

From: Don Sangster <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 10:53 AM
To: Clerks <clerks@kawarthalakes.ca>
Cc: Ron Ashmore <rashmore@kawarthalakes.ca>
Subject: Illegal Dumping on Private Property

PLEASE PLACE IN "CORRESPONDENCE" FOR NEXT AVAILABLE COUNCIL MEETING

My wife and I live year-round on Settlement Road near King's Wharf. We have a significant woodlot, including some wetlands, with a trail system that runs through the property.

Someone recently dumped over 3,000 pounds of construction trash (mainly roofing) on our property. They entered the south end of our property, passed through a closed gate (with "Keep Out" and "No Trespassing" signs), and proceeded to unload a construction trailer. We are now having to install a locking farm gate (at considerable expense) to prevent this from happening again. In the meantime, however, I installed a cellular trail camera near the gate. About a week after the initial dumping, the same people returned, but this time I was alerted by the camera and caught them in the act. Police and by-laws officers were called and promptly attended.

I was shocked to learn that there is no by-law in the CKL prohibiting the dumping of garbage on someone else's private property. It's illegal to dump on City property, and the City can even make you clean up garbage that's accumulated on your own private property, but there's nothing that prevents someone from dumping on another private landowner's property, theoretically even in their front yard!

The police officers who attended were flabbergasted to learn of this. Even the by-laws officer I spoke with was very surprised (I'm led to believe that other municipalities, such as Durham, do have such by-laws), but he confirmed it with his Manager in by-laws, as did Councillor Ron Ashmore. Apparently the by-laws department's position is, "it's the landowner's problem", and we should take steps to prevent access to our properties, or seek civil remedies from those who dump without permission. I would ask that you consider how you'd feel about that position if this situation happened to you.

It is rather appalling to me that a municipality that prides itself on protecting the environment would have no regard for the wanton dumping of trash on private property, even potentially near significant wetlands. I would also point out that construction trades that legally operate in the City pay significant sums to the City annually for a permit to use the Lindsay-Ops facility (I have a friend who is a roofer and he pays \$40,000 annually!). It seems to me that if the City's message is that it's perfectly acceptable to dump trash on other people's property, then the City is risking the loss of considerable annual revenue from dumping fees should this message become widely-known.

I would also point out that I posted a message on Facebook when the first dumping incident occurred, hoping someone would be able to offer some assistance as to who might be responsible. This post was widely shared in the community, and there was a lot of outrage among residents with regard to this incident. Clearly this incident touched a nerve with a lot of

folks, and many people reported experiencing similar events on their properties, so it is certainly not an isolated incident.

I would respectfully request that Council examine this issue and consider passing a by-law, with some considerable enforcement "teeth", to make it illegal to dump on private property in the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Respectfully,

Don Sangster