

# Staff Report to Council

**Title:** Mystic Cove Gate Follow Up

**Report Number:** Operations-2024-08

**Director:** Infrastructure &  
Development

**Manager:** Operations

**Meeting Date:**  
Wednesday, April 10, 2024

**Date to be considered by Council:**  
Wednesday, April 10, 2024

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## Recommendation:

That Council receive report Operations-2024-08 for information purposes.

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## Executive Summary:

The Mystic Cove gate was opened from December 1, 2023, through February 29, 2024, based on By-law No. 2023-141. Prior to the opening of the gate and following the opening of the gate, vehicular statistics were collected to enable benchmarking on the impact of the gate opening. Staff consulted with key stakeholders following the closure of the gate and no concerns were raised by the stakeholders. The results indicate a successful approach to addressing access with the opening of the gates and suggest to Council that the practice continue as documented. Should there be significant weather events outside of the defined timelines, staff have the ability to open the gate under delegated powers within the By-law to ensure public safety during those events.

## Strategic Priorities:

B.7-Ensure municipal facilities and owned lands make the best use of each asset

## Financial Considerations:

N/A

## Policy:

By-law No. 2023-141

## Context and Background Information:

In 2023 the Municipality rescinded policy TP 3.1 and elected to not renew a maintenance agreement with Bruce County for Bruce Road 23. As a result, Council amended By-law No. 2011-068. By-law No. 2023-141 replaced the existing and included a clause that the gate at Mystic Cove would be opened from December 1 through February 28 and closed each year from March 1 through November 30. Following the first season of the gate opening, staff have reviewed that function and are providing a summary to Council.

During the period the gate was opened we received one concern through our Report A Concern system which indicated the speed of motorists was an issue. This concern was relayed to the OPP for enforcement support. Municipal social media platforms had minimal comments posted during the opening, varying from it being a relief to having the gate opened for use on poor weather days to having no additional noticeable traffic in the area overall. Below is a summary of vehicular use and driver behaviours prior to the opening and during the opening.

Location	Timeframe	Total Vehicles	Average speed	Max speed
129 Upper Lorne Beach	Oct 3 to Oct 25	1212	23	62
96 Victoria	Oct 25 to Nov 7	1633	39	70
143 Victoria	Jan 17 to Mar 6	5921	29	90

Based on the above, the average speed of motorists indicates that the speed of travel was generally appropriate for the area and aligning with posted speed limits. Given the feedback from our consultations and limited public concern raised, staff are of the opinion that the practice should continue as per the recent By-law.

## Consultation Overview:

Staff discussed the impact of the gate opening with Bruce Power, the OPP and internally with staff. Feedback from the public that was received was also reviewed in preparation of the report.

The OPP have indicated they conducted a focused patrol in that area and did not issue any tickets for traffic infractions. There was strong community feedback with their presence.

Bruce Power has indicated they were very appreciative of this change, and it was very helpful to be able to access during the severe weather events we experienced this year. They received one public complaint about their staff driving too fast through Mystic Cove from a resident and addressed that through a global message reminding staff to obey the posted speed limit. During our weather event in January the EMC had considered the road as an alternate route to work for all staff. They received feedback and are aligned that due to the conditions of the road (narrow and bendy) moving forward it will only be used during storm events for Category A employees (essential staff only).

**Origin:**

Council rescinded the gate policy in 2023 and amended the By-law related to the road use reflecting terms around the gate. Staff are providing a report following the first season of the considered gate opening.

**Implementation Considerations:**

The gate was opened on December 1 through February 29 of the current winter season as a result of the amended gate By-law. Staff are of the opinion that the opening of the gate was a successful approach and should be continued.

**Risk Analysis:**

The opening of the gate allowed for safer passage of motorists during periods of inclement weather.

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**Attachments:** N/A

**Prepared by:** Adam Weishar, Director of Infrastructure & Development

**Submitted by:** Adam Weishar, Director of Infrastructure & Development