

**From:** John Vesprini  
**Sent:** Monday, September 02, 2013 1:57 PM  
**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** The re-sodding of lawns and boulevards on Lake Avenue Drive

To Mayor Bratina and Councillors,

I and my neighbours are very pleased that the City had a change of heart to re-sod the lawns on Lake Avenue Drive when, after in 2010 and 2011, the lawns were improperly sodded. The contractor, Oakridge, had laid sod without leveling the area, sodded over gravel, rocks, and clay; and added no top soil. They also just dropped the sod and did not roll the lawn, leaving the lawns with hills and valleys.

On July 16, 2013, the City of Hamilton paid Oakridge to re-sod our lawns. This time they levelled the area, added top soil, and rolled the lawns after sodding. If this had been done before, at their two other attempts, the City would not have had to carry the expense of this new sodding.

On July 19, 2013, Inspector Romas Rickus meet with Tim Collingwood at 86 Lake Avenue Drive. Tim's lawn had turned brown two days after being laid. Inspector Rickus told Tim that there would be no replacement. Tim's lawn has since come back but it is very spotty, with weeds filling in the gaps. No doubt it is faulty sod and should have been replaced. When I mentioned this to Mr Rickus, he said how is your lawn? I said it's fine. He then said, what's your problem?

When I and Mr Collingwood pointed out that the Collegiate Avenue boulevard, between Lake Avenue and Mountain Avenue, and at least six sections of boulevard on Lake Avenue, as well as two lawns on Collegiate Avenue, should be re-sodded, Mr Rickus gave us the same unacceptable answer as above. In due respect to Mr Ruckus, he was polite and easy to talk to. But I do not agree with his assessment. If my neighbour's house is on fire, do I call the fire department or do I look the other because it's not my house that is on fire? Early this year, Mr Collingwood notified the City that the sidewalk and boulevard by his house is uneven, creating a tripping hazard and that a lady had tripped and fallen. He was told that the City would correct this hazard in November. We were informed in 2010 that our lawns would be restored. But until the aforementioned boulevards and lawns are restored, the job has not been completed.

Enclosed is an email I sent to the City on June 16, 2013 before I was informed on the re-sodding. It might be informative of what has transpired in the last three years.

When this matter is brought to council, I would appreciate it if I were informed so that I could attend.

Sincerely,  
John Vesprini  
Lake Avenue Drive  
Stoney Creek, Ontario

**From:** mojo []  
**Sent:** September-18-13 9:14 AM  
**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)  
**Subject:** Fw: The re-sodding of lawns and boulevards on Lake Avenue Drive

In 2010, after the construction on the road and installation of new water pipes to the homes on Lake Avenue Drive, the landscape contractor laid sod in December, one week before Christmas. When Inspector Romas Rickus was inspecting the lawns, we asked him if it was okay to lay sod in December. He told us not to worry; we will have a two year guarantee. The lawns died in 2011. In the fall of 2011, Oakridge Landscape Contractors re-sodded the lawns. In the spring of 2012, I informed Councillor Brad Clark that not only my lawn but most of the street's lawns had not taken. Mr Clark assured me they would be corrected.

After waiting eight months, I called the City's Construction Department, inquiring on when the lawns were to be done. I was told the lawns were inspected in the spring of 2012 and were deemed done. I was also told that they would be inspected again in the spring of 2013. On June 11, 2013, Project Manager Dave Mullen informed me that the 2013 spring inspection had passed. He also said that Mr Rickus did not tell us there was a two year warranty. Apparently, the City waits for thirty days after the growing season starts. The two year warranty was for the roadway only. This was not made clear to us back in 2010. Though recently, I called up a landscaper and he told me he would give me a two year warranty on a new lawn.

Mr Mullen said that in the spring of 2012, after the inspection, a letter was delivered by hand to every house on the street, stating that the lawns are okay. I did not get a letter and, as of today, I have spoken to eight residents and they have not received a letter, either. I also informed the Construction Department that the boulevards (the strip of grass between the road and sidewalk) are a mess, especially on the east side of the street. I was told that was due to winter salting. I lived here since 1971 and these boulevards have never been so scruffy.

In 2011 and 2012, some residents re-sodded or seeded their lawns. These are the properties that are back to their original condition. I feel it is the City's or the contractor's responsibility, not the residents, as we were told at the beginning.

When this letter is brought to Council, I would appreciate it if I were informed so that I could attend.

Enclosed is picture of my front yard.

Sincerely,

John Vesprini  
Lake Avenue Drive  
Stoney Creek, Ontario



**From:** mojo []  
**Sent:** September-18-13 9:27 AM  
**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)  
**Subject:** Fw: 5 pictures for you

THESE PHOTOS ARE SHOWING THE PUDDLES AT THE CORNERS DF LAKE AVE. DR. WITH #8 HWY. ; GAILBRAITH ' AND AVALON.





