



# Committee Report

<b>To:</b>	Warden Milne and Members of Grey County Council
<b>Committee Date:</b>	June 8, 2023
<b>Subject / Report No:</b>	Minor Exemption / PDR-CW-24-23
<b>Title:</b>	Keith Kirk Minor Exemption Application
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Natalie Mechalko
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Scott Taylor
<b>Lower Tier(s) Affected:</b>	Township of Georgian Bluffs
<b>Status:</b>	Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CW83-23; Endorsed by County Council July 22, 2023, per Resolution CC42-23.

## Recommendation

1. That report PDR-CW-24-23, regarding the Keith Kirk minor exemption application, be received, and
2. That the application for a minor exemption under the County's Forest Management By-law for 302126 Grey Road 170, Lots 16, 17, and 18, Concession 11, in the geographic Township of Keppel, Township of Georgian Bluffs, be approved.

## Executive Summary

The County received a minor exemption application to the County's Forest Management By-law in March 2023 to clear a pocket of trees consisting of approximately 1.2 hectares (3 acres) of elm, ash, and buckthorn. This minor exemption is for the clearing of crop land. The County's By-law Enforcement Officer has recommended approval, and there are no outstanding public or agency concerns. County staff are recommending approval of the minor exemption application.

## Background and Discussion

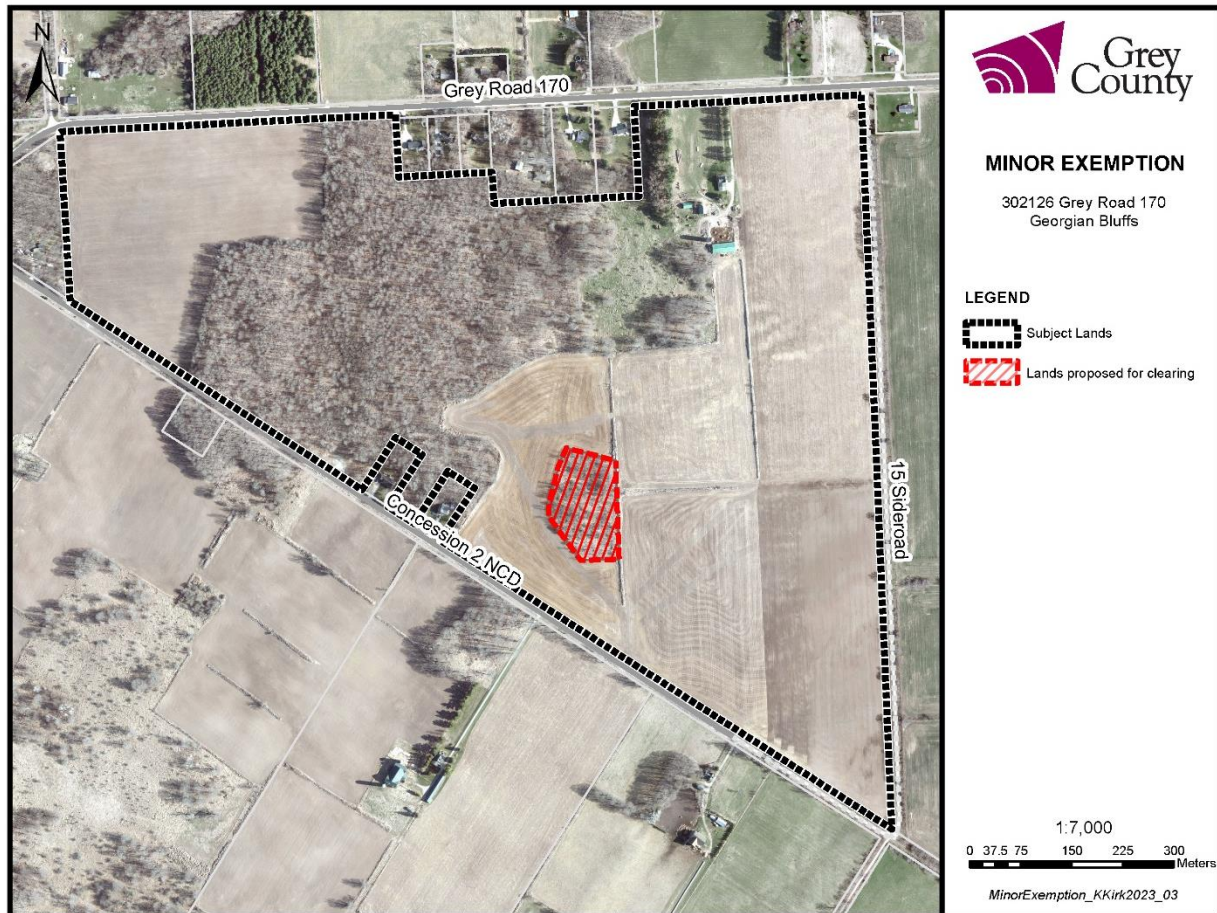
An application for a minor exemption was received for clear-cutting under the County's Forest Management By-law.

The subject lands are located at 302126 Grey Road 170, Lots 16 – 18, Concession 11 in the geographic Township of Keppel, Township of Georgian Bluffs. The lands have frontage on Grey Road 170, Concession 2 NCD and 15 Sideroad. In total, there are 21 hectares of woodlands on

this property and the property is 73 hectares in size. Portions of the property are currently farmed. Only 1.2 hectares of woodlands are proposed to be cleared through this minor exemption, and this pocket is separated from the other woodlands on-site.

Owen Sound is located approximately 11.5 kilometres to the southeast of the subject property. Surrounding the subject lands are a mixture of farmed and forested lands, with some non-farm residential lots.

In the County Official Plan, this property is designated as 'Agricultural' and 'Rural'. Appendix B to the Plan identifies some Significant Woodlands on the property, but the mapped Significant Woodlands do not include the 1.2 hectares proposed to be cleared. Appendices A and E also map karst topography and bedrock on the subject lands.



## Map 1 – Forest Clearing Request

### Agency and Public Comments Received

Under the Forest Management By-law, adjacent landowners, conservation authorities, Municipal, and County staff are to be notified and/or consulted when an application is received.

## Public Comments

No public comments were received during the processing of this application.

## Agency Comments

The Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA), the Township of Georgian Bluffs, and the County's Forestry By-law Enforcement Officer provided comments on this application. Georgian Bluffs and GSCA have no objection to the application.

The Forestry By-law Enforcement Officer has no concerns with the application as *“a lot of the elms are dead or dying, the ash will be gone at some point, and there is considerable buckthorn in the understory.”*

County staff are recommending approval of the minor exemption application.

## Legal and Legislated Requirements

The application will be processed in accordance with the County's Forest Management By-law.

## Financial and Resource Implications

At this time, there are no expected financial or resource considerations beyond those normally encountered in processing a Minor Exemption application. The County has received an application fee with the file.

## Relevant Consultation

- Internal: Planning and Grey County By-law Enforcement Officer
- External: Township of Georgian Bluffs, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, and the public.

## Appendices and Attachments

*None*