

May 15 2025

Ambrose Moran

Members of North Kawartha Council and Staff

Re: Possibility of establishing Community Brush Depots(CBD)

Tuesday of this week was the Provincial Day of Action on Litter which I understand was supported by the Township of North Kawartha.

Climate change is becoming more of a reality every year with the frequency and intensity of storm damage. An emerging associated issue is the need to explore and implement a practical, cost effective environmentally friendly methodology for disposal of brush from private and public properties and all roadways and trails.

The current suggested municipal arrangement for North Kawartha ratepayers to individually transport brush to municipal and county transfer stations is only practical for those located close by to such facilities.

The volume of brush material needing immediate attention is immense. The 2022 derecho storm was more targeted, but the recent ice storm affected the entire township. Some initial progress has been made cleaning up properties.. but from what I have observed ...the bulk of the work is yet to be done. Many property owners have not yet returned for the season to assess the scope of required cleanup. Some work is still ongoing and outstanding from the derecho storm in 2022.

It is likely that the ice storm brush disposal activity will go on for several years and likely further storms will overlap the work. We need to work together as relying on the business-as-usual approach is not an option.

There is a need to explore practical options for brush disposal to accommodate the challenges being faced by property owners.

It is noteworthy that many municipalities are offering roadside brush pick up to property owners for a limited period to assist ratepayers in brush disposal. This is

not what I would propose under our circumstances as the cleanup will likely be an ongoing requirement.

Comments on NK Existing Municipal approach to Brush

- Using the Jack Lake community in the area of the FR 50 series of private roads, it is simply not practical to expect ratepayers to transport bulky brush to Anstruther Transfer station or County depots.
- Even if a small percentage of neighborhood brush was taken to the Anstruther transfer station..it would quickly overwhelm the facilities which it is apparent already do not have capacity to accommodate. I understand from media reports that County brush depots are being closed as they can not accommodate the arrival of unexpected large volumes of brush.
- It is not cost effective to pay transport cost for bins of the bulking brush to Peterborough and pay for return the empty bins.
- Considerable manpower and equipment resources are currently being allocated to brush activity at North Kawartha transfer stations.
- Chipping brush in Peterborough is not as cost effective or environmentally as sensible as chipping closer to the source.
- In the absence of close by disposal facilities (CBD)... considerable brush will continue to be deposited along public and private roadsides... on municipal private and crown lands.. negatively affecting the aesthetics of our area and contributing to forest fire hazards

Initial suggestion for consideration by Council and Staff

- Community Brush Depots (CBD)_ be explored based on request from communities (permanent or temporary depending on activity)
- Property owners be responsible for getting their private property and private roadside brush to CBD

- Township undertake to have brush chipped at CBD by private sector contractors.. WHICH I SENSE WILL BE COST EFFECTIVE COMPARED TO TRANSPORTING BULKY BRUSH TO PETERBOROUGH FOR CHIPPING
- Clarification be obtained relative to apparent joint roles of Municipal and County government related to waste management/recycling roles and responsibilities.
- Clarification be obtained from the Province on any regulatory considerations and required changes or applicable exemption related to COAs regulations.
- That as a prototype approach.. that NK authorize the chipping of brush deposited on the Jack Lake roadside ditch north and west of Fire Route 52 which was utilized to dispose of some area brush including private roads and municipally owned properties on FR 52.

Summary

Having reviewed the public notices of the Ministry of Environment related to Provincial Day of Action , the forgoing suggestions and request is consistent with their objective to:

- Prevent and reduce litter in Ontario.
- Reduce and prevent and divert waste and litter. .keeping it out of our landfills and away from natural spaces.

I and other are looking forward to a positive response from Council.

Ambrose Moran

cc list CBD-1