



Working together with our community

Council-In-Committee Meeting – April 12, 2022

Subject: Snooks Drive, Turkey Point – Seasonal Access Restrictions
Report Number: OPS-22-015
Division: Operations
Department: Roads
Purpose: For Decision

Recommendation(s):

THAT Report OPS 22-015 Snooks Drive, Turkey Point – Seasonal Access Restrictions be received as information;

AND THAT Snooks Drive, Turkey Point be fully accessible year round;

AND FURTHER THAT Staff notify and communicate with residents on the street.

Executive Summary:

Dating back to the 1970's and prior to amalgamation, it is understood that the former Township of Delhi Council entered into an agreement with the residents of Turkey Point that would allow them to restrict access to Snooks Drive during the peak vacation season (May 24th weekend to Labor Day).

Staff have received a number of calls and one (1) written submission questioning the status of this seasonal closure. After an investigation into the status of the seasonal closure staff have concerns with a number of aspects and recommends the seasonal closure be terminated.

Discussion:

Snooks Drive is a short, narrow, local street that connects Harold Street and Old Hill Road in the resort community of Turkey Point. It is approximately 100m long and has a narrow-paved surface. There are currently eight (8) residential properties that front on to Snooks Drive.

Historically, the residents in the area have been permitted to restrict access to Snooks Drive during the spring and summer months. This was done by installing cables and checkerboard signage across the width of the road at the intersection of Snooks Drive and Old Hill Road. This essentially changed Snooks Drive to a dead-end street with

access only from Harold Street. Norfolk County staff were never involved with the installation, and this is something the residents did using their own devices.

Staff have a number of concerns with the seasonal closure. The guidelines in Ontario Traffic Manual must be followed when closing any road sections. The present practice followed by the residents does not follow these guidelines and presents a liability to the County in the event of accident. Staff are also concerned that no bylaw can be found permitting the seasonal closure to occur. Lastly the closure of the road section has a negative impact on services such as garage collection and emergency services.

Increased traffic and day trippers to the area have magnified the parking and traffic volume concerns. Visitors typically head north on Cedar Drive from Turkey Point Road in hopes of finding parking within the Provincial Park lot or on the municipal ROW. If there are no spots available, drivers tend to turn left on Old Hill Road assuming they will have an opportunity to turn around and head back south on Cedar Drive. Snooks Drive is the only thru road that connects back to Harold Street off of Old Hill Road. By blocking this access, drivers are forced to either head up Old Hill Road and connect back to Turkey Point Road via Front Road, turn around on private property, or attempt to make a multi-point turn within the ROW. These options aren't ideal and pose safety, liability and logistical concerns.

Ops staff no longer feel that it's appropriate to restrict seasonal access to Snooks Drive. This street was not designed or intended to act as a dead-end street, nor is it signed accordingly. When on Snooks Drive, there is no opportunity to turn around without completing a multi-point turn, or by accessing private property. Traffic volumes have increased in Turkey Point over time and restricting flow through this area also creates congestion at the intersection of Old Hill Road and Cedar Drive.

Financial Services Comments:

There are no direct financial implications of approving the recommendations within this report, as the requirements for signage and maintenance would not change. As mentioned, removing the seasonal access restrictions reduces Norfolk County's liability risk and positively impacts select Norfolk County Services.

Due to the removal of the seasonal access restrictions, there may be additional requests that arise from residents on Snooks Drive. These could include additional signage, increased by-law enforcement, and additional maintenance as required. At this time, these potential costs are unknown but are expected to be minimal and accommodated within the 2022 Approved Levy Supported Operating Budget.

Interdepartmental Implications:

NA

Consultation(s):

Consultation with staff from Risk Management, Clerks, Reality Services, Fire Services, Paramedic Service, Norfolk County OPP and Engineering has occurred.

Strategic Plan Linkage:

This report aligns with the 2019-2022 Council Strategic Priority "Focus on Service".

Explanation: Maintaining full and unobstructed access to Snooks Drive will reduce traffic congestion in other areas of Turkey Point and provide an overall increase to the level of service for the local road network.

Conclusion:

Staff recommends that Council support their decision to no longer permit the seasonal closure of Snooks Drive due to the potential liability of the closure not being aligned with Ontario Traffic Manual. Seasonal closure of Snooks Drive has a negative impact on traffic volume and congestion.

Attachment(s):

- Map of Snooks Drive
- J. Beselaere Letter of Support
- Mr. and Mrs. Rayner Letter of Opposition
- N. De Stefano letter of Opinion

Approval:

Reviewed and Approved by:
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General Manager, Operations

Prepared by:
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