

Wade Friesen
The Sleepy Owl Downtown
325 Scott St
Fort Frances, On
P9A 1H1

September 28, 2018

Dear Town Council,

Since buying our hotel in February (formerly known as The Makabi Inn), our team has been constantly thinking of ways to improve our business and market our hotel to travelers. We do this not only for the direct business, but also because we believe that our town should be a destination spot.

We recently invested in a 2 ½ minute commercial that showcases our town in a beautiful way.
In short we believe in Fort Frances and think it has a lot of potential to offer travelers.

We have also have done: moderate landscaping (hoping to do more in a later phase), upgrade our internet service, offer free breakfast to guests, and discussions in getting more involved with the community events/causes.

One of the first things we did, was buy the building next to ours, for the purpose of creating a better parking situation for our guests. As you know, the parking in town, (and specifically in our parking lot) is really congested. During our fully occupied nights, it wouldn't be uncommon to see lots of vehicles parked on Scott St. We are hoping to eliminate some of this burden for the town as well as provide a better service to our guests.

We have already went through the process of finding a contractor, and paying for having the demolition plans made up to do this.

The problem we are running into now, is what to do with our water drainage, once the building of 335 Scott St is removed. Currently the water is pumping out of the back of the building into the alleyway on top of the pavement and running west to the nearest grate. (See attached photos on next page). This is acceptable under current code. However, as soon as the building comes down this will be out of compliance with newest standards from what I've been told.

I was just at the last town council meeting where a new law was voted in for the hotels in town to charge an extra 4% to our guests. It was stated that the purpose of this was for town improvement and to ultimately bring in more tourists and therefore more revenue into our hotels.

If that is the will of the council then I purpose the following:

By the looks of it, the alleyway between Church St and Scott St on the 300 block needs upgrading done sooner than later. It is full of pot holes and bumps and needs fresh paving.

The drainage plan required, as part of my demolition project, requires that the alley behind the hotel be dug up in order to install pipe, and then covered back up and paved. This was estimated around \$20,000 from 2 different contractors. I am already paying a separate contractor to dig and lay pipe from the middle of my property to the alleyway. Why wouldn't we work together and improve that area. My suggestion, the town fixes and repaves the road from at least midpoint (behind RBC) to the post office parking lot. And during that renovation project, I can pay to have my water pipe installed from the drainage point to the designated point in the alleyway. We can work together and really improve our town, as well as travelers impression of our downtown core.

Let's meet and discuss this further.



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