

July 17, 2014

Mr. & Mrs. C. Steele
633740 Artemesia/Glenelg Townline
RR 2
Priceville ON N0C 1K0

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Steele:

Re: Proposal to Paint Parking Spaces on Main Street

Thank you for your correspondence dated June 18, 2014 on the above noted subject which Council reviewed at the July 14, 2014 meeting.

In principle, your proposal was supported by Council. Staff were directed to initiate discussions with the County of Grey. A copy of this letter and your proposal is being forwarded to the County for their review.

Thank you for your support and commitment to finding solutions for the downtown core of Markdale.

Yours truly,



Debbie Robertson, AMCT
Clerk/Director of Council & Legislative Services

C: D. Best, CAO
C. Cornfield, Director of TES
S. Vokes, Clerk, County of Grey (with attachment)
M. Kelley, County Transportation

June 18, 2014

Municipality of Grey Highlands

Re: Proposal to Paint Parking Spaces on Main Street

As the owners of eCulture store located on Main St. West, we have some concerns regarding the recent placement of the large sized tree boxes (the "Boxes") on Main Street in front of the retail businesses. While we appreciate and support the beautification of the downtown core, we have some concerns about how the current placement of the Boxes is affecting our store and surely other stores on the street. We have a suggestion which should ensure that the Boxes remain but do not interfere with the practical business requirements of the local retailers.

Concerns:

The first concern is that the current placement of Boxes is interfering with the ability of patrons to park on the main street. Due to the size of the Boxes, passengers cannot open their doors to exit vehicles when a car is parked beside the Boxes. Therefore, cars are parking in a manner to allow passengers to exit resulting in inconsistent use of the available space and decreasing the amount of cars that can park on the street. Please see the examples below.

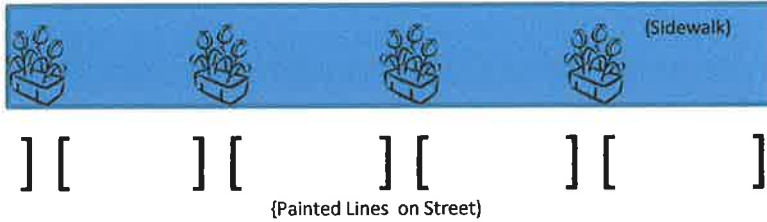


As you can see in the above picture, the vehicles have avoided parking beside the box in order to allow a passenger to exit but there is not enough room for another car to park between them, and if a small car could fit, it likely wouldn't use the space if they have a passenger!

The second concern relates to visibility of street signs that current retailers use as a tool to generate foot traffic into their location. The sandwich boards which are placed on the sidewalk in front of the stores are usually visible from the traffic light which encourages passersby to drop in. The size of the Boxes block the view of these sandwich boards on the sidewalk. In addition to the lack of visibility, there is the safety concern which is raised when you have too many obstructions on the walkway (i.e. the sandwich boards placed in a manner to make them visible in addition to the Boxes)

Proposed Solutions:

We propose that parking spots be painted on both sides of the street to clearly indicate where cars should park. We know that when clearly identified parking spots are painted on streets or in parking lots, drivers will park in those predetermined spots. The boxes would then be placed at the end and beginning (before and after) each parking spot resulting in the optimal use of parking space. (The space between the boxes would equal a parking spot). See diagram below:



With respect to the second concern, we would propose that the sides of the boxes be utilized to display the advertising for the retail locations where relative to where the Boxes are placed. For example, instead of using the sandwich board, a similar board would be tacked to the side of the wooden box which would be clearly visible to passersby by (whether on foot or in vehicles) and reducing the amount of obstructions on the sidewalk thereby increasing safety.

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Yours very truly,

Christopher and Melanie Steele