

**Sarah Eggleton**

Coons Road  
Elgin, Ontario K0G 1E0

Dated: 2025-08-28

**To: Council**

Township of Rideau Lakes  
1439 County Road 8  
Delta, ON K0E 1G0

**Re: Opposition to Road Closure Request RC-3-2023 KAPSA (Segments 2–5)**

Dear Members of Council,

I am writing to state, in the strongest possible terms, my opposition to Road Closure Request RC-3-2023 KAPSA regarding the proposed closure and conveyance of Segments 2–5 of the Township road allowance. This recommendation, if approved, will restrict essential access to farmland and adjoining properties, directly harm neighboring landowners, and undermine the rights of the public and our community.

These road allowances exist for the benefit of the public. They are relied upon for **farm access, agricultural operations, equipment movement, and neighboring property use**. Closing them off and handing them to private individuals strips other landowners of essential access that has been in place for generations. Council must not ignore the lasting and damaging consequences of this action.

Beyond agricultural and property concerns, this allowance is also widely used by **local residents for exercise, recreation, and enjoyment of the outdoors**. Many people walk, cycle, and enjoy this public corridor as part of their community life. To permanently close and privatize this road would rob the public of a valued shared space and set a harmful precedent for restricting community access to open land.

These road allowances are also part of the **heritage and tradition of Rideau Lakes Township**. They were originally established to guarantee future generations access to land and waterways, regardless of changing ownership. To close and sell them now is not only shortsighted, but also a betrayal of that original purpose. Once lost, this historical public right-of-way can never be reclaimed.

I am also deeply concerned about the **environmental impacts** of this proposal. The area is part of an important natural corridor, and no environmental study has been presented. At a minimum, studies must be conducted to assess the impact on **fish migration from Lower Beverly Lake**, as well as broader ecological impacts. Council should not approve any closure until these studies are completed and made available to the public.

In addition, a **proper land survey must be completed and physically marked on site** before any transfer is considered. Adjoining landowners and the community deserve clarity on exact boundaries and potential impacts. Proceeding without a clear survey would be irresponsible and unfair.

Equally, I am also outraged at the **gross undervaluation** of these public lands. By-law 2019-72 prescribes a proper purchase price of approximately \$120,961.59. Yet the applicants propose to pay only \$36,857.90 — less than a third of fair value. This amounts to a fire sale of Township-owned land, a betrayal of taxpayers, deeply irresponsible, and a dangerous precedent for the management of public assets.

Let me be absolutely clear: these lands do not belong to the applicants. They belong to the residents of Rideau Lakes Township, and Council is duty-bound to manage them with fairness and integrity. Once conveyed, public access will be permanently lost — a decision that cannot be undone.

If Council nevertheless proceeds with this closure and sale, I **demand equal opportunity as an adjoining property owner to apply for ownership of the road allowance**. To sell these lands without opening the process to all adjoining owners would be an act of favoritism, procedural unfairness, and a violation of the Township's responsibility to treat residents equally. Excluding adjoining owners will only invite formal challenge to the decision and further erode public trust.

I urge Council to **reject Road Closure Request RC-3-2023 KAPSA outright**. If the Township insists on selling the road allowance, then it must first require proper environmental studies, a full survey, and an open, fair process that includes all adjoining property owners. Anything less is unacceptable.

Please ensure this letter is entered into the public record and circulated to all members of Council in advance of any vote.

Respectfully,

Sarah Eggleton

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.