

Road improvement delays could be costly to Clearview

Township waits on Environmental Review Tribunal to get underway

NEWS May 12, 2017 by [Ian Adams](#) Wasaga Sun



Clearview Township chief administrative officer Steve Sage. - Metroland file photo

A series of road improvements to accommodate the expansion of a gravel pit west of Duntroon remain in limbo.

An Environmental Review Tribunal hearing on a road widening proposal for the 26-27 Sideroad has been put off until October — nearly two years after the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) said no to an application from the township to upgrade the road.


A case status update was held in April.

The sideroad is currently a seasonal road accessible only during the summer. Upgrading the road was one of the conditions on the site plan agreement for Walker Aggregates' Duntroon quarry, along with upgrades to County Road 91 and Nottawasaga Conc. 10.

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The work to County Road 91 was completed last year.

The NEC turned down the permit because the project did not meet the commission's test of 'essential', though NEC planners had supported the application. The NEC's decision has been backed at the tribunal by neighbours and the Blue Mountain Watershed Trust, which has raised concerns about the impact of upgrading the road on nearby fish habitat.

Clearview Township's chief administrative officer Steve Sage said the delay in resolving the issue could be costly, and affect the final cost of road upgrades.

"The longer it's deferred, the more difficult it will be for us to get it completed, and time is money," he said.

Walker also contributed the lion's share of \$10.5 million that's been set aside for road improvements; Sage said there is \$7 million left, which would be used for upgrades to Conc. 10 and 26-27.

The township has a permit to do the work on Conc. 10, but is waiting for the 26-27 matter to be resolved.

"We could start building Conc. 10 tomorrow, but we need to know what the financial implications of 26-27 are," he said. "The entire project has a financial cap. Once we exceed that cap, I will have to go to council for more money. We don't know if we've exceeded the cap yet or not, and the longer it gets delayed, the worse the situation we're in."



by [Ian Adams](#)

Ian Adams is a reporter for Simcoe.com, covering community news and events throughout south Georgian Bay, and municipal councils in Collingwood and Wasaga Beach.

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