

July 06, 2022

To the attention of;

Township of South Stormont  
Mayor Brian McGillis and Councilors,  
2 Mille Roches Rd,  
Long Sault, ON K0C 1P0  
(613) 534-8889

Requested action;

The implementation of a clear cutting by-law

Presented for;

South Stormont General Meeting July 13, 2022

Mayor Brian McGillis and Councilors,

With rising inflation and the demand for raw products, clear cutting has increased as a prominent activity in our area. Without a municipal regulation, mass deforestation has prevailed in much of the local communities. Regretfully, deforestation has become an easy tool to navigate the agricultural and development hurdles imposed by municipal regulations. As obtaining permits and/or assessments are required prior to undertaking agricultural or development work in wooded areas, deforestation and clear cutting does not. Deforestation provides an economically feasible and quick solution to legally by-pass municipal regulations. The vacant lot may lay barren for years before it's turned into agricultural or development land. The money from the lumber sales have come and gone, while the ecosystem is struggling with the new landscape.

I believe we can, and must, do more in terms of responsible forestry management. This is why I am respectfully requesting action be taken in developing, implementing and enforcing a clear cutting by-law.

Implementing forest management guides and practices, at a municipal level, would be a good start in reducing the amount of clear cutting. Understandably, a proper forestry mitigation plan will take time. That said, by making our local, beautiful landscape a priority, we will be taking steps towards its preservation.

As part of the by-law and proper forestry management guide, it is being recommended that conservation authorities be consulted during the clear cutting application process. This would help ensure our rich topography of wetlands, significant waterways and native species/habitat are respected and protected.

Following Bill 68 "Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2016", municipalities have been paying more attention to tree harvesting and have prioritized its regulation. Bill 68 requires all municipalities to adopt and maintain policies to protect and enhance the tree canopy and natural vegetation within their jurisdiction.

As an excellent example of steps towards a better tomorrow, the municipality of North Glengarry passed a clear cutting by-law in 2021. The newly adopted by-law was created to keep in mind best practices related to the management of the tree canopy and natural vegetation. Using it as a template to "get the ball rolling" for a South Stormont by-law would be time and budget conscious.

Granted, it takes time to implement a perfect solution to the clear cutting problem but by-laws have become a handy tool to use to start the conversation on forest management at a municipal level. If we would be able to have a by-law in place, it could be amended overtime to represent our specific biodiverse landscape and habitat.

Please receive my most sincere gratitude to ponder this request. I am available to discuss this matter further, if desired.

In hopes of a favorable outcome, I remain;



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