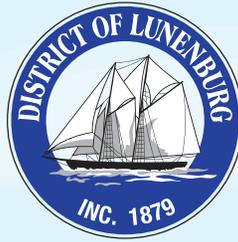


DOES THE MUNICIPALITY HELP WITH PRIVATE ROAD MAINTENANCE?

The Municipality is not involved in private road maintenance. However, registered road owners' associations can apply to have the Municipality collect annual road maintenance fees on the association's behalf. The fee will appear on the tax bill for affected landowners. This service is offered to help simplify administration for road owners' associations. For more information, please see the Private Road Maintenance and Improvement By-law.



MORE INFORMATION

This brochure is for general information purposes only. Every private road is different. Additional information may be available for your private road.

**For detailed information
on living on a private road,
and how it relates to you,
please contact:**

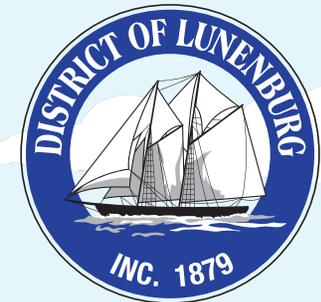
**Municipality of the
District of Lunenburg:**

phone (902) 541-1325

email planning@modl.ca

LIVING ON A PRIVATE ROAD

IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF THE
DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG



INTRODUCTION

Do you live on a private road?

Are you considering buying property on a private road?

Living on a private road comes with unique responsibilities. This brochure will help you better understand what you can expect living on a private road.

WHAT IS A PRIVATE ROAD?

A private road is a road that is not owned by the Municipality or the Province.

Not all private roads are created equally:

- Within the Municipality there are multiple types of Private Roads.
- A private road can be a 'driveway', a 'legal right of way', an 'engineer- designed road', or any combination.
- A private road can be owned by a landowner, a private road landowners' association, multiple owners, or just a deeded right-of-way for access.
- A private road may or may not be built to any approved standard.

WHO MAINTAINS MY PRIVATE ROAD?

Depending on the type of private road, there may be specific requirements and responsibilities.

Typically, maintenance of a private road is the responsibility of the landowners along that road. This includes snow removal, grading, vegetation removal, pothole filling, bridge and culvert repair, road improvements, and other such maintenance activities.

The arrangements for how a private road is maintained (e.g. who does the work and who pays for it) vary. However, a common approach can be to establish a "road owners' association". This is a society registered under the Nova Scotia Societies Act that is tasked with setting a budget, collecting fees from property owners, and contracting for road maintenance services. For more information on forming a road association non-profit society, please contact Access Nova Scotia.

ARE SERVICES PROVIDED ON A PRIVATE ROAD?

Generally, public services are limited on a private road. The Municipality does not provide snow plowing or maintenance on private roads. Other services, such as school busing and solid waste collection, may not be provided. Emergency services are provided, but narrow road surfaces, inadequate signage, or poor maintenance may delay or prevent emergency services from reaching a property.

WHAT SHOULD I CONSIDER WHEN BUYING ON A PRIVATE ROAD?

Buying a new property comes with many questions and decisions. If you are thinking of buying on a private road, some questions you may wish to consider are:

- Does the property come with a legal right to use the private road?
- How is road maintenance organized?
- Are there any agreements in place to set out rights and responsibilities of landowners along the private road?
- Is there an established road owners' association? If so, who is currently on the board of the association and what is the association's budget?
- What are the annual fees for road maintenance?
- Are there any major road upgrades planned?
- Are road name signs posted?
- Is the private road surface wide enough to comfortably allow emergency vehicles, even in winter?
- Are the private road and associated structures (*e.g. bridges, culverts, and ditches*) in good repair? Some indicators of poor design and/or maintenance include excessive potholes and rutting, poor water drainage, collapsed culverts, overgrown ditches, and large rocks exposed in the road surface.
- What are my responsibilities as an owner on this private road?
- Who is liable if there is an accident or emergency vehicles cannot travel on the private road?

