

# Summer Village of Birchcliff

## Road Closure Bylaw #246-23



Greetings from Council.

A public hearing was held on July 20, 2023 regarding the Road Closure Bylaw #246-23. This letter should help to clarify Council's decision to sell RA5.

### **Background**

There are two long term trends affecting the way in which we fund capital projects. In 2016, the Province downloaded Family and Community Support Services charges onto municipalities and in 2019 began the transfer of RCMP service costs. Last fall, the Province announced that it would cut Municipal Sustainability Initiative funding by 60%. The cumulative effect from the above over the next four years will result in a reduction of \$500,000 in available reserves for use on capital projects for our village.

*(source: 2022 winter newsletter and open council meetings)*

Birchcliff intends to reduce shoreline erosion through restoring/armoring its shoreline and addressing overland flooding.

*(source: 2022 winter and 2023 spring newsletters 2021,2022,2023 Annual Information Meetings and open council meetings)*

Administration was directed by Council to provide a Reserves Policy to help maintain and manage reserve funds and work with Council to establish minimum levels for designated funds to ensure stable service delivery, meet future needs, and protect against financial instability.

*(source: February 16,2023 open council meetings)*

Public support for an additional walkway and bridge in OS8 near the entrance to the church camp and potential trail in behind Birch Lane.

*(source: 2022 Annual Information Meeting and open council meetings)*

Municipal Sustainability Initiative funding provided by the Province for capital funding stayed flat at \$67,798. During the 2021 budget, we created an infrastructure reserve and committed to increasing municipal funding by \$130,000 over 4 years to help pay for capital projects including road maintenance and resurfacing, shoreline restoration, and open space plans. In 2022, we raised 46,500 and in 23 we are poised to raise 60,000 and are well on our way meeting the objective. While the prudent management of our capital reserves may be enough to manage year to year capital projects such as road resurfacing and maintenance over the long term it will not be enough to fund larger projects.

*(source: 2023 spring newsletter)*

The financial requirement from the above background is conservatively estimated at \$1,200,000.

- Reserves Policy \$400,000 (financial reserves from \$600,000 to \$1,0010,000)
- Shore Line Restoration \$500,000 TBC
- Open Space Improvements \$300,000 TBC
- Overland Flooding TBD
- Estimated \$1,200,000

### **Council's Decision**

Council's opinion of the options included and were not limited to borrowing @ 5%, raising municipal taxes (currently \$370,000), do nothing or sell RA5.

RA5 has been marked for potential sale in Birchcliff's Open Space Master Plan which was adopted in March 2014. There are two other lakefront lots that have the option to potentially be sold. RA5 does not currently have any access for the public and the possibility for future public use is limited due to the location and topography of the lands. It is for these reasons that the lands were marked for potential sale in 2014.

Council has directed administration to prepare for the potential closing and selling of these lands. RA5 (between 103 & 109 Birchcliff Road).

On July 20th Council adopted the new reserves policy and gave 1st reading to the Road Closure Bylaw #246-23.

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