

Sent via email June 2 2022

Dear Mayors Amyotte and Martin

I am writing on behalf of Jack's Lake Association in regard to the May 21st storm's aftermath.

First, on behalf of our Board, allow me to thank you both, your respective councils and the townships' employees for your assistance in getting power back up and providing a variety of emergency services. Thanks also for keeping the lines of communication always open at your end. Much appreciated.

This mail is intended to echo the requests that I have received from other lakers. I am reminded in these exchanges of the significant tax base provided by lakers to the townships in exchange for relatively few services, particularly in the wake of this storm. In short, we need help, the sooner the better.

As you know, the storm has left a lot of damage and devastation in its path and Jack Lake was hit particularly hard. Some folks have lost cottages, boats and cars. While some may have escaped major damage, others still have had up to 50 trees fall on their property that require removal. The lake community has united in amazing fashion to help their neighbours with this necessary removal. However, they need your help. In particular:

1. Brush/Slash Disposal Locations and Coordination of Pick Up

Foremost on the minds of lakers is the increasing challenge of disposing of the enormous amount of brush and 'slash" on the ground. Lakers request that the townships organize strategic, convenient locations near or at the end of all roads (including 'private' roads) leading to Jack Lake where people can bring and pile their slash/brush.

Moreover, they need to know that these piles will be picked up and properly disposed of. This is an immediate and growing need. The longer these piles are left unattended, falling into roadside ditches, the greater the risk of fires erupting as this dense material is left to dry. So again, the immediate need is to designate locations to drop slash and brush and also to use Municipal trucks or contractors to systematically pick up material for disposal.

2. Brush/Slash Alternate Location.

Another suggestion is to utilize NKCC's vast parking lot for brush/slash and log drop off. Moreover, this location can be used to allow for industrial type shredders

(sponsored by the townships) that would make short work of the slash/brush material. We ask that you please consider/implement this option in coordinating your assistance plans.

3. Forest Fires

As noted, there is growing concern about the heightened risk of forest fires on both private and Crown lands due to extraordinary number of trees that have fallen creating extreme pile up of logs and heavy brush. All levels of government should be on HIGH alert of the increased risk of forest fires this summer, and we ask that both townships provide lakers with immediate reassurance that they are coordinating with other levels of government and that plans are in place to prevent, mitigate and manage such risks.

4. Warning System

There is considerable frustration that no warning system was in place prior to the storm hitting the area. We ask that the Townships initiate and coordinate with other levels of government some warning system such as those found on golf courses or tornado areas (horns or sirens) so that this type of severe storm never again catching us so off guard.

I will continue to follow up with other suggestions from lakers, but would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest on progress on the above requests.

Thank you for your attention to these issues and looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Alex Kostiw
President, Jack's Lake Association