



## Staff Report

**Report Title: Transportation November 2023**

**Prepared By: John Yungblut, C.E.T., Director of Public Works**

**Department: Public Works**

**Date: Nov. 6, 2023**

**Report Number: PW-2023-11-53**

**File Number: C11 PW23**

**Attachments: By-Law 2002-18, Cedar Trail Map**

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### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information, Report Number PW-2023-11-53, prepared by John Yungblut, Director of Public Works

AND FURTHER directs Staff to bring forward a By-law to repeal By-Law 2002-18 known as the Dry Culvert Policy.

### **Background:**

#### North Point Clark Drainage Master Plan

Township staff, along with our engineers, BM Ross and Associates, have initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for the northern portion of Point Clark between Clark Creek and the Pine River. The initial public consultation period concluded on June 9, 2023.

Township staff and our hydrogeologist installed five groundwater monitoring wells at various locations within the study area on Aug. 24-26, 2023 which will be used to measure the water table elevation.

SVCA installed the weather monitoring station at the Point Clark Community Centre on Aug. 27, 2023.

The first Public Information Meeting was held at the Point Clark Community Centre on Oct. 29, 2023. We received a strong turnout of 54 attendees with many constructive comments and questions which will be considered as we progress through this process. The slideshow that was presented at the meeting is on the Township's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VhFN8d1XdU>

### Asphalt Paving

The paving of hot mix asphalt on Con. 10 (Sideroad 20 to Bruce Road 7), Lake Range Dr. (Ashfield-Huron Townline to 200m north) and Finlay St. was awarded to Lavis Contracting Co. Ltd. on May 15, 2023.

The paving of Con. 10 and Finlay St. are now complete and we have been informed that the topcoat paving at the south end of Lake Range Dr. is expected to be completed by Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Tanglewood/Ridgewood Reconstruction (Point Clark)

The reconstruction of Tanglewood Dr., Ridgewood Rd and Jardine Pl and the construction of the Menomoni-Sunset Pl walking path was awarded to Omega Contractors Inc. on April 17, 2023.

Construction began on July 24<sup>th</sup> and the majority of the work was completed by Oct. 27, 2023, including base asphalt paving, concrete driveway restoration and topsoil and grass seed application. The only significant outstanding item is the asphalt paving of driveway, which is scheduled to be completed by Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>.

The walking path has also been graded and is ready for asphalt paving. The wood fence will be completed after paving is complete.

### Pavement Preservation

A contract for the application of Bonded Wearing Course on Con. 4 from Bruce Rd 7 to Highway 21 (8km) and Con. 8 from Highway 21 to Lake Range Dr. (3.5km) was awarded to Walker Construction on Aug. 21, 2023.

This project was scheduled to begin on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, however, the contractor ran into problems at their plant and we not able to start until Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>. They have worked around the weather conditions and have been able to finish Con. 8, however, they are unsure if they will be able to finish Con. 4. As of Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, they were able to resurface 4.5km of the north lane and 3km of the south lane.

### Street Sweeper Purchase

The purchase of new a demo street sweeper was awarded to Cubex Ltd. on Sept. 18, 2023. Township staff were recently informed that Cubex has decided to not use the vehicle that we purchased as a demo unit, so it will be available to us in the spring.

### Dry Culvert Policy

Township staff have been reviewing older policies and procedures to determine if they align with current practices. The Dry Culvert Policy allows landowners to install culverts that are intended to act as a conduit for private infrastructure.

Upon reviewing the Feb. 4, 2002 General Committee Meeting minutes it appears that this policy was established as a result of a request to install manure piping across Bushell St. in the former Kinloss Township.

Our current process is to recommend to Council that we enter into an encroachment or easement agreement with a landowner that requests the installation of private infrastructure on Township road allowances. These agreements are then registered on title, so they remain in place even after a property sale.

### Cedar Trail Encroachments

In late August 2023, Township staff were approached by a homeowner on Cedar Trail in Point Clark regarding the possibility of upgrading the underground hydro service that crosses the road for the purpose of installing a car charging station. At the time we were not aware of any private underground hydro services on Cedar Trail.

Upon further investigation we discovered that of the 13 dwellings on this road, there appears to be 5 that have private underground hydro services and 8 with private septic piping that cross the road. It appears that the majority of this infrastructure was installed before the road was assumed by the Township in the late 1990's, so permission from the Township would not have been required. The public road split most of these properties into two parcels, with some having septic leaching fields and garages on the opposite side of the road from their home or cottage (see attached Cedar Trail Map).

The presence of private hydro servicing is a significant safety concern because these cables will not be located through the Ontario One Call public utility locating system.

We have sent letters to the 13 property owners notifying them of what we discovered and providing them an opportunity to discuss or dispute our findings.

### **Discussion:**

#### North Point Clark Drainage Master Plan

The next steps in the process is to collect topographic survey data this fall and update cost estimates and recommendations in the spring of 2024. A Council presentation is expected to be scheduled in the spring of 2024.

#### Asphalt Paving

Township staff are hopeful that the topcoat paving on Lake Range Dr. can still this year, however, dry road conditions are important for proper adhesion to the base asphalt. This could result in this portion of the project being delayed into 2024.

#### Tanglewood/Ridgewood Reconstruction (Point Clark)

Construction has progressed reasonably well with the only issue being the delay in asphalt paving of driveways and the walking path. Public Works will be soon posting signs that the walking path is not winter maintained because we don't have the resources in the Lakeshore to maintain walking paths.

#### Pavement Preservation

While it is disappointing that the contractor was not able to start on the scheduled date, we are hopeful that the weather will allow for this project to be completed. If

they are unable to finish this year, the contractor will be ramping the intersections that were milled to avoid issues with snow plowing.

### Street Sweeper

Although it is unclear whether the sweeper will be delivered in time for spring street sweeping, this is still very good news. Township staff are currently in discussion with Cubex regarding the possibility of making some alterations to the vehicle before it is built, which wasn't possible if it was to be used as a demo unit.

### Dry Culvert Policy

Township staff have not received any requests or inquires for dry culverts in at least the past five years and we have not been able to find any records of applications since the initial request in 2002. Nevertheless, if we did receive this type of request, we would consider it the same manner that we consider any other private infrastructure installation on Township roads.

### Cedar Trail Encroachments

As indicated in the letter to the landowners, once we have confirmed the private underground infrastructure, we will be working with each landowner to discuss the next steps. At that point, we can determine if an encroachment agreement is the appropriate solution or if the landowner would prefer to remove the infrastructure. It's unlikely that the septic piping can be removed in most instances because the parcel where the house or cottage is located is not large enough for the entire septic system.

Township staff are also investigating a possible solution to locating these private utilities in the future.

### **Financial Impacts**

The North Point Clark Drainage Master Plan, Tanglewood/Ridgewood Reconstruction, asphalt paving, pavement preservation and the new street sweeper are included in the 2023 Capital Budget.

At this point, the only anticipated costs in the Cedar Trail situation would be the cost associated with executing and registering encroachment agreements

### **Strategic Alignment / Link:**

We are an accessible community by being open and transparent.

We are a prosperous community that continues to grow in a sustainable manner by investing in infrastructure.

### **Respectfully Submitted By:**

John Yungblut, Director of Public Works

### **Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer