

August 5, 2009

Dear Fellow Cottagers:

Last Wednesday evening, July 29, all of your Board of Directors and some other interested members of the association attended a McDougall Township counsel meeting to hear and discuss an item on their agenda that pertained to our winter snow plowing. The counsel stated our three-year agreement was over and in order to write a new agreement they wanted us to address some issues that they had concern about. The items are:

- McDougall Township requested that we be insured for more than the standard 1 million dollars for liability. Proof was sent that we are currently insured for \$5,000,000.
- In Phase II, they requested a guardrail leading down the long hill should be installed. McDougall's road foreman will meet with Brian Wilton our road commissioner and a couple of other Directors, on the site, to discuss what is required. We hope to resolve the issue before the winter.
- Parking on the roads in the winter was a major problem for the Township last year because it restricts the ability of the plow to do a proper job and it also is very dangerous. The roads are narrow, especially in the winter, and road parking is a hazard to the plow and other traffic. The association will grant in writing the authority for the municipality to tag and tow. Cottagers and their guests must not park on the road in the future, especially in the winter.
- Cottagers that have their driveways plowed must not put the snow on the road or have it pushed into the snow-banks opposite their driveway. This narrows the road in that spot and it also makes for a bigger pile of snow that becomes difficult to remove as it freezes, if the big grader tries to push the banks back, to widen the road. Snow must be kept on your own property.

The Board of Directors felt all of the Townships issues were not unreasonable and we would communicate this to our members immediately. These items will also be re-stated in the fall cottager's meeting.

The Board itself also has a concern about cottagers renting in the winter. Although we cannot prevent it, we would like to state that we discourage this because it puts unnecessary traffic on narrow and sometimes dangerous roads. Please use discretion about renting in the winter because you are creating an unnecessary liability for all of us in the association. Just one accident, especially if it involves a McDougall snowplow, could jeopardize the complete winter snow-plowing operation forever.

Although the bridge was not on the agenda or intended to be discussed at the July 29 council meeting, the Mayor obliged, since so many affected residents were present. He stated that tenders are out, and due back August 12, at which time they would see the bidding results and hope that the price comes in within budget. While the current load capacity is down to 8 tones, which restricts almost any large vehicle including a water filled pumper truck, the Township is saying the new bridge will have a 20 tones capacity.

They would ideally like to have the bridge installed in the late fall of this year, as a spring installation would cause problems with the Fisheries Ministry. The installation of the bridge is expected to take approximately 2 weeks, and up to a maximum of 4 weeks. There will not be a temporary bridge in the meantime as this would cost approximately \$250,000 and would not be money well spent with their limited budget. McDougall has plans in place for emergency situations, but residents must realize the timing will take longer because of the awkward, but temporary situation. The current tax bill states the Township has budgeted \$1,047,205 for the new bridge, which includes \$470,000 from Federal and Provincial funding programs.

Once plans are finalized to replace the bridge, your Association Directors, or McDougall Township, will communicate the information to all affected residents in Mill Lake Village.

Enjoy the rest of our summer and we hope to see everyone at the Fall meeting!

From your Board of Directors.

P.S. Please reserve a couple of hours Saturday morning, August 22, for the annual brush clearing along the roadways. A representative from each cottage would be appreciated (male or female), seniors are excluded. Please meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Trendle's cottage, located at #17 Turtle Bay Road (204B) for your work assignment.