

Statement of Facts and Position

August 7, 2025

1. My name is Miles Kettner. My wife Melissa Muskat and I are the owners of [REDACTED] Snowbridge Way. We have owned our home since August of 2012. Prior to purchasing the house, we rented in the Blue Mountains during the ski season for 5 winters.
2. In the years since we purchased the property, we have continually striven to maintain and improve the curb appeal of our home including painting it, installing a new roof, installing new windows and doors, resurfacing our driveway and undertaking an extensive front and rear landscaping project.
3. As we both continue to work full time in Toronto and own a home there, we are primarily “weekenders” in the TBM typically heading back to the city on Sunday afternoons.
4. For the nearly 18 years that we have rented or owned a house in TBM, we have placed our garbage at the curb on Sunday afternoon in secure containers and, for the recycling, in blue bags or blue recycling boxes. We have also arranged with a neighbour who is a full-time resident to remove the containers from the curbside after pick-up.
5. On Sunday, April 20 of this year, we placed our waste at the curbside at approximately 12:45 PM and left for Toronto.
6. At 3:55 PM, I received an email notice from Gurjot Singh, a TBM By-law enforcement officer advising that he had “attended at [my] property at 12:52 PM” and assessing us a \$100 AMP for violating By-Law 2023-69 and specifically Section 3.2.4 which stipulates that waste cannot be set out “outside of the time” stipulated in the By-law. Section 3.1.4 of the By-law stipulates that time as being no later than 7 AM on the day of pick-up (Monday) and no earlier than 7 PM on the day prior.
7. On July 3rd, we virtually attended an AMP screening the purpose of which was to determine whether or not we were in violation of the By-law on April 20th. The Screening Officer’s decision was not in our favour and the assessed fine was affirmed. We have appealed the decision of the Screening Officer with the appeal hearing to be held on September 26th.
8. Between April 21st and August 6th, I communicated with the office of the Mayor and Councillor Ardiel to express my surprise at receiving the AMP without even a warning (particularly after nearly 18 years of taking out our waste on Sunday afternoons) and, much more importantly, to relay my very strong opinion that the restrictions in the By-law regarding hours within which garbage can be placed at the curbside are unfair and punitive to the many, many part-time, weekend residents of the Town like my wife and me and many of our neighbours.
9. While I imagine some weekend residents are OK with leaving for the GTA after 7 PM on Sundays, the great majority of us are unable or uncomfortable doing so whether it be from a need to get younger children home and in bed, a lack of comfort driving at night (particularly on Hwy 400 in the winter) or just a simple desire to be home and have a chance to wind-down after a long drive before beginning a new work week.
10. The By-law, as it exists, means that a significant number of TBM homeowners thus do not have access to waste and recycling curbside collection unless we are willing to risk receiving weekly \$100 fines.

11. Not wanting to incur these fines, we have been left with no option but that of carting our garbage, recycling and compost back to Toronto for disposal. We have now been doing this obviously unpleasant task for almost 4 months since receiving the notice and fine.
12. This is clearly and obviously unreasonable. As part time residents, we place a lower demand on municipal services than do full time residents. This is a trade-off for owning a second home that we accept but it is egregious for us, effectively, to not be able to take advantage of the Town's waste removal services that we pay for as part of our property taxes.
13. I acknowledge that a problem exists with waste left out too long which then becomes more likely to be ripped apart by animals or, for waste or recycling not properly secured, scattered by wind. However, there needs to be a compromise that finds a reasonable middle ground between mitigating the risk of garbage being scattered on the street by limiting the window within which it can be left at curbside and meeting the needs of ALL residents, full and part time, to have their waste picked up.
14. I am not suggesting that residents should be able to place their waste at the curbside for multiple days in advance of pick-up but rather that the earliest hour waste can be placed at the street be extended from 7 PM on Sunday to earlier in the day so as to allow part time homeowners to leave waste for pick-up without risking a fine. I believe that late morning through noon would accomplish this and find that reasonable middle ground I discuss above. Some of the animals that would pick apart garbage are nocturnal and leaving it out for additional daylight hours poses little or no increased risk in this regard. Further, sections of the By-law already deal with the responsibility of homeowners to properly secure and contain their waste and to clean it up in the event it is scattered by wind or animals. If scattered waste is becoming an increasing issue in the Town, it is through enforcement of these sections of the By-law that the Town's energies should be directed.

So, I petition Council to amend section 3.1.4 of the By-law such that it reads: **All Collectable Waste shall be set out no later than 7:00 a.m. on the designated Collection day and no earlier than ~~7:00 PM~~ 11:00 AM on the day prior.**