



The Corporation of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: December 9, 2024

Subject: SRW.2024.18 Drainage Complaint – Les MacDonald

Report from: Scott McLeod, Public Works Manager

Appendices: Appendix A – Site Pictures

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council hereby,

1. Receive Report SRW.2024.18 Drainage Complaint – Les MacDonald; and
2. That Staff be directed to provide a letter to Mr. MacDonald acknowledging receipt of the concern and the works completed by municipal staff.

Report Summary

The intent of this report is to provide Council with further information in relation to a drainage complaint heard by Council at the November 12, 2024 Council meeting.

Background

At the November 12, 2024, Council meeting, Mr. Les MacDonald delegated to Council regarding drainage concerns that he had with his property that he felt were created due to work being completed on the municipal ditch system.

Council referred the matter back to Staff to further investigate and bring back a report to provide Council with additional information on the concerns raised.

Analysis

The subject property is located at Part Lot 34, Concession 12 East Arran. Staff received a complaint in 2023 that the ditch at this location was filled in by the municipality and water was unable to get away from the property.

In June of 2023, Public Works Manager Scott McLeod and staff met with Mr. MacDonald on site to discuss his concerns. Following the site meeting, the Municipality hired an excavator to complete 210 feet of ditching at the location to address Mr. MacDonald's concerns.

In May of 2024, Mr. MacDonald began contacting the Municipality again raising similar concerns and indicating that the ditch that was dug was partially on his property. Staff revisited the site and did not see conditions that would prevent water from draining from the property. They also confirmed that the ditch cleanout that took place in 2023 was on municipal property.

Staff have since received several communications from Mr. MacDonald and had conversations with him regarding the situation, which was not to his satisfaction. Following Mr. MacDonald's delegation, staff visited the location again and reviewed the actions taken since the initial complaint. Staff note the following observations regarding the property that could be contributing factors to the poor conditions:

- Due to the elevations and slope of the land, six acres of the land are draining towards the road or the front of the property. Currently, there is no tile drainage installed to properly drain the lands for optimal growing conditions. If tile drainage were to be installed, it **would not** be permitted to outlet into the municipal ditch. The purpose of the municipal ditch system is to divert road runoff, which is working effectively in this location. Municipalities are only obligated to dig ditches deep enough to handle the surface water off their own roads. Roadside ditches are built to resolve the road's drainage problems, not those of the adjoining properties.
- Staff note that there is a 17-inch diameter culvert approximately 20 feet east of the property line which is clear of debris and allowing water to pass through, under the roadway, into the ditch on the opposite side of the road.

The attached pictures provide a visual of the site and show the condition of the ditch, culvert and the elevation and slope of the lands.

Based on a review of the location, and the work that has already been completed, staff do not have any further concerns with drainage at this location. Staff would like to highlight that the purpose of the municipal ditch system is not to drain adjacent properties, but to collect and channel surface water from the roadways.

Staff recommend that a letter be forwarded to Mr. MacDonald noting that Council has reviewed the concern raised and approve of the works that have been completed by Municipal Staff to address the situation.

Link to Strategic/Master Plan

6.1 Protecting Infrastructure, Recreation and Natural Assets

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding/Link to Procurement Policy

Not Applicable.

Approved by: Emily Dance, Chief Administrative Officer