



The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

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We hope this letter finds you well. As stewards of our beloved shoreline, we're dedicated to ensuring beach access and sustainability for all. In this letter, we'll discuss important guidelines and regulations regarding pathways, private structures, and beach activities. Your cooperation in maintaining our beaches' safety and integrity is greatly appreciated.

Ensuring Beach Access and Sustainability

Paths that lead directly to the shoreline can be vulnerable to erosion caused by wind and may lead to sand loss from the beach. To mitigate these issues, it's recommended that pathways follow a gentle 'S' shape. This design helps prevent strong winds from causing erosion. Pathways should be narrow and follow the natural slope of the land, rather than going straight down. You can find more details about this on our website at <https://www.huronkinloss.com/town-hall/plans-studies-and-reports/Shoreline-Best-Practices-Guide>

Structural accesses (like boardwalks / stairs) are often not necessary, and are not permitted, unless the pathway is a major public access installed and maintained by the Municipality.

Private Structures and Beach Management By-law

All structures that are built by private residents, including decks, sheds, lean-to's, etc. may require a permit and are required to be built on their own property. Building structures that alter or damage the dunes is a violation under the Beach Management By-law No. 2021-37. The Beach Management By-Law states:

2.1 No person shall conduct any of the following activities on any Crown-Owned Beaches at any time:

- a) operate any motorized vehicle.
- b) deposit or place or allow to be deposited or placed any litter, debris, or other material.
- c) alter or destroy sand dunes.
- d) burn any substance without a permit.
- e) place or ignite any fireworks.
- f) construct or place any building or structure.
- g) dredge or fill shore lands.
- h) harm or remove invasive vegetation or native vegetation by mechanical means or by hand.

If you have a beach access, stairs, or a walkway on Municipal property including the public beach, we kindly ask you not to alter, improve or construct new structures at this time. While we understand that many of these structures have been in place for years, they may pose safety risks, incur liability for the Township or the person who constructed them, have unintended environmental impacts or otherwise pose a hazard to the Township and its residents.

The Township is identifying areas where these encroachments occur, and will be contacting residents with structures, stairs, etc. on Municipal or public beach lands to advise of best removal practices. When motorized vehicles are needed for a structure's removal, a permit is required for beach use.

Tree trimming / pruning / limbing is prohibited on Municipal property. Particularly noticeable along the lakeshore, trees provide natural protection to the shoreline, and prevent erosion. If you are aware of diseased or damaged trees on municipal property, please report them to the Township.

If you are interested in any future tree planting, dog strangling vine removal, or dune fencing projects please contact recreation@huronkinloss.com.

Dogs Must be Leashed

Dogs on public property, including the beach, must be on a leash not exceeding 1.8 meters. The person holding the leash must maintain full control. Dogs can be taken off leash at the designated dog park next to the Point Clark Community Centre at 344 Lake Range Drive, Point Clark.

Motorized Vehicles

ATV's and any other motorized vehicles are not permitted on beaches in Huron-Kinloss.

Golf Cars are permitted if licenced on some Township roads, according to a pilot project with the Ministry of Transportation. Please reach out for more information on how to licence your golf car.

Garbage Disposal

Household garbage is to be placed at the end of your driveway on your scheduled garbage day with a bag tag. Garbage cans in parks, along beach accesses and the lighthouse are for day user garbage only. Littering is not permitted anywhere in the Township.

Public Access

The Township's beaches are open and available to all members of the public. The public beaches available are dynamic and changes as water levels change. The Township maintains many trails and other areas for visitors and residents along the lakeshore. There are additionally many areas where historically, undefined and unmarked walking trails exist as residents explore the beaches.

As part of the engagement process in developing the Township's Parks and Trails Re-Development Strategy, the Township will be soliciting feedback from residents on whether and where to create signed, established trails and parks along the beach front. Please visit the Township's website www.huronkinloss.com and engagement site www.haveyoursayhk.ca regularly for opportunities to provide your feedback on this and other matters.

Your cooperation is essential in maintaining the safety and integrity of our beaches and surrounding areas. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to us.

If you have immediate concerns about a beach access, please e-mail recreation@huronkinloss.com

Sincerely,

Mike Fair
Director of Community Services