

TOWNSHIP OF FRONTENAC ISLANDS
MUNICIPAL ROAD ALLOWANCE POLICY
BRUSHING/TREE TRIMMING/TREE CUTTING

BACKGROUND

The Municipality has a responsibility to maintain its publically travelled roadways and roadside allowances in a safe condition to provide all potential users and that all public entrances and Private, Township intersections are adequately cleared of obstructions and fouling so as to provide improved;

1. Site Lines by removing (vegetation, trees, rocks, stumps) obstructions of vision for the driving public and municipal equipment to all entrance driveways, intersections, curves, hills, and other danger areas.
2. Overhead Clearances for Larger Vehicles by removing (vegetation, trees, limbs) obstructions that may cause damage to large vehicles such as school buses, farm equipment and commercial vehicles.
3. Roadside Clearances for Road Maintenance Equipment to operate safely unimpaired by roadside obstructions during the snow clearing operations.
4. Snow Storage Areas adjacent to the road for the snow that is plowed from the travelled portion of the road surface and the roadside shoulders.
5. Winter Driving Surfaces by opening up the overhead tree canopy and roadside accesses for the natural sunlight to reach the road surface to promote improved melting of the snow / ice pack conditions and in turn reduce the frequency and quantity of sand / salt mix applications and rates.

GENERAL

Council is aware of the need to balance its responsibility to provide safe roads and clear site lines while also maintaining control of the natural vegetation within the road allowances, and still to the greatest extent possible enhance the natural beauty of the area.

The Public Works Department will endeavor to maintain and enhance the road tree stock and associated canopy for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Council recognizes that;

1. there are areas of the municipality that require greater clearing of the municipal road allowances than others as determined by the Ontario
 - o Minimum Maintenance Standards (MMS)
 - o Best Maintenance Practices (BMP)
2. by following proven tree and brush removal method techniques the Township will maximize production of the amounts (areas) cleared for the budget dollars spent.
3. it is important to communicate its intentions to the property owners abutting road allowances that are scheduled for brushing.

Reviewing the following factors to shall determine the municipal Road Section Level Service

- a) Road Classification - Class 3 to 6 – as determined by road type and condition
- b) Road Counts - number of vehicles as determined by average daily driving traffic (ADDT)
- c) Vehicle Types – percentage of trucks/cars using the road

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- d) Speed Limit – posted speed of the road
- e) Design of road

It is the Intent of this Policy to address tree removal, trimming and to develop a brushing program to clear municipal road allowances of brush, shrubs, small trees, large trees and overhanging tree canopy in circumstances where the identified growth could create eminent danger to the traveling public.

Brushing will generally be done in the spring and fall of each year in order that normal snow clearing and summer construction projects are not negatively impacted, however, if staff resources allow, brushing may be carried out in the winter and/ or summer seasons.

In view of the foregoing, Council hereby establishes a tree and brushing removal program using the following;

ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM

1. The Public Works Manager or designate shall be responsible for the planting, care and removal of all trees upon or over highways which are the responsibility of the Municipality. Trees determined to be removed due to condition or health reasons shall be appropriately assessed and documented by qualified staff prior to removal.
2. The Public Works Manager or designate is authorized to trim or cause to be trimmed, all trees on private property, the branches of which extend over Municipal highways, or to remove at the owners expense, trees which in his/her opinion may be hazardous to the public using Municipal highways, provided the owner is given 30 days notice verbally to remove. Where, in the opinion of the Public Works Manager or designate, a tree is dead or partially dead, and is of immediate danger to passerby, the Public Works Manager or designate may undertake the removal without due notification.
3. Approval must be granted by the Public Works Manager or designate where the removal of a healthy tree is being requested by an appurtenant owner for the purpose of providing entrances o private property, for the protection of building or the removal is being requested by a utility for the preservation or construction of tis plant. If, in the opinion of the Public Works Manager or designate, the removal is essential, the person making the request shall pay all costs of removal and reimburse the Municipality for replacement of the trees removed at a rate per planted tree.

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REMOVAL POLICY

1. Municipal road allowances, when deemed a priority for maintenance, shall be cleared of scrub brush up to a diameter of approximately 4 inches (10 centimetres) with a mechanical brush-cutter or by Township Staff with chain saws and chipper.
2. Brush and trees larger than approximately (4) four inches (10 centimetres) in diameter will be removed, at the discretion of the Public Works Manager or designate by one of the following methods
 - a) Township work crews with chain saws and wood-chipper or
 - b) Contracted Tree Cutting Service
3. Dangerous overhead trees limbs and tree canopy encroaching the travelled road surface or shoulder areas that are within;
 - a) 12.5 feet (4 metres) of the road edge
 - b) 20.0 feet (6.4metres) above the road surface shall be removed or trimmed, at the discretion of the Public Works Manager or designate by a Contracted Tree Cutting Service.
4. Debris created by the mechanical brush-cutter clearing method will be cleaned up from,
 - a) The travelled road surface and edge shoulders on the day of the brush clearing.
 - b) The road allowance ditch areas as soon possible after the day of clearing as time and weather permits scheduling of work by the Township Road Staff.
 - c) The cleanup delay is required to provide a safer work environment for workers away from flying debris from the Mechanical brush cutter.
5. Requested Larger tree removals - may be removed by the Township works crew or a qualified contractor(individual or company) with the knowledge, skills and ability to remove the trees with as little damage to the road allowance as possible.

REMOVAL METHODS

- a) Trees not larger than four (4) inches and brush removals - using a township works crew with chainsaw, pruning-saw and wood chipper.
- b) Tree not larger than four (4) inches and brush removals - using a mechanical Brush cutter that cuts, chops, and mulches smaller trees.
- c) Trees larger than four (4) inches using Contracted Tree Cutting Services
- d) Overhead and larger tree canopy removals using Contracted Tree Cutting Services with Bucket Truck.
- e) ITEMS - b) and c) will be followed by township works crew wood chipper, to clean up large debris, shredded limbs and stump grindings soon after the mechanical brusher or Contractor has completed their work.

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- f) Tree and brush removals - using Utility Companies at their expense – (Ontario Hydro, Bell Canada) if trees required to be removed are interfered with or in conflict with overhead utility wires.

REMOVAL NOTIFICATION

The Public Works Manager shall, prepare annually for council review and approval the following:

1. Brushing and tree removal program schedule with a map of areas of the Township road allowances to be addressed, the program will be looked at during the yearly Facilities Tour
2. Prepare a schedule of work to ensure that all of the road allowances are brushed on a rotational basis so that they are maintained to a safe standard.
3. Post the approved brushing and tree removal program schedule with a map on the municipal website

PROHIBITED ACTIONS

No member of the Public shall damage, cut, transplant any tree, attach any rope, wire, nails, advertising signage or other contrivance to any tree on Municipal property.

MUNICIPAL TREE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The Township recognizes the value in a Municipal Tree Replacement Program and the Public Works Manager or designate is authorized to plant trees upon Corporation highways.

The Township will endeavor to replace for every tree removed from Municipal Level 3 Highway, at least one tree will be planted within one (1) year of the removal.