

I would first like to thank council for scheduling time in the agenda to hear my concerns. I would like to make comments regarding Section 5.26 of the Zoning Bylaw #04-4160 "Storage or Parking of Recreational Vehicles in Residential Zones".

My name is Hugh Norris and I live at 6 McCreery Road in the north end of Ingersoll with my wife Myah and our 4 children. I have been parking a travel trailer in my driveway, during the summer months for the past 8 years. We were served with notice of non-compliance to the by-law but have recently been granted a stay from reprimand until we have had a chance to provide council with our opinions on the matter and I would again like to thank this council and the town of Ingersoll for extending that courtesy to us.

As I understand it, the notice of non-compliance was served to us as the result of a complaint from a resident local to our neighborhood. I also understand that a grace period of 48 hrs exists where I can park a trailer in my driveway to both load and unload it. Outside of those instances, to conform to the bylaw, I am required to find an alternate location off of my property to store my trailer.

To have to store our trailer at another location off of my property would be a considerable decrease in convenience to our family as we have been accustomed to having the trailer right there for us to unpack and repack at our leisure. With 4 children, the business of our lives often times requires us to begin packing for the coming weekends camping on Monday. Adding the task of taking the trailer to its parking location and then retrieving it again only increases the inconvenience. Having to unpack and pack it again in a limited timeframe may deter our family from camping as often as we do. I would also, of course, be unhappy about the additional cost of storing my trailer through the summer months, especially when it has fit into our driveway for the past several years.

An opinion I have received more than once from those that I have spoke to is: "Its your laneway, you should be able to park what ever you want in it." And I agree with that comment whole-heartedly. I understand that as a community, we do not want abandoned or decaying, un-roadworthy and unsightly vehicles – driven or towed littering the laneways of Ingersoll but, the units found in our neighborhood are relatively clean, well kept & maintained, Licensed, road worthy and insured.

I kindly request that this council considers amending the bylaw with a seasonal distinction allowing me to park my trailer in my laneway during the summer months for the following reasons:

1. If the members of our small portion of town are not allowed to park our RV's in our laneway than what about the rest of the municipality? To enforce the bylaw only in one segment of Town, because of a complaint local to that area is discriminatory.
2. Unless there is a valid fire code, interruption of a sight triangle, or some other Legitimate safety concern or traffic hazard that I have not been made aware of, then I would understand that the complaint is based on esthetics. "Unsightly" *is in the eyes of the beholder*, and it would also be discriminatory to let the opinions of few dictate what is esthetically pleasing in the laneways of Ingersoll for the majority.
3. Not amending this bylaw and allowing it to be enforced town wide "as is" will open up a can of worms, considering the wide range of items defined as "recreational vehicles" in Section 4.118 of the bylaw. It will deter residents of Ingersoll from owning and purchasing recreational vehicles and I believe that it will inevitably deter existing RV owners from purchasing a home and moving into the town Ingersoll.

4. Non-action on this matter may leave Myah and I to consider selling our trailer. This would be a strike against the family institution. Our trailer provides with us an abundance of quality family time at a fraction of the cost of a cottage or other such summer getaways from home. We are avid campers - No one in our family could imagine what life would be like without our trailer.
5. Prescript, Ordinances like this one, based on what is esthetically unpleasant to the minority, draw many similarities to the many local bans on clotheslines that used to be common place in Ontario. The government of Ontario made all such clothesline bans illegal in 2009.
6. Many other communities are considering amendments to allow the parking of RV's in laneways during the summer months. A few have implemented them already, most notably during my brief research, the city of Edmonton.

The recommendation I favor would be to model an amendment similar to Edmontons', implementing a "Seasonal Distinction" which allows for the parking and storage of RV's in front laneways during the summer months.

There are also several Recreational Vehicle Clubs that support the rights of RV Owners to park their units in their driveways that could provide helpful information. Most notably, The Family Motorcoach Association, The Good Sam Club & The Recreational Vehicle Alliance for Camping & Travel.

Lastly, I would kindly request an exemption to allow our trailer to remain in our driveway until council has had sufficient time to review the matter fully.

Please consider the rights of the RV owners that reside in the town of Ingersoll. Non-action by this council on the matter would, I'm afraid, leave me, my family and many other recreational vehicles owners within the town of Ingersoll very disappointed.

Again, I thank you for your time and consideration.

Myah & Hugh Norris
6 McCreery Rd.