Proposed Clean and Clear By-Law

Background

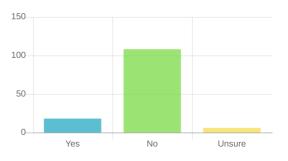
On July 23rd, 2021, a Clean and Clear By-Law (2021-35) had its first reading at the regular meeting of Council, and staff was directed to schedule a Committee of the Whole meeting on October 25th, 2021 for further discussion of the proposed by-law.

At its regular meeting of November 18th, 2021, Council passed resolution number 21/11/18/1002 directing staff to survey residents to see if they are in favor of a Clean and Clear By-Law. Council is asking residents to submit their opinion on the matter before proceeding any further.

Purpose

The proposed by-law sets community-wide standards related to the exterior of properties which aim to maintain health and safety requirements for occupancy, regulate appearance, sustain property values, and provide a process for addressing properties that are not being maintained.

1 Do you believe there is an issue with debris accumulation on properties located within the Townships of Head, Clara and Maria?

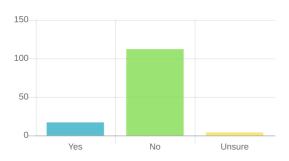




132 Responses

Unsure

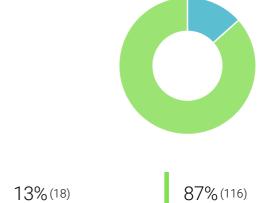
2 Do you believe there is a need for a Clean and Clear By-Law for the Townships of Head, Clara and Maria?



13% (17) Yes 84% (112) No

3% (4) Unsure

133 Responses **3** Do you agree with the provisions of the proposed By-Law 2021-35 Clean and Clear By-Law?



13% (18) Yes 87% (116) No

49 Standard Deviation 134 Responses 4 If the answer to Question 3 is "no", what provisions should be added or deleted from the proposed by-law?

Would this bylaw apply to all parts of properties or only parts visible along roadways (it appears the latter)? If storing vehicles for the purpose of wreckage, is that a commercial purpose and would need permits outside of this bylaw? If moving ahead with the bylaw, I'd recommend removing any parts referring to "beauty" and focus only on safety.

NO to the Clean and Clear Property by-law: 1 - Material of any kind which has been discarded by its rightful owner including furniture and appliances; 2 - Litter items which cannot be used for their rightful or originally intended purpose due to their placement; 3 - An unlicensed item or unlicensed items which cannot be used for their rightful or originally intended purpose due to lack of license, registration or other requirement, including but not limited to insurance coverage and mechanical safety certificate; 4 - Inoperative vehicle or vehicle parts including tires and watercraft; 5 - Recovered or recycled materials including firewood, which are haphazardly strewn about and not stored or piled neatly; 6 - Dead and/or decaying trees, that due to their location or situation on private property may be a health or safety hazard to public property or the users of public property.

I think the bylaw gives too much power to council.

Get rid of the whole effing thing.

ALL OF IT.

section 131: A person should have the right to store vehicles on their own property that would be recycled for parts providing that volatile fluids from such vehicles are drained and disposed appropriately. Said vehicles should be stored in a location not visible or fenced from sight. Also perhaps a limit of allowed inoperable vehicles might be considered. section 127: the meaning of debris and the safety concerns of debris, this seems to include dead and decaying trees, unfortunately if a tree should fall d/t weather related event and fall on public property creating a safety hazard should be considered an act of nature and not the responsibility of the land owner.

Section 127, "cleaning or clearing" too broad...and "refuse or debris" is too open to interpretation, Section 13, "regulate use of any land", too restrictive.

Not everyone has the money to keep the property Immaculate like we'd like it to be some of us are getting too old now to do a lot of the outside Pretty work... I love my Township the way it is thank you

delete the bylaw all together.as I don't see a problem

All provisions

all provisions

All provisions

N/A as there is no need for this bylaw

All provisions

all provisions

All provisions should be deleted

All provisions

all provisions
All provisions should be deleted.
We do not need this bylaw or anything that resembles it
Complete open public review to explain why Council can't deal with individual issues using existing County bylaws referenced in Councils proposed new bylaw.
All language deleted. Not required.
The by-law should be removed altogether.
This by-law should not be implemented.
The proposed by-law should not be implemented.
Delete the whole thing. Maybe council should concern themselves with community service not regulations that interfere with peoples property and rights. Any such bylaw would have to consider river access and visibility. Including all gated properties.
Delete all.
Delete the whole thing.
None.
Scrap the whole thing.
Get rid of it all.
Delete all of it.
Delete it all.
Delete it all.
What should be added? Back the off.
All of the provisions should be deleted.
We don't need any of it.
Delete all of it.
Get rid of the whole thing. Health and Safety my you just want to control what other people do with their property.
DELETE ALL OF IT
Delete it all.
Get rid of the whole thing and stay out of our business.

All provisions

Remove proposed by-laws conpletely
In theory this proposal seems to be a positive direction, however any amendment letters post approval would suspect and a gateway to township governing overreach onto private property adherence solely resting on an 'inspectors' discretion and opinion.
All
all of it
All of it.
Delete 100% of it.
We don't feel that this is a necessary by-law for a rural community. Eliminate it in its entirety.
Delete the entire thing.
ALL OF IT.
Delete it all.
Remove it all.
There is no need for such a bylaw
Mind your own business.
Throw it all out.
No provisions. Get rid of the by-law
All of it.
Don't think it is a good by-law. Not Council's business
I disagree with the entire concept of this by-law.
All provisions. There is no reason for this proposed bylaw to be enacted
Municipal Council has no business dictating Health Safety concerns on private property and has no authority to enforce such laws the township has one problem and that's the Mackey Motel ,pine valley and the torren down house which I believe is the old Laping residence which should have been looked after a long time ago. As Mr Gibson as stated places are being sold and new people moving in and the parks are full to capacity
We don't need or want this in our community.
Delete it all.
Get rid of it all.
Scrap the whole damn thing.
We simply don't need this type of interference in our lives. Please butt out.
Scrap the whole damn thing.

All of it.
We don't need this bylaw.
Delete all of it. Not necessary.
Vehicles on peoples property for their use (scrap, sales of parts or use of parts for their own personal use) should be allowed. If there is obvious garbage, that could be hazardous then yes, it should be removed. What you "store" on YOUR property should be no one's business
delete the whole proposed by-law
The trailer park owners should be included to pay \$200.00 for each trailer they rent out also.
All should be deleted
All provisions should be deleted
I think it is so ridiculous. I think people should be left alone. There property is there property, they pay taxes.
The whole bylaw should be scrapped
There should be no by-law at all for this.
I disagree with all of the by-law.
There needs to be a process for Council to work with landowners (who may have financial or other challenges preventing them from their owr planned clean up activities) to enable clean up to happen, even if at a slower pace than defined in this proposed bylaw
We don't need it.
All of it
Delete the entire thing.
I don't think we need a by-law
Delete the whole proposed bylaw.
All of them.
Delete the whole bylaw to reduce conflict in the community.
The whole idea should be scrapped!
Who is going to be the judge of this. Also how will debris and build up be defined. Will it go to council meetings. I think the whole idea should be scrapped.
Tree and firewood debris are very natural given the environment and could cause significant debate. Timeframes for cleanup are unreasonable for seasonal/occasional residents particularly for minor items that could be reported as debris. In a similar vein posted notice should not be allowed except if there is no alternative or allowed only as supplemental to other notice.
delet the whole bylaw and mind your own business
"Debris" hato ha Notice "prescribe a time period which is not less than 72 hours and is not more than thirty

(30) days".

The only property that needs attention is one with building torn down and left as an eye sore. Other wise whats on one persons property is their business.	
This proposed by law should be abolished	

The whole proposed bylaw should be scrapped

This is an unnecessary waste of tax dollars

5 Additional comments

If debris, etc becomes a health and safety issue, i.e. for contamination or occupancy, would other provincial or municipal regulations allow for staff or police to talk to property owners? Health and safety concerns are very different from community concerns over appearance, and I am worried that one bylaw would encompass both. "Beauty" and "pristine" are subjective terms that should not be determined by elected officials or municipal staff. If complaint-driven, will this bylaw support negative relationships between neighbours? How will our community support residents who may not have the resources to clear debris that they want/plan to? If finances limit their ability to clear/clean, the time period is restrictive and would not allow for a positive solution (even with the two extensions). Are there other ways to address these issues? Is it really an issue for Head, Clara, and Maria?

Trailer licences

Township should be able to deal with individual households as needed.

I do not believe there should be such a by-law as it is impeding our residences' RIGHTS and FREEDOM. I do believe that property owners are responsible for their own property;

HOWEVER

- 1 Is it up to council or the committee of the whole to be DICTATING to us what is considered an item that is rightful and/or its original intended purpose is.
 - 1- Are you, (HCM council or designate) going to go and ask property owners who may or may not have an unlicensed vehicle (s)????
 - 2 Will council mandate the property owner to show proof of licensing or insurance????
 - 3 Is it proper for council and/or designate to decide if the wood on our PRIVATE PROPERTY is pilled neatly or not?
 - 4 Does council and/or the committee of the whole not realize that most of the townships population are ELDERLY????
- 5 Do you really expect them (elderly) to go out and remove dead or decaying trees???? BUT If not, will council and/or the committee put pressure on them to hire someone who can do it for them???? Who will pay for this???? Do you all NOT realize that most of the townships permanent residences are on a fixed income???? How will they afford this????
 - 6 Who will decide what is acceptable or not????

To think that Council of Head, Clara and Maria Townships would even think of passing such a by-law is not only PREPOSTEROUS but AGAINST our RIGHTS and FREEDOMS.

After receiving an opposition letter in my mail encouraging me to oppose this bylaw I want to assure you that I fully AGREE with the bylaw. I believe our township is long overdue on cleaning up these derelict properties. Anyone driving throughout our area would assume it's a representation of how all our properties are kept never realizing the natural beauty it holds. These offending properties bring down the value of our homes which is the single largest investment most of us make in our lifetime.

If those pushing for this concept are basising it on their personal wants, on a personal issue, or there is no caring about those who cannot afford a big clean up in the short term I cannot support this. Properties are not back to back in HCM and so for the most part there should not be an issue. If this decision was based on collected stats of injuries or diseaseas a result of an unsightly property then there may be cause. I have not heard of any incidents of health problems because someone had a messy property, nor have I heard of repetitive injuries. People who live in HCM usually live here to have the freedom to live their lives with less control of others, Property values are progressing just fine but may improve when residents actually get a permit for builds or renovation which can be action by MPAC and value can go up or down depending on what was done. Property appearance is a personal thing, not to please others. Should a person have a property that proves to be unsafe it would be found though the home inspection stage of a sale, and it will be requested the issue be fixed before closing. If the property is a mess the buyer and seller can work out an agreement between them on who cleans up and at what cost. As for a by-law being actioned, when has this ever been done, as there is no true 24 / 7 by- law officer available, unless this was a recent change. So this may mean a salary increase as more work is being added to this position. So for all the above I choose no, as the reasons for by-law is not sustained by statistical fact. (So it may be this is a sour grapes issue)

Please have Jim Gibson stop harassing people with his mailings.

I think every property owner should keep there property, clean of debris, but not up to me to tell them!

We don't need this ship in the country. That's why we live here. If you don't like it - go back to where you came from.

Stay out of our lives. If you're so interested in first impressions...look in a mirror. Not very good from where I stand.

Abandoned unsafe properties need to be cleaned up;

storing of firewood in a pile on the persons own land is not anyones business but the landowners....this is not Toronto...it is a rural area in the middle of nowhere. I definitely agree with the township in that unsightly debris and garbage creating hazards has to be managed in some way. One persons idea of unsightly debris and garbage may not coincide with anothers persons idea of what that might mean, so I would think that it would have to be a committee's decision.

I agree there could or should be some control over people creating "dumps" on their property but also they should be allowed to do these sorts of things on their own property where it is not seen from the Hwy or road. It seems there is enough effect in the final paragraph, "This By-Law shall be named..."

What is wrong with this council, this should be a simple matter decided by a council elected to make decisions. This bylaw is way overdue. If we continue to make decisions by survey...why do we need council?

use existing environmental and fire code laws to enforce clean ups.

none

deal with each unique situation individually instead of trying to create bylaws. community support, not community control

There should be more transparency and support for who this proposed by-law effects. Who decided to put forward this bylaw? What was their reasoning? If there are properties along Hwy17 that are 'an eye sore', has anyone from council talked to these landowners to understand why their land is this way? Was help offered to change the look of the land? Does council understand if any of the debris is temporary? More transparency and accountability needs to be shared with the residents of Head, Clara, Maria so we can come to a common understanding that suites everyone. Let's do things right while the population is small, before it continues to grow.

First I think if the township has anything they need to worry about it would be organizing some sort of form of help with the neighbours in case of fire. That's despicable. Going after private citizens because of their lack of cleanliness on their property is something that most people don't realize carries through to the rich that are complaining about the not so rich people that can't afford to hire or have things done. I agree with the recent letter saying that there's no vacancy sign was up all summer even with a so-called dilapidated property. But I'm also sure that if you go past the tree line at the resort she will see broken down cars and machinery just like everybody else's property if not worse. To force somebody to have to do something that they cannot afford or may not be physically capable of doing is very inhumane. I believe that this is a waste of dollars time and energy on everybody's part. And I would like to know who's idea it was in the first place. Because I'm sure that I can find a piece of garbage or something dangerous on their property as well. People are doing their best every day through the last two years and throw this at them after losing jobs or just sitting in their house in fear it's just another thing that nobody needs right now. We're supposed to be building a community not tearing it down. I myself spent \$10,000 getting rid of garbage that sat here in your township for years without complaints. I will continue to do my best in the township but there will be days when I'm not physically capable of doing something right away. If you're going to hold that against an individual citizen of this Township then so be it it just proves your ignorance. I also ran into this very same problem in southern townships where a decorative rock was complained about being too close to the road. 8 feet from the ditch a decorative rock complained about please Township trucks and byelaw officers all resources wasted. Then not to know who lodged a complaint. Personal vendettas or jealous Ness of other Township residents are not reasons to file complaints. You were opening yourself up to a canna worms that is only going to lead to very negative impacts on a township that is looking like that it has been in growth over the last year or two. If you want that to decline and keep up these antics. If the townships not more worried about somebody's house burning down than their yard being clean I think it's time to change out some of the council. This is an extremely small community if you bring in these type of byelaws you are going to split this community just like the liberals have done to the country. Pitting one neighbour against each other is ridiculous. You guys should be ashamed of just thinking of this. If you'd like to give people incentives for cleaning up more power to your money well spent. But the legal documents the time and energy to bring in such a byelaw and then have somebody there to enforce it and deal with each and every complaint on a continuous basis is going to be approximately the same cost as trying to get one fire truck to have several of the neighbours try to keep each other safe. You have a building to put it in you have neighbours that are more than willing to sacrifice their time in life is to help other neighbours that will never happen if you pit neighbours against the neighbours over whether or not they have garbage on their front lawn. Even the little white house on 17 just passed the Township Road has no heat no Hydro and is kept in great condition. If you want to look into how bad this gets in the neighbourhoods like how fast people are moving out of Canada for these very exact rules. He will definitely be losing people fast if these antics do happen as not only will you alienate that particular individual but then you will cause fights between neighbours and they will leave and you will lose tax dollars and nobody's going to buy a property north of deep River. Shameful

If someone has a messy property, how about a little charity toward them, some friendship, some conversations, rather than enacting a law against them? I feel it is an overreaching of government to butt in on private ownership. My experience in the township so far, is that because of it's smallness, people know each other. We have the opportunity of being close-knit and caring, because we know everybody. Building community is a much better way of dealing with issues, than enacting laws. In the grand scheme of a successful life, healthy relationships, and good will go a much longer way than efforts towards climbing the financial ladder. Large cities and wealth are not the key to happiness.

I don't support this by-law.

I do not support this by-law.

Whoever wrote such a stupid bylaw must have a compulsive need to control others and would

None of you bastards live in view of the road. Each Ear

How someone else feels about my property doesn't change my right to enjoy it as I want.

I don't live here because I want a homeowners association.

Stay out my to yard.

we live here so we don't have to put up with other people's lif you don't like it - leave.

Next your going to be telling my how many kids I can have, what colour my house has to be and what type of grass to grow. Back off.

We don't live here to become members of some homeowner's association.

Go back to the city. It's interesting that none of the current council members will be affected by this legislation.

We live in the country so that busy bodies stay out of our business.

Council needs to focus on something that is actually positive for this municipality instead of further dividing it.

Reading your draft by-law makes me sick to my stomach. Interestingly, you all live on private roads or lanes so none of this affects you does it? Back off.

I tell you - the 1st impressions you guys are making are going to be lasting. Back the hell off. The condition of my property affects my property values, not anyone else's. Mind your own business.

Go back to the city.

WE LIVE IN THE COUNTRY CAUSE WE DON'T WANT THIS



Back the hell off. If you want manicured lawns - go back to the city.

We moved here so that we wouldn't have to put up with this



This community has an older than national average aged residents. Some elderly members of this community may not have the physical strength or monetary means to adhere to some or all of the proposed bylaw bullet-points. Somewhere in-between should be a collaboration between, Township, private owner and community members to assist these residents. By simply passing a by-law blindly in broad strokes would certainly cause friction amongst all that reside in HCM. Instead, by not only trying to 'beautify' HCM, perhaps a community campaign effort to help those that can't keep up with bullet points of any proposed by-law. Now you not only will the townships become more attractive, also have that aspect of community coming together to add to the attraction that HCM is above and beyond any other off HWY17 to visit, vacation and perhaps move into. Beauty and community. That should be HCM slogan. Beauty & Community

Stay out of fifty denity yard.

What people do on their own property is their own business. There is already legislation that provides for the health and safety of residents (Building Code). The only property values that are affected by junk in someone's yard is their own. This is rural Ontario, not the city.

There is no reason for this type of interference into the private lives of people who live here. If you don't like it - just look the other way.

BUTT OUT.

We don't feel that it is appropriate for the municipality to stick their nose in our personal business. That's why we live in the country.

Mind your own business.

There are hundreds of larger communities and cities where people who support this sort of conformist and authoritarian way of living can relocate. Can we have at least a rural 300 person community for the rest of us.

I bought my property here to get away from "big brother" nonsense. PRIVATE PROPERTY is PRIVATE PROPERTY

Please don't waste any more of our taxpayer dollars pursuing this divisive legislation.

As rural property owners, we are not same category as cities. We have Irivate property rights and do not wish for removal of pur rights.

This is a blatant attack on private property rights and serves zero purpose other than to invade the privacy of property owners.

I don't think you have the right to do this.

If you have a problem deal with the individual creating it don't attack all residence for a few.

Stay out of people's personal lives. That's why we live where we do. If you don't like it; go back to the cities that you came from.

Interesting that the people implementing this bylaw all live on private roads. Mind your own business and stay out of peoples lives.

Your property, your business, next they will tell us if we need to paint or cut the grass! More important things for council to focus on!!!

At first reading the law appeared to be on the stringent side. On second thought, any responsible owner would have little or no trouble in complying with the conditions within the law as written.

Most homeowners in our township take great pride in their home.

I find this proposed by-law to be appalling. You are a council trying to pass a by-law that will have no direct impact on few or none of you as all your houses are not visible from the highway or side roads. A council with members who have personal vendettas against a select few citizens and are willing to target the whole township. Way to pit neighbor against neighbor. This township used to be quiet, peaceful place before everyone wanted to enjoy the simple, country life and now you all want to run it like a large city. Shameful. A community where most people can't even see their neighbors properties. Would be interesting to know which councilor initiated this proposal.

We do not have our trailer on our lot half the summer. \$200.00 is not fair. We pay taxes also.

We grew up believing councelers were for the people Not to harass them.

This bylaw is totally ridiculous and just shows how petty this council has become.

It is our property to do with what we wish. Who is to decide what can or can't be done on a piece of property. Some people hate flowers, should we pass a by-law against having flower beds on your property? Some people hide behind gates, should the by-law officer be allowed to open your gate & inspect your property? Maybe we should pass a by-law about the number of trailers are on your property, or how many bags of garbage you put in our dump every week oh wait we did that but current council did not agree with it because it cost them personally Great

garbage you put in our dump every week... oh wait we did that but current council did not agree with it because it cost them personally. Great timing on this. with all the controversy about government trying to control our lives!!!

With respect to question # 1, I want to stress that my perception of what is an issue will not be the same for other residents including the owner. Part of the clean up process needs to be the CBO visiting the owner, having a discussion of what the CBO (based on a complaint from another resident) has determined to be debris and essentially educate the owner on what is the perceived problem. Hopefully then the CBO could then convince the owner so that it is felt to be a voluntary cleanup rather than a forced cleanup with a time deadline.

We don't want it

We live in the country to avoid this interference in our lives.

Mind your own business. The municipality has no business in people's lives unless they are adversely affecting the health or enjoyment of their lives. Just because you don't like to look at it doesn't mean the municipality has any business interfereing.

This by-law is a Great idea, some properties are looking like scrap yards

I am very concerned about too much control within the townships. Yes I want properties to look presentable, however most land owners do this all on there own. There will always be a few who do nt. By-law or no by-law

No need for bylaw

Notice that the word "Mandated" is not used, probably a good thing based on the era we find ourselves in. One thing that is scarce in viewing landscapes of Head, Clara & Maria are the Ontario Landowner Signs, "This is our Land - Government back-off", somewhere in the bylaw I seen the phrase "First Impression" which is what such signs leave a questioning thought as to the purpose of the municipality? Many of us are still outsiders who have moved to H.C&M. Do we have the right to dictate over the original residents, who may feel this bylaw is directed at them? Do we take into consideration the ability of some of these owners to pay all the fees as mandated, so that their property can be taken from them? In fragile neighborhoods, will it pit one neighbor against another? If so is this the intent of the bylaw "divide & conquer"? Should each of us question why we moved to H.C&M, and what we like best of this freedom? Many of the properties I can think of, were abandoned, owners moved on, etc., because of governments interference and mandates by laws, created by those who live in the "have and want" segment of our country and world, is this who we want to join? Is this about increasing the property value, so taxes are higher? Does the property committee hold out a helping hand and finances to those unable to afford or lack the physical ability to move "the unwanted" to control sites (the dump)? "What can be viewed from roadways", could be open ended to next include trails (ie. the Algonquin Trail), waterways, appending the property and the create and property of the area? Hoping council reads this, as I will follow up with a letter to council.

This by-law is pits neighbours against neighbours. It holds a higher standard to residents living visible from road ways which is discrimination.

Firmly believe that a more rational approach to any township problem should be considered before by-laws are passed. Personal vendetta,s should not be the cause for by-laws to be implemented. The reason people live in rural settings is to have space where they can live their life without being harassed. Please remember everyone in the township is not a millionaire and when hard times come upon the less fortunate it takes time to recover.

I do not think the "Clean and Clear Bylaw" proposed by Mr. Villeneuve and the Committee of the Whole will work effectively to bring together people, partnerships and potential for a strong, connected community. "One man's garbage it another man's gold". Will a garden canoe with wilted plants or a wheel barrow with a flat tire be deemed an eye sore, in turn a Clear and Clean infraction? The only positive in this proposed bylaw is that hopefully all rate payers have been included in this process and continue in this manner well into the future.

I have seen no example of a property in your townships which would require the use of this bylaw.

Why has the Municipal Council of the Townships of Head, Clara and Maria deemed it appropriate to establish a By-law to ensure 'the beauty and pristine nature of the municipality is recovered and maintained'? Have someone's sensibilities been severely injured? Must everyone adhere to a Better Homes and Gardens property standard? Is Martha Stuart coming to visit? We are a far flung rural municipality - should we not be able to live and let live? This bylaw represents unnecessary bureaucratic overreach. The bylaw will be used to pit neighbours against neighbours. My neat & tidy versus another's organized chaos. Is this really how the scant resources (time) of our CBO is to be used? Running around following up on a snitch line?

Typical of township councilors overstepping. The town's of deep river and laurentian hills have this bylaw that DOES NOT WORK what makes you think you can make it happen. Its the usual small town politics.

The debris definition seems overly broad and should perhaps be tightened to pick up truly problematic scenarios.

council should find something better to do with there time. Closing roads ,trailer bylaws and tis property standards bylaw were not what they campaigned for.Some councilers must have nothing better to do than write long windit bylaws.

I presume this by-law is to make it so that trash is disposed of properly, I don't particularly believe this by-law is necessary. If i purchase 100 acres, i do so for the privacy that it comes with. I do not want neighbors 100m from the edge of my yard telling me to cut my grass.

As an aside, not that i agree with the by-law but i would think a large portion of the population is seasonal or recreational in nature, as such, a 72-hour minimum is very short notice.

I think our council should find other issues to devote there time too. The worst place that needs a yard clean up is a house that is fallen beyond repair. I believe that this lady has fallen on hard times (medical issues). Council should maybe have a volunteer weekend. How long did it take to write that by-law likely could have cleaned up a few yards. This was written by Clinton Clouthier

This by-law is way overdue!!

People should mind your own business, what happens on other people property, what next we have to have our houses painted a certain way