

Good Morning Elected Council,

My name is Tina Bichel and my husband and I are taxpayers in Parkland County. My submission today is in regards to the Unauthorised Use of County Lands Bylaw.

I'd like to start with how the Parkland County Administration applauded themselves, in their public engagement report to council, by stating they had achieved "great public engagement" which was approximately .0066 percent of Parkland County residents. Even if we rounded it up to 1 percent, there is no business that would consider that number a win let alone "great"...their words. If my private sector KPI's came in that low for a project, I would be fired.

My husband and I attended the public engagement meeting, held at this Parkland County office in the spring, and I have to add, without a single elected council person in attendance, just the County's employees. This council could not even be bothered to attend, and we expressed that to the County employees that were present.

The public engagement description of the Unauthorised Use of County Land Bylaw stated that this bylaw is a brand-new Bylaw to Parkland County. The Public Engagement Document starts with...As the County grows and evolves (but not one employee in attendance could explain what evolves meant) it was determined that to protect County land and to make the best use of it now and into the future, the development of a bylaw would be required. To that end, this Bylaw provides for a framework of what is responsible use of County land.

A statement of bureaucratic gobbildy gook.

We wrote many suggestions on our provided little sticky notes that we attached to the many white boards around the room, one of them being that this bylaw should be named the Responsible Use of County Land instead of the negative connotation of Unauthorised Use of County Land. Nowhere in this bylaw, which was released for the Oct 10, 2023 Council Meeting for first reading, does it inform County taxpayers of what IS permitted on County property. Parkland County taxpayers are considered rule breakers from the onset, in this bylaw, which I personally consider demoralising. However, it is a page out of the guide for the Green Municipal Fund, Talking it Through Guide, local government staff climate adaptation. The Green Municipal Fund being funded by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities also known as FCM. It appears that the taxpayers of Parkland County are being sold out for the sake of federal grants.

We were told that the strong wording, regarding entering County Land was not the intent to keep taxpayers completely off the ER lands. I'm referring to # 7 (1) in the proposed Land Use bylaw. The public comment/responses (attachment #7 in today's agenda) from the administration are meaningless once this bylaw passes. At the end

of the day the bylaw is the law and answers to our questions are not binding just like in contract law.

Two responses from administration employees to us were that they would issue us a permit to access the lands around our property and that they understood that the wording in the public engagement document was indeed too strong. Which led us to questions regarding the permit section of the Unauthorised Use of County Land bylaw. Who would administer that program, is this just another make work program for more taxpayer funded employees? Who would be permitted to apply, what would the permit cost be and lastly how long would said permit be in effect. Maybe that information is on your website, but I was unable to research and locate it when preparing this statement.

Secondly, we expressed strongly that the Enforcement wording under the proposed content in the Public Engagement document was too broad. #20 of this Bylaw states that a Peace Officer may use discretion, mediation or provide awareness and education in lieu of applying violation tickets and penalties.

Administration responses to our public comments on October 10, 2023 states that the Peace Officer always has discretion, not just in this bylaw but the Peace Officers professional authority.

Any enforcement officer given total discretion to authoritative power is greatly concerning, as power is subject to malfeasance. What we've witnessed in our past dealings with Peace Officers has, many times, NOT been professional. One of these unprofessional incidents was recorded by the Peace Officer, but upon conversation with his boss resulted in no discipline. At this time we have no confidence and have lost trust in the authority of Peace Officers in Parkland County.

We were explicitly told that our concerns would be discussed and we would receive personal feedback. We received a phone call from Dawna Woytowich, who said she understood our concerns and was going to take it to her colleagues for discussion. We did not receive a follow up and NOTHING has changed in the final bylaw proposed from the initial wording presented to us that day.

I would also like to submit the Star Lake Estates 1978 plan by R.J. Wilkins, A.L.S. which shows the land around the little lake in Star Lake Estates as Municipal Reserve. Many years later we received a subdivision map from the County administration that showed the area, 53 MR, around the little lake as a Municipal Reserve. Please take note the section in the north area labelled 1MR. We've looked at the most recent Parkland County Subdivision map of Star Lake Estates and it now shows 53 MR is labelled ER and the section labelled 1MR has been divided and half has been deemed ER.

You'll also notice that there are many labelled walkways to access both MR and ER lands in the earlier maps but the designation of walkway has been removed from the latest County maps. The intention was that taxpayers in Star Lake Estates would

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have access to these lands for their use and enjoyment. At some point, unknown, this has changed. Has it been changed at Land Titles? When was it changed? And why would we believe a single word out of the administration or council that your intent is not to keep taxpayers off taxpayers public lands, after secretly changing the designation of said lands without residents knowledge. Is this just a shell game?

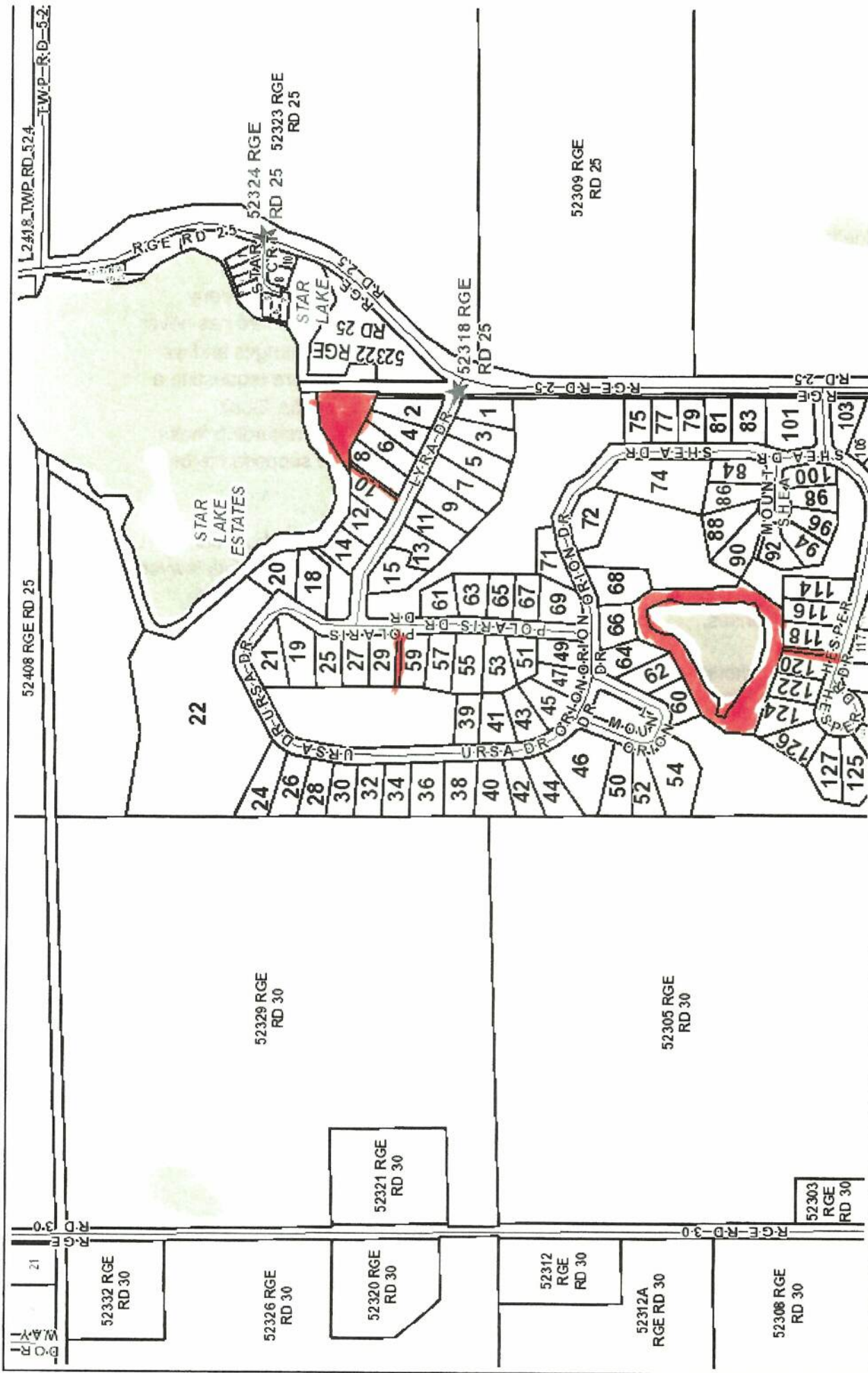
We have owned 8 properties in Star Lake Estates over the past 40 years. Many years in which we owned 5 at one time and today own 3 properties. There has never been notice or public engagement regarding any land designated changes and we highly doubt that that was due to a problem with Canada Post. We are requesting a response to when these changes occurred and what the process was. Don't patronise us with a response of not being transparent to taxpayers regarding these changes because of some backwards municipality rule. Aren't we supposed to be growing and evolving?

I'd also like to point out the administration's weirdly worded responses from our submissions on October 10, 2023. We'd need hours and hours of a New York lawyer to research through their statements. I can't understand how this council would accept their responses.

I'll end here even though my submission could have been hours long for the amount of disrespect we've felt from this body over the past 40 years and the continuing fight for our right to peace and enjoyment. For this elected council to pass second, third and final reading of the Unauthorised Use of County Land today, based on public engagement, is a farce.

I'd like to acknowledge that I understand my submission today is <sup>probably</sup> ~~completely~~ moot. Bylaw 2023-15, the Unauthorised Use of County Land bylaw will be read into legislation without one single concern of taxpayers being seriously taken into account.

Thank you for your time.



### Star Lake Estates Map 2

Notes: Custom notes

Disclaimer This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.



1: 9,709



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**THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION OR LEGAL PURPOSES**

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14 ER

**BLK 1**

STAR LAKE

*Attn: Pat*

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