

From: Tom Strnad [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 3:26 PM
To: John McKean; Gail Ardiel; Bob Gamble; Joe Halos; Michael Martin; John McGee; Michael Seguin
Cc: Reg Russwurm; Jim Mc Cannell; Tracey Johnston
Subject: Flooding of Patricia Drive and Claire Glen

Dear Mayor John McKean and Members of Council,

I am writing to inform you of a continuous flooding situation that is currently occurring around our home and studio facility at Patricia Drive.

Mountain Goat Film Company Inc. has just been awarded with a Business of the Year Award by the Blue Mountains Chamber of Commerce. We are honoured to have such recognition by our business peers. We have been outspoken on establishing more economic growth and development in the media industry to the area through our non-profit initiative the South Georgian Bay Media Association Inc. After all, the Ontario media industry is a multi billion dollar annual driving force to the economy.

We are proud of our new home in The Blue Mountains and we want many other media professionals and families to make this their home as well and share our vision for a creative economy in this town and region.

Over the past year we have been voicing our issues over the flooding of our front yard and the failing of our street's drainage system. This has resulted in damage to our garden and landscaping, standing water present throughout the year in the drainage ditch, and foul odours in any warmer weather.

We have approached town staff including Reg Russwurm, about this problem and we have identified through our captured video and photos, where this problem is coming from. Essentially several culverts from Scenic Caves road flow directly down below into our neighbourhood. We have been told that this has been happening for decades and we have official statements from town employees that homes should never have been built in this area. Yet, just this past fall a brand new home was permitted to be built across us on neighbouring Claire Glen. Several other homes have had new additions added, also as permitted by the town. Clearly, town staff are still allowing homes to be built in our neighbourhood.

We have been officially told that there is no budget available to undertake a Drainage Study for the area. But new homeowners are contributing new taxes to the town as we speak.

We have been told by town staff that the drainage system is not sufficient for the water flow. But this was just a recent engineering project by the town on our streets, and just this past summer on Scenic Caves road. The decades of knowledge of the flooding caused by the Scenic Caves culverts, and the widening and expansion of the culverts, has now caused unprecedented flooding of our properties.

The ditches are in really poor shape as well, and lacking regular maintenance. Trees and grass fill much of the ditches, resulting in poor flow and the ponding of water for the entire year.

I encourage the Mayor and Members of Council to visit our neighbourhood and witness first hand the destruction that is occurring to our properties, homes and ability to enjoy our physical land.

I want to urge immediate action to finding a solution, and in finding budget to start a drainage study now. I also want to urge immediate maintenance on the existing drainage system to ensure the flow of water and avoid ponding and still water in our ditches. I am concerned with the potential liability that The Blue Mountains may be facing without action on the increased flooding caused by the new widened Scenic Caves road and the impact it is having directly on the private property of its residents.

I have faith in the current political leaders of this town to help out our neighbourhood and restore it to its full potential. Making it another beautiful part of The Blue Mountains.

I want to continue to build the economic development locally with my initiatives and encourage others in the media industry to join me here. Together the Blue Mountains can prosper with millions of dollars of new revenue from the media industry and the potential to bring hundreds of new permanent residents. However, we cannot have budget limitations that are not ensuring the basic infrastructure needs of our homes and new residents now and in the future.

I am happy to provide photos and videos and my doors are open for the Mayor and Member of Council to visit our film studio and neighbourhood. I also welcome any questions and I will be happy to provide more information on this matter.

I look forward to hearing from you all.

Sincerely,

Tom Strnad

Producer

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