



Algonquin Highlands, Ontario

August 26, 2024

Statement Regarding Ongoing Issues at Maple Lake

Council wishes to provide an update with respect to the ongoing matter of private individuals restricting or attempting to restrict the public's use of shoreline road allowances. At this time the matter is still before the Courts where the Township is seeking injunctive relief as it relates to the obstruction or occupation of portions of shoreline road allowances around Maple Lake.

As noted in previous statements on the matter extensive research by legal professionals and Ontario Land Surveyors has confirmed the land in question is a municipal shore road allowance. All road allowances, including shoreline road allowances within the geographical jurisdiction of the Township of Algonquin Highlands are, as per Section 28(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, under the ownership and jurisdiction of the municipality except where they have been closed and conveyed in accordance with applicable legislation.

To date those seeking to hinder public access over the subject lands through claims of private ownership have not provided any credible documentation to support their position. This has regrettably led to substantial misinformation circulating throughout the community and social media.

Council remains committed to protecting the public's right to access Township land. Council continues to pursue the matter through the Courts and in doing so is exhausting significant Township resources to protect public access over Township property. Unfortunately limited information can be released to the public at this time given the matter is still before The Ontario Court of Justice, as well as the Superior Court of Ontario.

If members of the public feel harassed or threatened at any time while accessing this property, they are encouraged to contact the Haliburton Highlands OPP, who are aware of the ongoing issues.