Kari Hanselman

Subject: FW: Formal Complaint Regarding Unsafe Road Conditions and Livestock Safety

From: stephany st.louis
Sent: August 23, 2026 10:59 PM
To: Municipality of East Ferris <municipality@eastferris.ca>
Cc: Rick Champagne <Rick.Champagne@eastferris.ca>; Terry Kelly <terry.kelly@eastferris.ca>; Lauren Rooyakkers <lauren.rooyakkers@eastferris.ca>; Steven Trahan <steven.trahan@eastferris.ca>; Nick Brazeau <nick.brazeau@eastferris.ca>; Jason Trottier <jason.trottier@eastferris.ca>; Antoine Boucher <antoine.boucher@eastferris.ca>
Subject: Formal Complaint Regarding Unsafe Road Conditions and Livestock Safety

To the Staff and Members of Council of the Municipality of East Ferris,

I am writing as a resident, taxpayer, farmer, and business owner in East Ferris to formally express my serious concern and frustration regarding the current condition of our road, specifically the section from Marina Road to Stone Oaks Farm.

The condition of this stretch of road has deteriorated to the point that it is no longer simply inconvenient or unpleasant to drive—it is **unsafe**, particularly for those of us who need to transport livestock.

The extreme washboarding along this section is so severe that even when we reduce our speed to approximately **10 km/h while hauling our livestock trailer**, the movement inside the trailer is violent enough that our animals are being injured.

This is completely unacceptable.

We operate a working farm in East Ferris and rely on transporting livestock as part of our livelihood. Our animals must be transported to and from our farm for processing, veterinary care, agricultural events, and other necessary purposes. The sale of our meat is an important part of what financially sustains our farm. We cannot simply choose not to use the road, nor can we avoid transporting animals.

We are now seeing animals arrive bruised and injured after travelling this road despite taking every reasonable precaution we can as livestock owners and drivers.

Most recently, the situation became even more upsetting and serious. My daughter's two riding horses, which she shows and competes with, were transported home from an event this week. Despite driving extremely cautiously, both horses are now injured. Based on the circumstances and the severity of the road conditions, we suspect that they may have lost their footing or gone down inside the trailer during the trip home.

These are large animals standing in a moving trailer. Severe, repetitive washboarding creates an entirely different safety issue when hauling livestock than it does for an ordinary passenger vehicle. A horse or other livestock animal cannot anticipate every violent movement of a trailer or brace itself indefinitely against continuous bouncing and vibration.

We are doing everything within our control to transport our animals safely. **The condition of the municipal road is something we cannot control.**

I am extremely frustrated that we have reached the point where travelling between Marina Road and our own farm is putting our animals at risk of physical injury.

This is not a request for a perfectly smooth rural road. We live in Northern Ontario. We operate a farm. We understand gravel roads, seasonal conditions, potholes, mud, snow, frost and the realities of rural road maintenance.

But there is a significant difference between a rural road being imperfect and a road being in a condition that is actively causing harm.

We have now crossed that line.

There is also a very real financial consequence to this. Injured livestock can mean veterinary expenses, lost production, compromised meat quality from bruising, lost revenue and, in the case of our horses, potentially significant veterinary and rehabilitation costs as well as the inability to train or compete.

More importantly, these are living animals entrusted to our care. Their welfare matters to us tremendously, and it is incredibly upsetting to know that simply transporting them to and from our own property is putting them at risk.

I am therefore asking the Municipality of East Ferris to treat this as an **urgent road safety and animal welfare concern** and to inspect the section of road from Marina Road to our farm immediately at 720 South Shore Rd.

I would also like to know:

- What immediate measures will be taken to address the severe washboarding;
- When those measures will be completed;
- What longer-term maintenance plan will be implemented to prevent the road from repeatedly deteriorating to this condition; and
- Who we should contact directly if the road again reaches a condition where livestock cannot be transported safely.

I would appreciate a written response from the Municipality and Council outlining how this issue will be addressed.

We are proud to live, raise our family, operate our businesses, and farm in East Ferris. We contribute to this community and want to continue doing so. But we should be able to safely access our own farm without wondering whether our livestock or our daughter's horses are going to be injured simply because we have to travel down our municipal road.

At this point, I am not asking for something unreasonable.

I am asking for a road that is safe enough to get our animals home without hurting them.

I sincerely hope the Municipality recognizes the seriousness of this situation and takes immediate action before an animal—or a person—is more seriously injured.

Respectfully,

Stephany St. Louis
Stone Oaks Farm
East Ferris, Ontario

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