

23406 Kennedy Road, RR 1
Sutton West, ON L0E 1R0

HAND DELIVERED

Property Standards Committee
Town of Georgina
26557 Civic Centre Rd.
Keswick, ON L4P 3G1

Attention Property Standards Committee:

RE: APPEAL REQUEST - ROLL NUMBER 1970-000-104-530-0000
Order to Remedy at property 23406 Kennedy Rd,
Con 5 Lot 5, Town of Georgina, Regional Municipality of York

I am writing to appeal the "Order to Remedy" in "Violation of Standards of Maintenance and Occupancy" in relation to the property at 23406 Kennedy Road, on behalf of my mother, Betty Bernice Barker. Our family has lived at this property for four generations, and we have never had any complaints or problems with the Town, until recently, when they received a complaint regarding the smell of feed being provided to our cattle. The complaint went no further, as we were seen as not at fault, however, this must not have sat well with the complainant, so they decided to try another route and have now put forward a complaint about our property.

I am appealing the following:

1. The Definition of a "Yard": to a lay person, a yard is a small lot, not a farm. The letter should say farm. I never got this clarification until I questioned Tyler Nicholson in a phone call on July 26, 2024, at 03:15 p.m.
2. The "Order of Remedy" references the by-laws, but I do not have a copy of the by-laws. If you wish for residents of Georgina to know the by-laws, you should provide a copy to every property owner in Georgina.
3. Removal of broken farm equipment: A by-law officer or non-farm person, may think it is just junk, but to a farmer, this is used parts for other working equipment. Farm equipment can last a long time, so it may not be easy to find necessary parts to fix it. During slower times of the year, farmers will spend time working on equipment.
4. We received the "Order of Remedy" on July 15, 2024, via registered mail, dated July 12, 2024, and states that we must amend the situation by August 12, 2024. This is a total of 28 days. This is a large, working farm (100 acres) with livestock. My mother is 91 years old, I have mobility issues, and my brother, who is the primary farmer, works a full-time job, is a full-time farmer, while also trying to raise a family. Demanding that this be remedied in such a short period of time, during the busiest time of the year (calving, plowing, planting, cutting and baling hay, etc.) is putting undue emotional and physical stress and hardship on our family, and we respectfully request an extension until at minimum next year. The threatening tone of the by-law officer that attended our property for the inspection on July 9 made us feel that we had no say as to what happens on our property - threats of tow trucks coming to remove vehicles, fines, and the

money we would have to repay the Town for clean-up efforts, all while we were trying to get over the shock of just being inspected, not to mention the hurtful knowledge that this was likely due to a disgruntled neighbour, who couldn't even be bothered to talk to us first. We are willing to work with the Town to meet the expectations, however, this comes across as heavy-handed with no prior notice, visit or previous complaints and is an extremely unreasonable timeline. Not to mention the perceived money-grab with the requirement of paying a fee for an appeal, and the fee for a re-inspection, that does not come across as the Town wanting to work with a property owner. An initial visit outlining concerns and allowing property owners time to work out a game plan would have been considerate; we do, after all, own the property and have paid our taxes to the Town for decades. This is a slap in the face.

I did speak to Lisa in the By-laws department, and she did state that the Town wants to work with us, however, that is not the impression we got from the by-law officer who attended our property. They seemed to prefer to use intimidation and certainly do not seem to want to work with us.

Thank you for your consideration,

Darlene Barker,
daughter of Betty Barker

Betty Barker,
Property owner

Incl. Appeal fee payable to Town of Georgina.