

August 17, 2024



Municipality of Temagami  
7 Lakeshore Drive  
Temagami, Ontario  
POH 2H0

Attention Members of Council & Staff:

**Re: Fox Run Road condition**

I am submitting this letter (to accompany the "Request Services and Complaint Form) regarding the past and current physical state of **Fox Run Road** for your consideration and formal response. Having operated our own business for 30+ years and managed a public transportation facility for 14 years I am well aware of the importance of prudent fiscal responsibility especially when managing public funds.

My wife [REDACTED] & I purchased property on Fox Run (Cassells Lake) in 2014 and prior to that we camped in Finlayson Point Park for the past 30+ years so we have grown to love and respect the natural resources this area has to offer. We commenced construction of our retirement home on Fox Run in [REDACTED] and moved here permanently in October [REDACTED]

While we consider our property taxes here to be very high (approximately 5 x's higher than what we paid for our 800-acre farm in the New Liskeard area) we accepted these rates given it is lake front property and we had a **hard surfaced road** to access our home. As such, we thought we would no longer have to contend with dust, dirty vehicles and punctured tires that come with living on a gravel road!!!

We have attended a number of Temagami council meetings (over the past year) regarding our road and have waited patiently for council to make the right decision to finish what they started by re-surfacing Fox Run. It appears however, that we have been passed over yet again for higher priority budgetary items within the municipality. Hence, I am submitting my observations and questions regarding this Fox Run debacle as follows:

**Observations**

1. At the time the hard surface of Fox Run was torn up it was generally in good condition except for the 800-meter (+-) section between the Hydro One sub-station and Net Creek Road. This section had been significantly damaged by the company "PowerTel" during completion of a major capital project (July 2018 – October 2019) on the power line grid heading north from the sub-station along Net Creek Road. They travelled this section of

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- Fox Run with heavy equipment etc during this period resulting in significant damage to its hard surface.
2. Other than the aforementioned section, there were spotty sections on Fox Run that had small pot holes which were easily repaired with a relatively inexpensive cold patch asphalt mix. Having maintained Highway #11 in a previous career I am familiar with repairing pot-holes using this method and if it is suitable to repair a major Trans Canada highway it certainly would have been fiscally & operationally prudent to continue this practice on Fox Run until funds were available to re-surface it entirely.
  3. To my knowledge, there was minimal (if any) consultation with rate payers on Fox Run prior to commencing culvert replacement, ditching and tearing up the hard surface of our road a couple of years ago. When we asked municipal staff about this work being completed, we were told it was in preparation for re-surfacing Fox Run which would be in keeping with a capital project of this nature. Fast forward to present day and we still have to live with the dusty, dirty, rough road conditions not to mention frequent tire repairs from the granular surface with no apparent date or plan to finish this project.
  4. During our attendance at a council meeting this past year when a number of Fox Run rate payers expressed concerns about our road being replaced by a sub-par gravel surface, we were told by members of council that people living on Lake Temagami islands etc have to travel on a gravel road (Temagami Access Road) every day. My understanding is that road has never been hard surfaced therefore was in it's current condition when people purchased these properties. That is not the case for most of us who own property on Fox Run.

**Questions:**

1. The obvious question is whose decision was it/who authorized tearing up Fox Run and why?
2. Were Fox Run rate payers consulted/notified of this pending project? I don't recall receiving any correspondence or consultation.
3. Were there financial resources available to resurface Fox Run at the time the decision was made to tear it up? If so, why are there insufficient funds to complete this project at present?
4. With respect to question #3 above, if there were not sufficient funds to resurface the resurfacing of Fox Run, why was it torn up?
5. If there weren't sufficient funds to re-surface the entire road were there ever any discussions regarding re-surfacing the worst sections (ie the aforementioned 800 meters between the Hydro One sub-station and Net Creek Road) and continue filling pot holes on the remaining sections?
6. What are the current annual maintenance costs of Fox Run (gravel resurfacing, grading, calcium applications etc) vs previous maintenance costs when it was a hard surface?
7. Has the municipality pursued Hydro One and or PowerTel for damages to Fox Run as a result of the 2018/19 project?

8. With respect to questions 1-5 above, what accountability is there for those individuals (Council, Staff etc) who made the decision to proceed with tearing up the hard surface on Fox Run if funds weren't available to re-surface it?
9. Where do we go from here? What are the next steps, time lines etc to re-surface Fox Run Road?

There needs to be accountability for the service reduction, decreased quality of life and property de-valuations of Fox Run rate payers. I am requesting a formal response to my observations and questions at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted!



[Redacted signature]

Temagami, Ontario  
POH 2H0

[Redacted address]