

February 21, 2020

Dear West Grey Council Members and Those Whom it May Concern,

My name is Alex Cook and I reside in West Grey on South Line Road. I have raised concern regarding access to a public road allowance at the intersection of South Line and Sideroad 50, which has been made impassable with a locked gate and several hazards, which I can only assume are in place to deter access. It is my understanding that these barriers have been placed by a neighbouring property owner. As a member of the public, I would like to access Moss Lake Conversation by the public road allowance safely.

I have spoken to several West Grey employees and consulted maps to confirm that this is a public road allowance. Further, West Grey has also confirmed that permission was never obtained from them for a gate to be constructed across a public road. A private citizen should not be permitted to gate a public road for their sole benefit. The gate inhibits foot and vehicle traffic. What happens if a citizen is hurt and in need of medical help?

As a member of a family that spends much time hiking outdoors (as many residents in the area do), this public road is the road used for the public to access Moss Lake Conservation Area without trespassing on private property.

Perhaps the most concerning issue is the deterrents that have been positioned (see pictures). Someone has, not only erected a locked gate, but has also booby trapped the access with barbed wire (6 rows on the East side of the gate, and 4 rows on the West side of the gate). There are also several wooden boards on the ground with nails sticking up on the other side of the gate. Someone is intending to harm public citizens who wish to access the public road. A West Grey staff member personally advised me to "just climb over" if I wish to walk the road. Shameful!

For these reasons, I feel council needs to step in. I have voiced my concerns and been met with complacency. Remove the gate and make it safe, before someone gets hurt. You would not allow these things to happen in a playground or any other public space. I feel it is your obligation to make sure it is not happening here either.

This is a public road; let the public use it - remove the gate. I am certain we are not the only people who would enjoy the lake if we could just get to it. Please remove the hazards - Don't be negligent when it comes to public safety.

Respectfully,

Alex Cook