

Township of Georgian Bluffs
Members of Council
177964 Grey Road 18, R.R. #3,
Owen Sound, ON, N4K 5N5

Re: Gordon Sutherland Parkway, north section – designation of new and change of existing “no Parking” areas.

Dear Sirs and Madams,

We reside on the north portion of Gordon Sutherland Parkway and writing today to request your assistance with some dangerous parking conditions along our road, as well as a portion of Indian Acres Rd.

Gordon Sutherland Parkway is also a popular part of the Bruce Trail, which attracts a lot of hikers, dog walkers, snowshoers, etc. year-round. We have definitely seen an increase in traffic over the years, and parked vehicles as a result. Our primary concern, and reason for this request, is the safety of where and how people are choosing to park which is creating some very unsafe and dangerous situations on our roads.

The map attached has stars:

Yellow star: this is one of the bigger areas of concern as cars line up on the road, right at the corner. When turning onto the road, from Indian Acres heading west turning North, it is impossible to see them until you have made the turn. Often times there will be cars side by side - off loading. I was leaving Gordon Sutherland one day, to have a delivery truck turn onto the road and almost hit me head on, as he was trying to avoid rear-ending a car that was parked. If they aren't directly on the road they often park on the opposite side, but often right at the stop sign, not completely off the road.

An example that I wish I had on camera: In August, after a very close near-miss, we were told by a trail member that because it is the Bruce trail, and she pays for a membership she can park on the Bruce Trail - complete failure to recognize that it is a road - and at times a well-travelled road.

Red star: this area becomes a concern in winter as that is where the winter maintenance stops. People then park in the dead end directly in front of our house, and when the groups are large, they will park one behind each other. In the winter it is barely one lane. There have been numerous occasions where we have not been able to get home as the road and our driveway were blocked. The other issue is that when the grader comes to plough, he cannot do his job, or get the space he needs to turn around.

Orange stars: This portion of Indian Acres Road has some existing “No Parking” signage at the crest of the hill – people still park on either side of that, right under the signs, often not off the road completely. This road from the bottom of the hill to Gordon Sutherland Parkway is very blind when travelling either way – in the winter it is also very narrow. This road is heavily travelled by vehicles and gravel pit dump trucks, at high rates of speed.

Blue stars: requested no parking areas

There is some grassy area at the end of the Gordon Sutherland that the Trail people maintain - people can park there, or they can park at the trail staging area at Grey Rd 17 in Benallen - we aren't sure why parking on the road is even an option. We are not trying to interfere with peoples enjoyment of the trail system, we just want where we live to be safe.

We wrote the Bruce Trail Association this summer to get some involvement from them regarding designated parking areas as posted on their website. They (Ron Savage) agreed with our findings and they were going to follow-up with the Township. That was back in August.

They also agreed to remove the designated parking, removing the intersection of Gordon Sutherland and Indian Acres from their website. I do not have access, so I am unsure as to whether or not that has happened.

OUR REQUEST:

- 1. NO PARKING signs installed at the blue stars, eliminating parking in between those points on Gordon Sutherland from the No Winter Maintenance sign to the old Elk farm on both the East and West side of the road, as well as on Gordon Sutherland at the Indian Acres intersection on both the East and West side of the road.**
- 2. Expanded NO PARKING zone on Indian Acres – eliminating parking between the blue stars on Indian Acres Rd on both the north and south side of the road.**

Without No Parking signs there is nothing that can be done from an enforcement or educational perspective. OPP will only get involved if the flow of traffic is completely impeded, and by-law can only enforce by-laws.

I do not want to be the person that turns the corner one day only to find a child getting ready for a hike, out in the middle of the road (it does happen) and not be able to avoid a collision. I will not be able to live with myself if someone were to get hurt or worse.

Thank you kindly for your service and consideration of this request.

Robin and Robert Currie
258954 Gordon Sutherland Pky
Georgian Bluffs, ON

(2) Attachments:

Map with points mapped out.

Copy of email correspondence with The Bruce Trail Organization.

Cc;
B. Anderson,
B. Follis,
R. Savage,
A. Brylowski