

ROAD COMMITTEE REPORT 2017

The condition of our road remains reasonably good, the Transportation Ministry having provided surfacing material for the neediest spots late last summer. Parts of the road took a bit of a beating during the winter with a greater than usual number of trucks coming to the island both because of moves on and off and to facilitate construction projects. This traffic coincided with unusually wet weather but the impact was more cosmetic than substantive.

While the Improvement District has no statutory responsibility for the road, it does have a direct interest in its condition in order to ensure that the Fire Department's emergency vehicles can operate safely. The island's Memorandum of Understanding with the Transportation Ministry recognizes the Trustees as the formal local government contact. After considering the matter, the Trustees have recommended that in future, islanders should be encouraged to adhere more formally to the winter use regulations posted by the Ministry on the parking compound gates. Approval of the ministry is supposed to be requested before bringing large vehicles to the island between November 1 and March 31. There is provision for a damage deposit. The Trustees believe that if the rules are not followed and as a result road damage occurs or the safe passage of our emergency vehicles is inhibited, then the party responsible should fix the damage or resolve the issue. If such remediation is not forthcoming, then written notification of the offense to the Ministry may be undertaken.

At the request of the Fire Chief, the Trustees also have reminded islanders of the need to keep the road allowance as free as possible from stored material so as to not impede passage of our emergency vehicles. There continue to be places on the island where it is impossible for emergency vehicles to pass each other because the shoulder of the road is blocked.

Following a visit to the island by Shawn Haley, the Transportation Ministry's newest Area Manager, the Trustees initiated efforts to secure greater provincial support for the road. The Ministry continues to take the position that our road will not be accepted as part of the government's official "inventory" until it has been brought to provincial standard by the "developer" – meaning current owners! However, I am hopeful that we can continue to secure support for remedial work – especially work that could be done with equipment already on the island.

The Ministry continues to encourage us to remove brush and trees from the road allowance, especially where it helps maintain a clear sight line for vehicles on corners. This project has been undertaken by the Monday morning work crew with support from the FireSmart program because the road and the major trails in the center also are our best protection against a fire sweeping across the island! Judicious clearing in front of your own property is appreciated. The Monday morning crew has tried to be respectful of the vegetation screen some owners encourage next to the road, but keep in mind that the growth you are encouraging may be on the 60 foot road allowance, not your private property.

We have been promised additional Calcium Chloride flake to help control summer dust and will be apply it from time to time, when it seems likely to do the most good.

While our mower operators try to keep the grass beside the road under control as a fire prevention measure, they applaud owners who do this job themselves. Material stored on the road allowance complicates the mowing efforts.

As a final note, the committee urges everyone to keep in mind the need for caution when operating vehicles on our narrow and sometimes bumpy and dusty road. Even though the province refuses to take full responsibility for its maintenance, McKenzie Crescent is a public highway on which the operators of motor vehicles (including golf carts) require a valid driving licence.

In closing, it seems worth reminding islanders that the Road Committee has no legal or political authority. Its members are volunteers dedicated to trying to ensure that it stays in decent shape, given the limited resources available. This report is respectfully submitted on behalf of the current members, Bill Jordan, Bob Noble, Sandy Brunham, Chris MacKay, Steve Cruise and Gerry Kristianson.