

## Jessica van den Hof

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**To:** Info  
**Subject:** FW: EHM Ditch/drainage Issues

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**From:** Kim Ramsay  
**Sent:** June 17, 2024 11:52 PM  
**To:** 'Harold MacNeil'  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Re: EHM Ditch/drainage Issues

Good morning Mr. MacNeil,

Thank you for your letter dated May 29, 2024. It has taken some time to gather the information requested for each of the items you've documented, which included the need for site visits in some cases.

You've noted some of these issues have been reported in the past and are long-standing and "put to the side". We have been able to track some of those reports, but in some cases we have no record that they were reported to municipal staff or through the online **Report an Issue** tool. We encourage all residents to use this tool and can assure you that responses will be provided, whether immediate action is required or not.

Please encourage your neighbours to use the tool as well, as we are often not aware of the community concerns if they are not reported. Appropriate action is taken as necessary based on these reports.

<https://www.easthants.ca/report-an-issue/>

To address your specific questions, I offer the following:

**1126 Hwy 2 – Sidewalk safety/replacement – reported as much as three (3) years ago**

- Staff are aware and are working on building a bundle of small repairs of this type along Highway 2 to go to market for repairs

**1375 Hwy 2 – Sidewalk safety/new installation – this has been destroyed since the flood and when will the 30 foot of sidewalk be repaired so walking can be done safely. Not reported previously by me.**

- This is being planned for repairs this summer along with the bundle of work along Highway 2 mentioned above
- Staff attempted a repair in the fall, but were unable to secure a contractor due to the increase in larger jobs from the province after the flood

**Trevor's Lane – Sidewalk safety/replacement – half of sidewalk is destroyed for about 40 feet and unsafe to walk on – reported as much as three (3) years ago**

- There is some stress cracking along one edge in fronting the first civic on the street, but very much safely passable for a low volume location
- Staff are aware residents are used to accessing this area and cutting through undeveloped private property. However, that private property is now being developed and no longer available as a walking route

**Ashford Place – gravel on curb should be removed – reported as much as three (3) years ago. I have walked by EHM Staff mowing the grass on the street and one employee in the truck when a bucket and shovel and 20 minutes would clean gravel up. The three years of snow plowing has not removed, so some departments needs to do. I would do if I lived on that street.**

- There is no issue with Ashford Place as June 7<sup>th</sup>. No significant amount of gravel was found.



- There is no Municipal service level for street sweeping on Municipal roads, outside of the Elmsdale Business Park.

**I have used the Roads Application to report the issues identified and the observations have not been actioned for over three years. A database should be generated from reports so a contractor can look to see work flow or report is dormant: feedback is necessary and not part of the online process presently.**

- The online App has been active since mid-2022 and a database is generated and monitored closely

#### **Acorn Avenue and local street ditches/drainage**

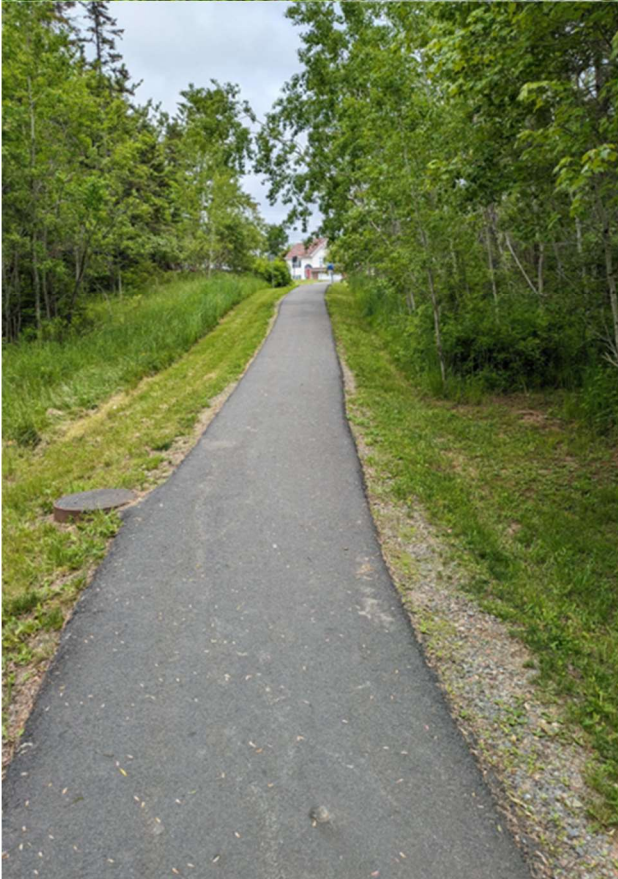
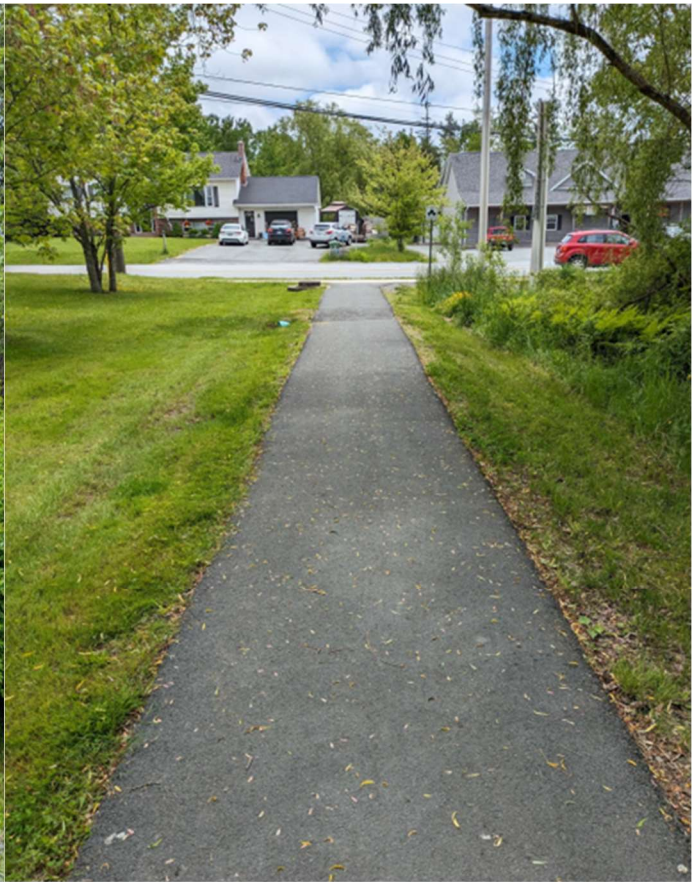
**The recent and very much welcomed roadway paving project has slate rock at each end of the Frederick Allen/Acord Avenue and Poplar Drive/Karla Dawn Drive roadway ditch for the pipes vice precast concrete culverts. I note that the fire hydrant on Frederick Allen Drive, nearest Hwy 2 has precast concrete culverts. What is the standard, slate rock or precast concrete culverts and I would be concerned if street corners was not equal to or better than a fire hydrant installation.**

- Culverts should have precast concrete at each end. For those that do no, staff will work to update to the latest standard at time of asset renewal
- Retrofitting mid-lifespan is not recommended

**There is a half uprooted/falling over tree along the Ashford Place to Hwy 2 path way that should be removed. If on EHM property should be cut down to ensure the root does not fall back into original place and injure someone playing in the area. A safety issue so being reported.**

- The trees do not appear to be on East Hants Municipal property, nor do they appear to pose a risk to the public. Trees are leaning hard towards the adjacent property which is highly wooded
- The walking path is clear with only a couple of overhanging trees that appear to be well rooted





**Acorn Avenue – the homeowners of the street requested in a letter of 24 May 2021 that the ditches be maintained and this still remains an outstanding issue. House numbers 15, 17, 19 need ditch clearing, house number 3 has many**

**trees in their ditch, house numbers 5, 7 and 9 have French drains or ditches from the backyard to the street ditch, and in short most need ditch work. Both sides of the street should have maintenance to facilitate the quick egress of water.**

- Staff presented a report to Council in 2019 regarding vegetation in the road right of way. It was clear that the intent of Council was to not action aesthetic vegetation. Staff were on site twice since early June and there is minimal vegetation present and do not believe this is a drainage issue along this road
- Attempts were made in 2022 and 2023 to revisit the topic and Council had not changed their position
- This was communicated to you and the file was closed

**Run off water from Osprey Landing to Acorn Avenue is considerable more than before construction and is what is being done to mitigate the issue. I am pro devolvement so Osprey Landing is good. – there is much water at the property line and driveway/street entrance by Odd Numbered Homes.**

**Frederick Allen Drive – the ditch and thus drainage is definitely lacking maintenance. There are full grown trees in the drains and home owners in 14 and 16 have dug slit trenches in the ditch to remove water from the front of their property. The owner of 26 Frederick Allen has dug a trench about 18 inches deep and 48 inches long before the drainage pipe to move rain water along and to allow water to go through the pipe. The ditches for the rest of the street towards highway 2 are full of grass, bull rushes, trees and most pipes are a quarter to half below the ditch level and this excess/built up drain blockage should be removed as there is no way quick drainage is possible during a heavy rain. The trees and considerable vegetation from Hazelwood Avenue to Hwy 2 prohibits the free flowing of rain water to egress the community.**

- Developers are responsible to balance pre and post flows of stormwater. If there is a documented change in environment that an individual property owner can prove, they can contact the developer directly as a civil matter
- The Municipality has a policy on storm drainage and there are plans for the following:
  - Flood Mitigation Study of Paley Brook – 2024/2025
  - Flood Mitigation Study of Barney’s Brook – proposed for 2025/2026
  - Flood Mitigation Study of groundwater system with portion through Elmwood Subdivision – timing tbd
  - The last report was presented to Council in February 2024

**Frederick/Allen Drive should be shouldered with gravel. There is damage to the road bed because of lack of shouldering and the paved driveway at number 9 has been damaged by the plow.**

- Staff reviewed the area and there is a small dip at the shoulder, right at the start of the curb line onto Hwy 2
- Staff will plan to action later in the year
- Not deemed a high risk to the public at this time
- There is no issue with the remainder of the shoulder (validated early June)

**Karla Dawn Avenue – one side of the street is completely full of trees and there is a driveway filled in with no culvert pipe that impedes the flow of water.**

- Provincial Road – should be reported to the provincial Public Works  
There's now a single point of contact when you need to get in touch with the Department of Public Works. Any day, any time, 24/7. The Operation Contact Centre can be reached 1-844-696-7737 or by email at [tir-occ@novascotia.ca](mailto:tir-occ@novascotia.ca).

**Poplar Drive – this street has an impact on run off water being directed to other areas and Hwy 2, but will leave it up to the Municipality to look at those issues.**

- See comment above regarding studies planned

**There is a very large tree down by Lefrense Lane and is directly in the area of a drainage ditch across Hwy 2 and it has been there for at least 1.5 years. Who is responsible to remove the tree?**

- Private land owner

**Turner James Avenue/Mariah Drive – The brook/creek/water way at the corner of is well beyond capacity. The development of Osprey Ridge and the removal of all trees has caused much more water to fill this waterway and the brook/creek/waterway has never been enlarged to take this additional/excess water and thus the banks overflow and this is evident all the way to Hwy 2 and the egress point along Poplar Drive/Logan Drive/Hwy 2. This needs to be addressed to allow for the water to egress the subdivision and prevent flooding. Does this affect other areas?**

- See comment above regarding studies planned

**Logan and Hwy 2, the north side of the entrance is totally filled in with trees, how is this ditch working to it's intended purpose of providing drainage?**

- The drainage under Hwy 2 is Provincial and within the Provincial right of way. The Municipality is doing a study on Paley Brook that may benefit future planning upstream of this area, which is how the Municipality is engaged in this topic

**The Maplewood subdivision is being surrounded by new construction, Memory Lane/Osprey Landing that has no drains like the long established areas so flooding and hindered egress of water run off is always present.**

- See previous comments

**Maplewood Sub-division sign on brick marker at corner of Hwy 2 and Frederick Allen Drive. One sign missing and one damaged/old. Should be replaced with two more new signs. Who is responsible for this item?**

- Neighborhood signs are not managed by the Municipality, they are installed and managed throughout their lifecycle by the developer or their designate.

**Shaw road at rotary 8A, is the rotary going to be connected to the roadway, no name on street, adjacent to 31 Towerview Court.**

- Unknown at this time

**Exit 8A, the woods on the sub-division should be cleaned up, there is much dead or pushed/blown over trees from construction that could be removed to clean up the wooded area. In my younger days a group of youth would be hired by the Municipality via grants for this type of work.**

- Exit and collector road are Provincial assets (see Public Works contact info above)

**Exit 8A, after the Shaw rotary there has been a road wash out present for months, again reported, but no action taken to repair. The wash out is large and an automobile pulling off could be damaged and then a claim against the Province or Municipality for repairs. A orange cone was on site for about two months and it is not there now, but the wash out remains. I reported and again no action taken.**

- Part of a Provincial project and provincial owned asset. Should be reported to Public Works (see contact info above)

**Benches, that had Lantz Recreation label, at Popular Drive entrance and Maple Ridge school entrance. Safety issue, repair or remove and funded by whatever organization or department is responsible. Also, an eye sore to the community. Looked at and the bolts are rusted into concrete, fixable?**

- Although these are not municipal assets, grant funding may be available to assist Lantz Recreation if they wish to apply. We will make them aware of the situation.

### Miscellaneous Items

**District 7 community meeting, requested during last pre-election talks and has not taken place. This should be a priority in our growing neighborhood.**

- The Municipality does not host district community meetings. Councillor Tingley will be copied on this email.

**East Hants should have a Recreation Community Council, like Waverley/Fall River/Musquodoboit. The EH Recreation Director should be Office of Primary Interest and then community groups come together to Chair meeting and report**



**to EHMC what they want done in the community. I would suggest Corridor and Rural committee's to ensure effectiveness and overlaps can be dealt with on a case by case basis.**

- The Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee considers topics of a recreation nature on behalf of Council
- The Municipal Community Development Coordinator and Community Recreation Coordinator work very closely with the recreation and non-profit organizations across the Municipality and have a good understanding of community wants/needs
- The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department engage the public by various methods, ie. surveys
- A Recreation Facilities Master Plan will be conducted this year, which will include public engagement opportunities

I trust that this satisfies your request for information.

Best regards,  
Kim Ramsay



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