

# A Message from the Public Works Superintendent

Council passed By-law 2022-03, being a by-law to prohibit landowners from obstructing highways and altering roadside ditches. We invite all landowners to visit our website [www.dawneuphemia.ca](http://www.dawneuphemia.ca), and review the by-law, located under Council & Committees, By-laws and Guidelines, to ensure you are conforming to this legislation, and avoid any potential fines. The by-law will assist landowners to understand what constitutes an obstruction, or alteration. The Township appreciates cooperation from all landowners regarding by-law 2022-03, to ensure the safety of everyone.



## Prevent Crop Loss During Drain Maintenance

All Municipal Drains, which will be receiving maintenance in the form of brushing, or a bottom cleanout, (each require a width for operations, parallel to the drain), a description of the area, as well as a map of the area, are available on the website [www.dawneuphemia.ca](http://www.dawneuphemia.ca).

Notices of Drain Maintenance, with maps, are sent to registered landowners, assessed for costs on these projects.

While Absentee and Investment landowners are emphatically requested in those notices, to inform those renting or share-cropping their lands, periodically, the information does not reach the people who will be most affected.

The timing for most projects is usually from August 1 to November 30, which is the timing window that is approved by The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, The Ministry of Natural Resources and The Conservation Authority, for most projects, which, while not conducive to most crops, can be salvaged somewhat, by planting an alternative, cereal crop for the working strip, parallel to the Drain.

All Municipal Drain Maintenance Projects are Tended, approved by Council, with, historically, some of the lowest costs per project being realized.

If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Paul Dalton during business hours 519-692-5018, or email [roads@dawneuphemia.on.ca](mailto:roads@dawneuphemia.on.ca).

One of the major components of any municipal drain is the culvert which provides access for lands on each side. Culverts or even bridges are very easily overlooked, until major maintenance is required. A single culvert replacement can cost more than it would to clean a mile of open drain. The drainage grant could be applied to reduce agricultural assessment by 1/3 on these projects, when repairs are anticipated.

It is suggested that landowners inspect the culvert/bridges on their lands to assess their condition, and apply for any maintenance, as soon as the requirement for repair is realized. The key component of a culvert is the bottom of the structure. The bottom tends to rust out causing fill to be drawn in during high water flows, leaving an undetectable void. Simply climbing down the bank and looking thoroughly through the structure with a bright light, and inspecting the seams and bottom, will usually give a good indication of any possible problems. Your assistance, and timely Request for Maintenance (form available on website), also helps to avoid having to wait for Approvals from Governing Agencies.

A small amount of effort will help to assist to drain land in the most efficient manner.

# Trees & Roads

Each year, the Township is faced with a large number of dead and dying trees near road allowances. With the assistance of the landowners, Public Works staff continues to remove those trees which pose a huge liability. The removal also helps to make the roadways safer for the traveling public and has proven to reduce power outages. Trees which are scheduled to be cut are marked with an "X". Public Works staff will cut the trees, but it is the landowners' responsibility to remove them. If you have any concerns about these trees or any that are not marked, please do not hesitate to call Public Works. Replacement trees are available for a fee through the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, and landowners may be eligible for a grant. For more information, call the Conservation Authority at 519 245-3710. The Public Works Superintendent also advises landowners to observe caution when planting any trees near road allowances. When planting trees, be sure to take note of the potential growth pattern. A small seedling of the wrong species, or one placed too close to the road, can rapidly encroach into the road allowance which must be kept clear and safe. With adequate notice, the Public Works Superintendent would be pleased to meet with landowners to determine a mutually agreeable planting line. Public Works staff thanks all landowners for their cooperation.



## **DID YOU KNOW LANDOWNERS ARE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGED ROADS?**

This is a reminder to all landowners that they are responsible for damage to roads caused by themselves, or by others working on lands owned by them. All costs associated with correcting any of the offences listed below will be assessed against the offending property owner:

- Snow left on the road;
- Logs left within the roadway;
- Mud left on the roadway;
- Damaged ditches;
- Damage to the surface of any part of the road allowance

Ratepayers must be aware of safety concerns, liability issues, and expenses that are created by these offences.

To help maintain the sense of pride we all share in our tight knit community, your assistance in identifying any problems or concerns that you observe along the roadways will further aid us to keep our municipality safe. Any issues in this regard can be relayed to me directly by calling 519-692-5018 or by email at [roads@dawneuphemia.on.ca](mailto:roads@dawneuphemia.on.ca).



Thank you

The Fall of 2021 was definitely the most challenging from the far, far reaches of my memory, but absolutely for our farmers to harvest and convey their crops. Mud, mud and more mud coated everything. Inevitably, of course it ended up on the roadway. But, as a testament to (most) of the good people who live and work in our community, those same farmers took steps to remove that mud from the road, returning it to a safer passage for all. Our gratitude to those great people is immeasurable.

There were, however, a few instances of the opposite, which is something, that while unfathomable in these days of such liability awareness, we dealt with, upon our residents making us aware of the situation. Please let us know at any time that there is a scenario which will impose dangerous situations to others. It is our duty, and our pleasure to ensure that all of our residents enjoy safe passage on our roads, stated to be some of the best roads in the Province. *Many Thanks, Paul Dalton, Public Works Superintendent.*