



July 3 2018

Dear Councillors of The United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria,

As we were away during the last council meeting in June we began reviewing the documentation of that meeting afterwards. We were quite shocked of some of the things we read pertaining to local businesses.

We do not understand why during any discussions of the Algonquin trail that my tax rate would come up in conversation. Let alone publish that in corresponding media sources. How does that have to do with anything concerning the Algonquin trail? We would like this question discussed and answered. We feel this was a direct attack on local businesses for some reason that is becoming quite clear. We never dreamed that buying a small business and trying to support a family would come down to attacks every other week against my way of making a living. Why is this going on?? We were informed that when a few local businesses were turned over with new owners 15 years ago, council asked them what they can do to help them be successful. Where has this open arms support gone?

We also read that the commercial businesses pay the same tax "rate" as residential and that the understanding that we pay a commercial rate is just not true. The truth of the matter is we pay considerable more in taxes as a whole. The tax rate may be the same but as campgrounds have considerable infrastructure that we pay a lot more in taxes. We are taxed based on service lot as well as buildings. We have 7 cottages, 32 campsites and many outbuildings that are all taxed. We are taxed a lot more than a basic residential property. **THIS IS A FACT.** We know that in media sources it does say "tax rate" but let's be more clear and honest exactly what the truth is. Why are we not being honest???? It is quite sad to read this as it specifically puts a rift towards our business which has been here for over 50 years.

We are still at a loss why local businesses keep getting attacked, it's like if we don't agree with policy, let's review an existing policy and hurt the businesses that might ask questions. Let's talk about garbage, the unbelievable achievement that our business has made in diverting recycling and garbage has gone through the roof. We bring truckloads upon truckloads of recycling to the dump in which was never required. We have worked hard and our diversion rate has increased every year. The truth of the matter is the statistics are not honest. If we bring in just recycling and not garbage those numbers are never written down. If we use bag tags and drop off recycling, those recycling numbers are never written down. The only time they are written down is if we get a tipping ticket. How can you have a discussion when the numbers don't make sense?? Maybe a report from our dump attendant Bill would be a good idea. We think Bill does an amazing job in regards to our garbage and recycling diversion. He has given us great suggestions to get better and also has mentioned that some of the garbage can in fact be recycled when it is going into a garbage cell. We have a great rapport with him and he is encouraging to better our diversification.

When are we going to say, "Things are good, let's not change anything?" It's like we are in talks with unions and the contract has to be better every time the contract comes up for renewal.

Feeling very frustrated,

Brent and Nicole Allen

Pine Valley Resort



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June 11, 2018

HCM Council Members,

RE: Waste Management Discussion

Prior to any further debate on waste management direction, I would trust my council would make an effort to understand what is working, what is not, why not, and then look at options going forward. Key questions are:

1. Has the existing bylaw achieved the diversion rate targets?
2. How does our municipal diversion rate compare to provincial averages, also taking into account that provincial averages include green bin recycling?
3. What is the residential diversion rate compared to the commercial diversion rate?
4. How do our diversion rates compare to our neighbouring municipalities?
5. If our diversion rates are satisfactory, why mandate the use of clear bags?

Yes it is a fact the local campgrounds are taxed at the same residential tax rate. What is not included in the discussion is the campgrounds are assessed at a higher value because of the buildings and infrastructure required to run the campground. I would like to bring to council's attention that through disposal fees, we paid a 33% surcharge on the municipal portion of our tax levy in 2017. So we have already paid 1/3 more taxes than a house assessed at the same value as this campground. How much is enough?

What is truly astonishing is public consultation on the future of the Algonquin Trail degraded into a convenient excuse to discuss campground property taxes and disposal fees. Even after all these years, it is apparent there are still people in this community that would benefit from much needed education on the economic and social value the commercial businesses bring to the municipality and the region.

We look forward to an informed debate on the matter.

Regards,

Todd Dowser
Morning Mist Resort Inc.