

From: [Keith & Lola Davidson](#)
To: [Warder, Tara](#)
Cc: [Vokes, Sharon](#); [Wingrove, Kim](#); [Hoy, Pat](#)
Subject: RE: Grass Cutting Scenic Roads
Date: August-18-16 9:35:41 AM

Afternoon Mr. Hoy:

You don't know me. I live Grey Rd. 1 RR2 The Kemble Shore I am a 4th generation Davidson – Kemble & North Keppel. In 2014 Grey County Administration asked me to write a paragraph for its glossy "Grey County 2014 Year In Review" under the section "What the public has to say . . ." that was sent out to all ratepayers. Here is what I said – "I love the rocks, rivers, old roads/hills and spectacular scenery in Grey County and the new County logo graphic captures how I feel. It looks like Skinner's Bluff where I often play my bagpipes. It's forward looking, sitting on a firm foundation and it reminds me that we are a proud, strong people moving ahead each year in abundant ways. Go Grey County Grow!" signed R. Keith Davidson.

I have a big concern about the lack of grass cutting on our scenic road the past few years. Last year the County only cut the grass ONCE – the weeds and grass were higher than me (6ft.) before it was cut. This year the grass was not cut until the first day of the summer solstice June 21st. – the grass and weeds were up to the bottom of mail boxes before it was cut – the grass was never cut in the spring, the highest grow time. To-day is August 16 almost 2 months since the grass was last cut and we do not have a scenic road the way it should be because the grass, the tumble weeds, the wild carrot and chicory are up away over our knees.

Last Feb./March I had 3 letters to your predecessor Michael Kelly about grass cutting and copied them to Warden Barfoot. The letters are probably still on file. Mr. Kelly was open and transparent which I appreciated. His mantra was safety on Grey Roads but he could care less about scenic beauty on our road i.e. grass/weed cutting. Me – I see safety first but housekeeping on the road is very important too. Grey County tells everybody to keep Grey County beautiful which we do but they don't practice what they preach – they only cut the grass on the verge once a year! I tried to convince Mr. Kelly of throwing his policy of treating all the 800 km of roads the same re the number of times a year they are cut – I said give "The Scenic Route" roads like Island View Drive special status and cut the grass/weeds at least 4X's a year minimum. If you did this you would not have to use your pulverizing bush hog flail cutter machine that desecrates the verges – instead you could convert back to your old side cutter machine that was used to cut roadside grass for many years – it was 10xs as fast as the flailer (just ask your operators) – the flailer crawls – it is slower than a turtle crossing the road – on June 20th the operator cut the lake side of our road in the morning heading for Wiarton 15 miles away and it took him until Thursday June 24th. at 10 am to come back from Wiarton cutting the grass on the opposite side of the road – OVER 3 DAYS!

I have been cutting the verge on both sides of the road in front of our place and also my neighbors for many years – so have all kinds of other people along I.V.D. – we take pride in making our road neat and nice looking but when the County does not do its share of consistent grass cutting it is discouraging. Canada's 150th Anniversary is next year, 2017. I have been encouraging everybody

along our duly designated Scenic Road to cut their verge and to place a pot of flowers (red/white preferably) in front of their mail box or entrance to celebrate. It will be so sad if The County does not do their part and keep the grass cut on a consistent basis. 30% of our Municipal taxes collected goes to Grey County – we deserve better grass cutting service.

I would appreciate it if I was permitted to attend your monthly Transportation meeting this Thursday and be given 10 minutes under your “new business” section of your agenda. If this is not possible I ask that I be put on the agenda in your September meeting. I would like to know why our grass cutting service has deteriorated so much in the past few years, to encourage you to get your old side cutter out of mothballs, to give scenic roads in The County preferential treatment and to cut the grass at least 4X’s a year minimum.

I have another issue re signs placed at the Kemble Women’s Institute corner on Grey Road 1. For close to 20 years now I have been making big signs for our community events i.e. Pumpkin Chuckin’ (now gone), Kemble Maple Syrup Tour, Easter Morn Church Service Big Bay, Art In The Garden at Kepple Croft, IVDARA Chili Cook-off etc. I only leave them up Monday to Saturday and the corner is a perfect place to communicate with everybody in our neck of the woods. I have a problem – the past several months an operator with the County now takes my signs down as soon as they are put up and then lays them on the ground. I am asking that I be given a special exemption to put these community signs up maximum 6 days. If this request can’t be granted maybe The County would consider installing a tall post in the vicinity that I can make use of in the future and to tell the employee who has started to take my signs down to leave them standing?

Thanking you for your attention to my request(s). Maybe I can drop in to your office some day and we can have a week chat? I will bring along pictures of our “Scenic Road” with grass and weeds up higher than the guard rails in certain sections – not to embarrass you but to try to show you how nice it would look without them. I am hoping that you will be interested in bringing back our road to it’s long time scenic standard.

Kindest regards,

R. Keith Davidson,
The Kemble Shore



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