

Letter for October 7, 2011 Meeting:

It has come to the attention of Township residents that our council has decided to discontinue the extrication services in our area.

This is of grave concern as we have had many serious accidents in our area. It is my understanding that this service will not be available for any accident on Township roads. Given the fact that we are a part of Canada's Highway 17 and we have not only residents but individuals traveling to and from work (keep in mind the logging trucks on our roads), tourism such as boaters, snowmobilers, ATV's, fishing and hunting, we feel it is in the best interests of the Township to keep this important service.

The Township seems to be concerned about insurance and accidents on our stretch of Highway 17; however, you can be rest assured that if an accident requiring the jaws of life occurs and the Township does not have the service available because our council chose to opt out, there could be huge lawsuits. For the price to pay being \$800.00 per year, it is a very very small price to pay to save someone's life. If you or a loved one required the jaws of life and it was not available because of the fact that our council chose to opt out, what would you do?

As a retired OPP officer I have seen first hand not only the seriousness but the trauma from every accident imaginable. This is a necessary and required service; especially in our remote area. I have had a conversation with Mike Nolan the head coordinator for the Renfrew County Paramedic Association and he strongly shares my opinion on this issue. Also, I have spoken with the Gene Thompson, Fire Chief in Deep River and he is of the same opinion...keep this viable service. You have to key individuals supporting to keep the extrication.

I request that the council take another serious look at this issue and reconsider its position and apply common sense to this situation.

Clayton McKechnie