

Municipality of East Hants 2025 Council

Attention: Sheralee Mitchell- MacEwan

Dear Councillors,

I am addressing, this letter to each of you the elected Councillors of our Municipality of East Hants. I am the sole owner and Administrator of Serenity Lodge Home Care Ltd, located at #39 Russell McKeen Drive in Enfield. Serenity lodge is a licensed Residential Care Facility, that is part of the NS government's Seniors and Long-Term Care system. Residential Care is the NS government's first licensed level of 24-hour seniors assisted living. Nursing Homes are the second level of NS's Long term care system. The lodge's website will tell you more detail, of our journey through, our first 25years, if you care to view it at: [www.serenitylodge.ca](http://www.serenitylodge.ca)

Serenity Lodge, sanctioned by a Development Agreement with the Municipality of East Hants came into being August 2001 as a small Long Term Care home with the potential for 6 seniors. My Mother-in-law, Janie MacAskill, of Moose Brook/Kennetcook, and then Enfield, was our first resident. My spouse and I diligently worked to reach the goal in 2005, of Serenity Lodge 's 6 beds, becoming Enfield's first licensed Long Term Care beds.

Under the N.S, government of 2005 's Department of Health we received, that license on the wall of our lodge. This approval allowed seniors seeking long term Care, to have confidence in the quality of care they would receive while in our care. Seniors in our care, from then forward were eligible to be subsidized in their nursing fees. Our responsibility was the same as any other private home operating under such licensing- we must continually, reach or exceed all necessary requirements to maintain an active license.

Soon following, N.S. began using their "single-entry processing plan" The government's "One phone number" system monitors exactly who is next on the wait list, for RCF's or Nursing Homes. Gone were the days of who knows who, decisions. Since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005, all licensed, long term care bed fees are tallied on the applying senior's **monthly income not on their assets**. There is a daily maximum for any senior in N.S. Long Term care system In 2025 the daily maximum for any senior in Residential Care Facilities is \$65.50 per day. In a Nursing Home Care, the daily maximum no matter what your income is \$110.50per day. Our regional Placement office, from there forward would offer each vacant bed to the next senior on the wait list for Residential Care level or for Nursing Home level of needs.

It is with much gratitude that Serenity lodge's team of 11 dedicated workers, has excelled to build a team of trained caregivers that truly want to make this lodge a home for each resident living there. We have gained a much appreciated, and respected reputation of excellence. Together we created something that none of us could have done on our own.

Due to my own aging, I began last fall to investigate ways I could ensure that Serenity lodge's longevity can be accomplished. We feel the service we are privileged to provide, is a very valued part of the Municipality. All associated with the service of Serenity Lodge, have always been grateful that the Municipality came up with a solution when the East Hants Seniors Advocacy group strived to create a model of care that suited the voices of our municipality's seniors, in need.

Through this letter, I am asking if your council of 2025, can speak for the needs of our seniors, once again.

- a) Is there anyway that you can review our present Development Agreement to include a separate Property Identification Number for 39 Russell McKeen Drive?
- b) If not, can Serenity Lodge obtain a new Development Agreement with a clause that creates a valid PID# for 39 Russell McKeen Drive?

This is not about a need for me, personally. I can ignore the situation, but that will not ensure Serenity Lodge's longevity. When all your questions are answered, I believe you will see the benefit for the good of our Municipality's seniors, for the good of our employees, and of course, this needed excellent caregiving service can go on without me. The Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care is wanting myself as sole owner of Serenity Lodge to sign a 10-year Service agreement, by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. I hope you will compassionately see; this is not possible for me to be solely responsible for that long a term.

A separate PID # will ensure my primary house can be separated from my property being used for Serenity Lodge. If a solution can be found by either of these above suggestions it opens the assurance of longevity for the quality of care my team wants to provide.

Serenity Lodge has a very dedicated team of staff that can remain employed under the leadership of new owners, when that is necessary. Our Serenity Lodge team has shown by our actions, we believe in the excellence of care our seniors deserve.

No one losses in this separation of two PID #'s The Municipality gains taxes from two properties rather than one. Russell McKeen Drive remains a private road maintained by the RMD Road Association/ who are land owners who have property facing on RMD.

The Dept. Of Seniors and Long-Term Care will continue to monitor and inspect every point of excellence we have been proud to excel to. As I said about Serenity Lodge's team; together the Municipality's team of councillors and staff can be part of creating a solution, none of us can do alone.

I am available to answer any questions your council may have. Thank you for any consideration you can give this matter.

Sincerely,

Christine MacAskill