

Dear Neighbour:

With all the activity on our cottage road this year, some of us thought our old cottage association should be brought out of mothballs. With Mr. Al Wingfield as Chairman and myself as clerk, we held our first meeting on June 29 1975. Mayor Malcolm Scott and our council representative Mrs. Esther Spencer attended at our invitation. The road work was our chief concern because many of us were upset at the loss of so many fine trees and the way they were cut and the wood carted away. We were told the road had to be widened to permit heavy equipment to come in as this is the only type the township now has. The cottagers are afraid too wide a road will destroy our privacy and open the lake up to more traffic and possible break-ins. We also discussed the trading of a 66' road allowance around the lake for the road with the mayor and this will be taken up soon. Mr. Scott also warned us that school costs are driving the taxes up again. We talked also of the coming O.M.B. hearings concerning the official plan for the district.

A second meeting was held on August 30 when Mrs. Judy Calder gave us a report on the sessions of the O.M.B. hearings which she attended at Baysville. There are many changes in zoning and building regulations coming which could affect many of us. We discussed the road again and decided to call upon the mayor for further information. Mr. Wm. Thomson and I were delegated to go to Dwight for this purpose.

On September 3 1975 Mr. & Mrs. Thomson and I met with Mayor Malcolm Scott, Mrs. Est Spencer and road superintendant George Lupton. We were informed that the road was not finished, and work would be resumed likely after Thanksgiving. Actually they started again in September. The sand on the road is only a cushion being allowed to settle and gravel will be added. Old 8" culverts are being replaced by 15" ones and the old ones will be carted away. The entrances to a number of cottages will be improved. Unfortunately they do not plan to shore up the banks of the hills which are already eroding. A sign "No Access" has been ordered for the entrance of the road and this will not be a winter road. Mr. Scott said he got the impression from our meeting that the cottagers want a good but private road. A meeting is planned soon with the Dept. of Natural Resources regarding the transfer of the 66' road allowance. The hydro is planning to rebuild the service probably in January or February around Oxbow because there is too much strain on the present facilities which causes break-downs. This may cause more cutting of trees for poles and lines and we hope it will be kept to a minimum.

This is a brief resume of our activities this past summer. It is a start and we hope we can generate interest that will re-vitalize our cottage association. We hope for a good attendance, a lively discussion and new ideas for our next meeting Summer '76

A time and place has not been settled as yet but we will let you know in good time, and I will look forward to meeting you at Oxbow.

Mrs. C.J. Guselle

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Wednesday Sept 3 1975.

To-day Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Thomson and I spent more than a half hour in the council chambers with Mayor Malcolm Scott, Mrs. Esther Spencer and Mr. Geo. Lupton, the roads superintendent. Our subject was our cottage road. We were informed that the road is not finished and they will be going back to it after Thanksgiving. At present they are working on other roads as well as ours. The mayor said he got the impression from the meeting he attended with us that what we really want is a good private road. He says it will not be a winter road, the trees were not cut along the camp property on his orders to keep it looking private from the highway, and a sign has been ordered for the entrance saying "No Access". The sand on the road is a cushion which is being allowed to settle then gravel will be added and graded again. By Mr. Wingfield's property a 15" culvert was ~~replaced by two~~ installed instead of the two 8" ones. Mr. Lupton said he realizes some of the entrances to the cottages are bad and will be rectified. He mentioned specifically Coates, McGrath and Francey. Mr. Scott said a meeting with The Dept. of Natural Resources is planned soon concerning the transfer of the 66' road allowance. The mayor mentioned that the 66' road allowance now applies only as far as the 2nd concession at the Suddaby cottage. He mentioned Highway traffic act 66 as authority for this. He said that the hydro were intending to rebuild the service as there was too much strain on the facilities hence the breakdowns and they would probably have to remove trees to install new lines and poles. This is expected to be done in January and February next year.

Cottage Association Meeting Saturday August 30 2pm. at the Guselle Cottage

The minutes of our last meeting June 29 were read and adopted. Letters received ^{from} the Minister of Education Mr. Thomas Wells and Muskoka MPP Mr. Frank Miller were read. These concerned our questions about education costs and gave us very little encouraging information. I was asked to write to the Muskoka school board on behalf of the cottage association. Mrs. Judy Calder gave us a report of her attendance at the O.M.B. hearings. She was able to attend three sessions. There are a great number of strict zoning regulations coming into law before long. A lengthy discussion about the state of our road followed and I was asked to write to Mayor Malcolm Scott to enquire whether the road is considered finished now. Depending on the reply from the mayor, a second letter could then be sent to him pointing out improvements we deem necessary for the road to be satisfactory such as

1. old culverts that have been removed should be carted away
2. the road should be properly trenched with culverts where needed
3. the creek near the Wingfield property formerly had two culverts now has only one--sufficient for the Spring run-off?
4. there is a hydro pole in the centre of the road which must be moved
5. many entrances to the cottages are hazardous
6. where banks are cut back, they should be shored up. The one on the Guselle property is already eroding
7. the road should have gravel on it not sand
8. we would like to know why some places have not been widened and some have good gravel others sand,

A motion was made by Mrs. Kring that a delegation representing our assoc. should call upon the mayor for further information. A letter should also be sent to the Kiwanis stating our concern about the type of camp run and the class of councillors used. There was a lot of trespassing on cottage property this year/ Cottagers should report any break-in promptly to the police and we should all keep an eye on any of our neighbours properties when we are at the lake.