

July 18, 2026

Mayor and Members of Council

Township of North Kawartha

Re: Request for Year-Round Municipal Maintenance of the Unassumed Portion of Julian Lake Road

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

We are writing as year-round residents and taxpayers of the Township of North Kawartha regarding the unassumed portion of Julian Lake Road, beyond the section presently maintained by the Township, leading to the public access point at Big Cedar Lake.

First, we wish to express our appreciation for the work undertaken by Council and Township staff on behalf of all residents. We recognize the many competing priorities involved in maintaining municipal infrastructure and providing services across a large rural municipality. It is in that spirit of cooperation that we respectfully ask Council to re-classify the current “seasonal maintenance” portion of Julian Lake Road to year-round maintenance.

Although this final section of roadway is not presently maintained by the Township to the same standard as the assumed portion, it has, over many years, evolved into far more than a private access road serving four neighbouring properties on Fire Route 38.

Throughout every season—including the winter—the road is used extensively by members of the public who park at its end to access Big Cedar Lake. In the winter, snowmobiles use the landing as an access point for the trails. As well, the general public come to walk on the frozen lake, people snowshoe, skate, ice fish, and enjoy the natural beauty of the area. During the warmer months, the road similarly serves as an access point for island owners, and is popular for boaters, paddlers, fishermen, and public enjoyment of the lake.

On many weekends and holidays, year-round, numerous vehicles are parked at the end of the road while members of the public enjoy recreational access to Big Cedar Lake. This level of public use has become a regular and familiar occurrence rather than an occasional event.

In practical terms, this portion of Julian Lake Road now functions as a public access road to one of North Kawartha's valued recreational lakes. However, the financial burden for winter maintenance of this section of roadway falls entirely upon the owners of only four neighbouring properties on Fire Route 38.

Throughout the year, we find ourselves undertaking or arranging maintenance to ensure that the road remains safe and passable—not only for ourselves, but also for emergency vehicles, delivery services, utility providers, visitors, and the many members of the public who use this access point. During the winter, this includes privately funding snow clearing so that the road remains usable for everyone.

This creates a continuing imbalance whereby the financial and practical responsibility for maintaining a roadway that serves an important public function falls almost entirely upon four neighbouring property owners, while the benefits of that maintenance are enjoyed by the broader public. It is this imbalance that we respectfully ask the Township to reconsider.

As year-round residents, we contribute municipal taxes throughout the year and are proud to call North Kawartha our home. We recognize that the payment of municipal taxes does not, in itself, determine which roads are assumed by the Township.

However, where a roadway has evolved into an established public access serving the wider community, we believe it is appropriate to reconsider whether responsibility for maintaining that access should likewise become a public responsibility.

There is also an important matter of public safety.

A roadway maintained to a consistent municipal standard benefits not only neighbouring residents but also emergency responders, utility providers, municipal operations, and the many members of the public who access Big Cedar Lake throughout the year. Safe, reliable access is in the interests of everyone who uses this roadway.

We respectfully suggest that the central issue is not simply whether one section of Julian Lake Road is technically assumed while another is not.

Rather, Julian Lake Road today functions as a single continuous roadway leading to a recognized year-round public access point on Big Cedar Lake. The distinction between the assumed and unassumed sections is largely administrative, yet the standard of maintenance changes abruptly midway along a road that serves the same residents and the same public destination.

Communities evolve, and so too does the role of their infrastructure. Roads that may once have served only a small number of seasonal cottages can, over time, become important public access routes used throughout the year. We respectfully believe that Julian Lake

Road now functions in precisely this way and that its maintenance should reflect its present-day role within the community.

To assist Council in understanding the extent of this public use, we have included photographs with this letter illustrating the level of activity at the end of Julian Lake Road during both the winter and summer months. These photographs show the many vehicles regularly parked along the roadway while members of the public access Big Cedar Lake for a variety of seasonal recreational activities. They demonstrate that this is not occasional use but rather a long-established pattern of significant public activity throughout the year.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that Council undertake a review of the current arrangement and consider assuming responsibility for the year-round maintenance of the remaining “limited maintenance” portion of Julian Lake Road, extending to the public access point on Big Cedar Lake, so that it is maintained to the same standard as the existing municipally maintained portion of Julian Lake Road.

We recognize that this may require administrative review and planning. Nevertheless, we believe it is an appropriate opportunity for the Township to align its maintenance responsibilities with the way this roadway is actually used today.

We respectfully request the opportunity to meet with Council to address this matter further at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request and for your continued service to the residents of North Kawartha.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Friend,

Siamak Hariri,

Sasha Hariri,

Donald Linders,

Janice Linders,

Cheryl Peck,



Summer weekend, 6 vehicles parked. One backed in with a trailer.



Winter day, 3 vehicles parked, one with a trailer



Recent Summer weekend, 6 vehicles parked, 2 with trailers