



Mayor Letham and City Council
City of Kawartha Lakes
26 Francis St.
Lindsay ON

Dear Mr. Mayor and Council:

Please accept this document as a supplement to my presentation to council on October 24.

- I am a resident of Shadow Lake Rd 2. My family has owned property on this road since 1930 and I have owned property on the road since 1978.
- I am speaking for myself, using my experience and notes as a former executive for a number of years on the Shadow Lake Rd 2 Road Association (now defunct), my personal experiences and my conversations with many of my neighbors on the road.
- Prior to amalgamation, garbage collection on Shadow Lake Rd 2 was the responsibility of Somerville Township.
- As a child, I remember going with my father to the previous Laxton waste site with our weekly garbage. As I grew older, garbage was picked up by Somerville Township at our 'curbside' during the months of May to October inclusive and no winter service was provided. No one lived on the road permanently at that time, so year round pick up was not a concern. As one or two cottages were converted to year round homes in the 80's, garbage was then picked up at our curbside from May to October and at the end of the road where it meets Monck Road from November to April.
- This appeared quite successful.
- Garbage and then recycling first became an issue for us in 1995 as more families became full time residents and other cottages were used recreationally on a year round basis.
- Large plastic bins were placed at the current site of the transfer station (concrete bunker) to receive the garbage instead of just leaving garbage bags on the ground at that location. These were used only from October to May.
- Contrary to the staff report, the current concrete bunker was installed in 2001 by residents because bears were destroying the plastic bins. The concrete bin was purchased by a small number of the residents and placed on private property located near the entrance of the road with Monck Road. At the time of installation, the concrete bunker was only used for winter garbage and was locked during the summer months.

- Again contrary to the staff report, in 2002, after amalgamation, the CKL informed residents that it would no longer pick up in two locations – residents were forced to choose between the transfer station and individual pickup. Because some residents were going to be denied individual pickup (three residences on Kelly Road, a satellite road off Shadow Lake Rd 2), the owners of the bin agreed to allow all residents to use the bunker year round and the city granted its use as a transfer station. The residents purchased a large number of recycling bins to hold the recycling materials and used the concrete bin for garbage bags only.
- In the past few years, with the increased use of properties as rental units, an increase in traffic to the location from off the road and the change to Miller for pickup, garbage has become more of a problem.
- The reasons for the problems are seen by the residents as follows:
 - ❖ Currently we have 9 of 37 cottages (approximately 25%) on the road rented during the summer months. Six are posted on the internet for full summer availability and have an advertised capacity of 66 people in the 6 cottages. Often this capacity is exceeded. The garbage demand of these six cottages alone often exceeds the total capacity produced by the rest of the road residents. Many of the renters come from jurisdictions that have different garbage and recycle rules. They do not read the signs when dumping garbage and recycling materials and they do not change their habits, believing that rules for garbage and recycling are standard throughout the province. They continue to bag and mix recyclables and use green garbage bags. Additionally, we have an owner that has multiple dwelling units on the property. Each dwelling is occupied throughout the summer and produces quantities of refuse beyond the limits of a single property.
 - ❖ There has been dumping observed at the location by non-residents of the road. This cannot be controlled by the residents as easy access to the garbage bunker is available off Monck Road.
 - ❖ Garbage pickup in the CKL changed after Miller took over the routes. Less care is taken when emptying the garbage bags and recycle bins and often small items of garbage and recycling are left behind. This attracts small animals to the site. Bins have been left unusable because they have been damaged beyond repair due to the way they are handled when being emptied.
 - ❖ Some residents just don't care. When spoken to by other residents, they shake their heads and walk away, continuing to cause problems for the remaining residents.
- The residents, for the most part, have worked diligently to try and control the inappropriate dumping taking place.
- Despite spending substantial sums of money to place signs at the location that indicate the appropriate use of the site, persons continue to dump garbage and recycling

inappropriately. The residents have also, in the past, paid for cleanup of the site on a weekly basis but this was discontinued when not all residents contributed to the expense.

- Only a few residents will now maintain the site and perform cleanup as needed.
- This season's change to clear garbage bags has exacerbated the situation as the Miller drivers remove inappropriately bagged garbage and/or recycling and leave it outside the bunker for animals to scavenge through.
- Conversations have been ongoing with the city by a few residents of the road for the last few years. Some residents have asked for individual pickup to re-commence but these requests have been ignored. At least two letters were sent in July asking for individual pickup and to date, no response has been received by the senders. The CKL has written letters to all the residents but many residents did not receive the letters. My letter was in fact mailed to an outdated address despite the tax bills coming to the appropriate address.
- Option 1 seems to be preferred by a large number of the property owners. The few owners who now work to maintain the site are prepared to cooperate with the city to help control the site but need more guidance and support to have this option be successful. What does the city mean when it says that they are going to engage in expanded investigation and enforcement? Who is going to clean the site when inappropriate dumping (televisions, lawn furniture etc.) is placed at the site? Who is going to remove inappropriate garbage bags? (green bags, bags filled with recyclables) I believe the residents are willing to assist the city as evidenced by their continued contact with city staff over the summer but are no longer prepared to assume complete control of the site.
- Option 2 is unacceptable. Residents of the road will no doubt seek recourse to the issue by petitioning MPAC to lower property assessments and seek recourse from the courts, if necessary, because of a loss of service with no corresponding change in taxes should we not receive garbage pickup and a loss to property values as a lack of garbage pickup would also lower property values on the road compared to roads that receive curbside pickup and result in financial losses on the part of owners. This option would punish all for the misbehavior of a few. Additionally, as the city staff notes, this option will lead to increased illegal dumping and no one will be responsible for the cleanup.
- Option 3, the change to bag tags and forcing residents to use the Laxton landfill site would place a burden on the 37 residents of Shadow Lake Rd 2 that is not being forced on other private roads (many of who receive individual pickup – Shadow Lake Rd 6, 8 and Griffin Road to name three). This places a financial burden (cost of travel and time) on our residents as well as reduces the value of our properties compared to nearby neighbors who receive individual pickup. As well, many of the residents are seniors and others have mobility issues and health issues. We have widows who own property on the road and others who do not and cannot drive. The possible loss of garbage service

places an unfair burden on these people to seek out alternatives for them to dispose of garbage. Again, residents would seek recourse for financial losses and loss of service.

- Option 4 is likely acceptable to the residents. Since we already receive service to the road through our limited service agreement and a turnaround is provided for the grader, we have provided letters giving turnarounds for a garbage vehicle. A combined use of a pickup truck, such as used when servicing other roads and the garbage truck would provide year round access for the garbage pickup for the parts of the road that are more inaccessible (over a very large hill). Perhaps a logical solution might be to return to our original service - summer individual pickup and end of the road pickup in the off season. This would ensure compliance in the difficult summer months and safety to the workers in the winter months.
- In summation: The CKL removed individual pickup for residents of our road because they would not pick up at all residences on the road. Remember, curbside pickup was declined by the majority because the city was unfairly denying service to Kelly Road residents. To us, curbside pickup is not an enhancement of services. This is service that other residents of the city receive, what we originally had and what we pay for despite not receiving the service. No reduction in taxes for loss of service was provided upon losing individual pickup. To perceive individual pickup as an enhanced service when our tax bill reflects the same amount of money for garbage service as those who receive individual pickup is a fallacy. Currently, the city provides individual pickup at most residences, using small trucks as necessary. The residents agree that the current situation is untenable. The residents have been unable to control the situation alone. Short-term rentals to people without an invested interest in the situation and with large numbers of occupants well beyond occupancy rates of a majority of private homes in the city, contributes largely to the problem. Once summer rentals end, the situation at the bunker site ends and there are no incidents. Many of the choices in the report are unacceptable to the residents. Should option 1 be chosen, residents are prepared to work with the city to attempt to solve the issue but not assume sole responsibility to solve the problem. Option 4 is also an acceptable option. Options 2 and 3 are unacceptable and would result in undetermined actions on the part of the residents. A large number of residents cannot be punished for the actions of a few over whom we have no control.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susan Bigness". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'S'.

Susan Bigness