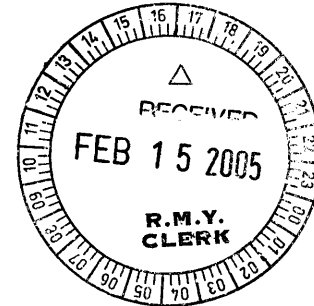




REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. - *PO6* → *Chair*
HUMBER WATERSHED ALLIANCE *CAO*
K. Schipper



February 9, 2005

Mr. Jeffrey Abrams, Dep. Reg'l Clerk
Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Sir:

Re: Salt Management – Personal Use

I am writing to you on behalf of the Humber Watershed Alliance. This group is composed of individuals including municipal council members, agency staff, interest group representatives and unaffiliated watershed residents who work with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to protect, restore and celebrate the values of the Humber Watershed - a Canadian Heritage River.

At the Humber Watershed Alliance meeting #1/05, held on January 18, 2005, a TRCA staff report was presented on the topic of road salt and the efforts municipalities have been making to reduce their use of salt.

Road salts are considered a toxic substance under the Canadian Environment Protection Act. There is considerable documentation of the adverse effects of road salt on freshwater ecosystems, soil, vegetation and wildlife. Environment Canada, therefore, strongly urged road authorities and municipalities to submit a letter by October 3, 2004 indicating their intent to prepare a Salt Management Plan. The TRCA staff report stated that out of 19 applicable agencies in the greater Toronto region, 18 have submitted letters of intent and two municipalities (Toronto and Peel) have completed their Salt Management Plans.

The Alliance wishes to commend the efforts of the municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area for taking this action.

Concerns were raised at the meeting, however, that many residents still use considerable amounts of salt on their sidewalks and driveways. The Alliance believes that municipalities need to educate their residents on the potentially damaging effects their personal salt use can have and to suggest alternatives which are less damaging to the environment. A concerted effort between the road authorities, municipalities and public members is needed to ensure that our watersheds are protected from the harmful effects of road salt.

Accordingly, Resolution #09/05 regarding Salt Management was approved as follows:

...../2

THAT the Humber Watershed Alliance ask its watershed municipalities to invest resources to educate the public on ways of reducing and/or eliminating their personal salt use, stressing the fact that road salt is considered a toxic substance under the Canadian Environment Protection Act.

We urge your municipality to make a commitment to public education on salt management issues and include this aspect as a component of your overall Salt Management Plan.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lois Griffin".

Lois Griffin, Chair
Humber Watershed Alliance

/lt

cc: Mr. K. Schipper, Commissioner of Transportation & Works