



May 25, 2005

Julia Horncastle
Municipal Clerks Office
Halifax Regional Municipality
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Ms. Horncastle:

RE: Abbey and Buckingham Roads, Haliburton Hills

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 16, 2005.

The maintenance provided to the above-noted roads meets or exceeds the Department's standards for gravel surfaces. Complaints from the residents are divided between too little grading (pot holes) and too much grading (loose gravel and dust). During spring frost-out, the maintenance of gravel roads is most difficult since the surface may be dry and dusty, while the road itself is still too soft to accommodate a grading/gravelling/chloriding operation.

When weather spring conditions allow the removal of Spring Weight Restrictions, our crews work as quickly as possible to grade and patch all of our gravel roads. The chloriding is delayed until enough surface is prepared to accept a full tanker load. This product is not a base inventory. It is purchased in bulk with the delivery truck being also the distributor. As a consequence, there are a few weeks where dust can be a problem for the residents. In this case, the problem is worsened by the fact that traffic travels at speed over the paved section and continues to do so over the gravel sections.

I regret the inconvenience to the residents, but assure you that Provincial Maintenance Standards are being met.

Yours truly,



Robert R. Bieren, P. Eng.
Area Manager
Halifax Suburban

RRB:cor