

**From:** John Vesprini  
**Sent:** February-14-16 3:18 PM  
**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca); Conley, Doug  
**Subject:** Lake Avenue Drive

In 2010, a contractor tore up and repaved Lake Avenue Drive. I asked the foreman if storm sewers would be installed. He said no, the road would be slanted and lowered four inches. Now, when we have a heavy rain storm, there are rivers running down both sides of the street, at least four feet from the curb. This never happened before 2010. I witnessed a near collision on April 2013. A car hit one puddle, lost control, and veered into oncoming traffic. The driver regained control of his car just in time to avoid a head-on collision. The depth of these puddles and rivers can change the direction of a vehicle. The puddles remain a few hours after the storm and sometimes reach the centre line.

I hold no animosity to any of the city staff. I just think Lake Avenue Drive could have been done differently. It is a beautiful street and it is stuck with this problem. I attended three public works committee meetings: October 7, 2013 and March 17, 2014; and September 21, 2015. Staff said the entire neighbourhood is based on culverts and ditches. It would cost multi-millions to install sewers. I've lived on Lake Avenue Drive since 1971. There are no culverts on this street, just on the side streets. Kilborn and area had culverts, yet storm sewers and catch basins were installed for, I believe, a cost of less than nine million. The road way repavement for Lake Avenue Drive cost less than five million. At both these meetings, the city staff said they would investigate the puddles. They finally unplugged the two catch basins at the north end of the street, three and a half years after telling me they would. It took about two days to clear the ones at Lake and Highway 8 and Lake and Galbraith. The puddle at Lake and Avalon remains.

At the September 21, 2015 Public Work Committee meeting, the city staff said there are no catch basins on Lake Avenue Drive. That is not true. There are four catch basins at the north end of the street that takes in the two rivers. If more catch basins were installed between Randall and Highway 8, with a storm sewer, the river would be under the road, as it should be. At all their meetings, I also pointed out the shoddy sod installation. Staff said they would contact my councillor and me to inspect the lawns. That inspection never happened.

I was told that the procedure used on Lake Avenue Drive is a common practice. I know of no other road that has such large puddles and rivers. Give me a list of these streets so that I know we are not alone. I realize one is supposed to be in control of their vehicle regardless of weather, pot holes, or puddles. But the City has the responsibility to provide and maintain a safe roadway. Maybe to bring this in perspective, just change the name from Lake Avenue Drive to River Road.

I would like this email to be sent to the Mayor and Councillors on the Public Works Committee. I would appreciate it if the committee would allow me to speak at one of their meetings. If so, I would like this letter to be included in that meeting's agenda.

Sincerely,

John Vesprini