

Text of the Delegation which the Moon River Property Owners Association requested to present to the Special Council meeting of the Township of Muskoka Lakes, on July 3, 2015.  
The Council refused to hear this.

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Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of the Moon River Property Owners' Association.

Tomorrow, the Moon River Property Owners' Association had scheduled our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Canada Day celebration.

As in previous years, we have a huge Canadian flag birthday cake and cupcakes and ice cream. We invite the entire community, have music, and last year our MP Tony Clement attended and played his guitar. And we sang along. We stand tall as we sing 'Oh Canada' to honour our 'true north strong and free'. It is a fun, family-oriented, free event. All are invited and welcome.

There are no politics, no issues, and no fundraising – other than asking people to bring a non-perishable food item, which we donate to the West Muskoka food bank.

However, on Tuesday of this week we received formal Notice of Trespass from Swift River that they would ask the OPP to arrest anyone entering Margaret Burgess Park for our Canada Day Celebration.

If Swift River does have authority to issue such a Notice, they certainly never informed us or anyone else, they never posted such a notice at Margaret Burgess Park, and they did not give us any opportunity to ask for permission or tell us how to ask for permission.

Our event supports local businesses as we purchase the food locally, and this event costs our volunteer organization more than a thousand dollars. Because we're a community-oriented group, that's what we do – or try to do, until for some unexplained reason, Swift River decided we couldn't run our Canada Day celebration on public land – which wouldn't interfere with anything the proponent has planned.

And at the May 15, 2015 meeting of this Council, it was voted to accept an offer by Swift River that they would only use the Township's Portage Landing and in return they would not impact or use Margaret Burgess Park.

That was the deal, they get use of one of the two properties. But now they want control of both.

We appreciate your hearing our issue today and would appreciate your adding to a future meeting Agenda this surprising and unfortunate development of the proponent reneging on their agreement, so this entire issue can be discussed, with input from all who wish to provide it.

In an email dated July 2, 2015, Mayor Furniss' response to this issue was "I guess the only way to find out if SREL has the legal right to have the OPP charge people with Trespass, is to have the OPP lay the charges and have a judge determine whether to convict or not". This is not an acceptable response for our community.

Thank you for your time.