to go down our road and clip tree limbs 15 feet up. I can't reach them. If that is the city's standard, the city should be doing it as it may have the equipment.
5. **No where to push the snow?** This is completely false. There is adequate room to push snow to the waterside the entire length of Grove Road, with only a few feet potentially obstructed by a safety gate (it is steep in some parts down to the water) or safety fence. Walk it and see for yourself.
6. **No time to do it?** Residents are supposed to make an application to trim any brushes on the road, in a room occupancy permit, one month prior to commencement of the work, and have all this done by September 30<sup>th</sup>? In a COVID environment? And with some residents who are not even coming up this year due to COVID concerns?

**Hypocritical Standards:** Recently, I was refused an application to purchase the embankment of the shoreline road allowance on Grove Road in front of my property, on the basis that the city may need access to the embankment to support Grove Road. It seems to be completely hypocritical to on the one hand say you won't sell the steep embankment to a adjacent resident because you need to maintain the road, and at the same time threaten to not maintain the road at all.

**The Negative Policy Message:** This is a bad policy message for the City of Kawartha Lakes. Residents of Grove Road spend a lot of money on local contractors and service providers, and retail and other stores. They are taxpayers. Many are in the process of further winterizing their summer homes, aspiring to the potential year-round residents in the future. Withdrawing municipal services discourages further investment, and sends a message that the future in CKL will be worse than the present. Maintaining roads is a key responsibility for the City. The marginal cost to maintain Grove is not significant.

#### **A Recommended Solution**

1. Contract with a third party to plow and grade the road with a small grader or pickup truck and a blade. That may be what is used now. Enter into a limited service agreement with the residents of Grove Road that is automatically renewable annually, with the specified set of service deliverables.
2. Provide city staff and equipment to make any road adjustments that a normal person wouldn't have the ability or equipment to do themselves, that the Roads Department thinks is necessary.
3. Any man-made obstructions that are not otherwise required for safety, and that actually provide a bona fide obstruction for a small grader, or pickup truck and a blade, or a garbage truck, to be brought to the attention of the particular resident, with the demand to move it within say one year, failing which the City may do so.
4. If the City ever decides they do not want to maintain the road, sell the entire shoreline road allowance to the association for \$1, so we can make it a private road and manage it.

Having the City own Grove Road and not maintain it as threatened, is the worst possible outcome for Grove Road residents.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, loopy 'M' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

Michael Brooks