

Victoria Street Road Allowance – Lakeshore to the Water

Rebuttal of Helmut Hock & Cathy Howell request to purchase.

Responding on behalf of:

1. Ourselves
2. Our Neighbours
3. Residents of the Town who walk Lakeshore to enjoy its ambiance
4. Visitors to Thornbury who stop to enjoy the view of the water
5. Maintenance of water access paths originally created by the Town planners

Living directly across from this road allowance, we observe many residents and visitors stopping to view the water and some venture down the road allowance for a better look. We use the road allowance ourselves for access to the water for kayaks and paddle boarding as do some others in the area.

In 1998 the Town sold enough land to the neighbours on either side of the road allowance to create a 5 foot border to their home to conform to bi-law side clearances and provide room for maintenance. This made the sides of the road allowance irregular.

Since we bought our property in 2008 we have been involved with the maintenance of this road allowance, trimming weeds, removing debris, mowing the grass and removing choking vines from the trees to maintain this access to the water. Currently however there has been efforts from one side to plant higher vegetation, in part, to restrict the view & to deter people from coming down to the waters edge. People have been ordered off the area as private property (which it is not)

We objected when the roof structure extending almost to the revised property line was built over the new door on this side of the house but were told by the town that this was not a problem. The only other windows on this side of the house are above eye level on the second floor.

We objected when some cedars were planted on town land to obstruct the view but were told they would grow slowly and be kept trimmed. We were able to persuade the neighbour to remove these cedars approximately 1 month ago.

We also note that our area was effectively excluded from the town drainage study as there was no formal drainage in existence. We currently have water ponding directly across from this road allowance which will need to be addressed in the near future

The strategic plan of the Town of the Blue Mountains stressed healthy lifestyles and maintaining of natural characteristics. This is going exactly opposite. We should not neglect what makes Thornbury unique.

Also based on previous activities we would expect an application to extend the structure for an addition in a few years.

Finally, the selling of some of this road allowance would create a precedent for all the other water access road allowances that could become very problematic to the town.

Doug Hackbart, P.Eng.