

**BRUCE COUNTY RAIL CORRIDOR
FENCING SUB-COMMITTEE POLICY
NEW FENCE CONSTRUCTION**

April 2, 2004
Revised February 10, 2005

The Bruce County Highways Committee has created a Fencing Sub-committee to develop policy and priority recommendations concerning fencing along the corridor. This New Fence Construction Policy has been prepared to provide guidance in the installation of new fence and has been broken down into sub categories for ease of reading.

New Fence Location:

The County of Bruce purchased the former rail corridor based on the description of deposited reference plans. These reference plans were prepared by an Ontario Land Surveyor and accurately describe the boundary of the County property. The location of the new fence shall generally be on the property line yet unusual circumstances may require that the new fence be located at a mutually agreed upon alternative location. The County shall provide the fencing contractor the specific location.

Standard Fence:

The standard fence shall consist of and be constructed of the following new material:

- ? Minimum 8 wire page fence, 42" high with a single barb wire above, conforming to CSA Standard G42 **or**
Minimum 9 wire page fence, 48" high conforming to CSA Standard G42
- ? Minimum 200mm (8") diameter new wood posts for end posts and brace posts, minimum length of 2.7m (9') embedded approximately 1.2m (4').
- ? Minimum 150mm (6") diameter new intermediate wood posts spaced at 5.0m (16.5'), minimum length of 2.4m (8') embedded approximately 1.0m (3').
- ? Minimum 75mm (3") diameter new wood stakes spaced at approx. 1.2m (4'), minimum length of 1.5m (5').
- ? Brace wire in the brace panel shall consist of 4 strands of 3.5mm (#9 gauge) galvanized soft steel, tensioned
- ? Staples shall be 4mm diameter galvanized with a driving length of at least 45mm (1 3/4")
- ? Wood braces shall be a minimum of 100 x 100mm (4" x 4") and a length to support the 3.5m (12') brace panel between the end post and brace post.
- ? Brace panels shall be located, on average, every 20 rods and placed in a location to suit the topography.

Site Preparation:

It is the objective of the County to install a fence that shall last in the long term. Accordingly, site preparation will be necessary as follows:

- ✍ Contractor shall remove the old fence,
- ✍ Where possible, trees and shrubs shall be close cut to the ground,
- ✍ Usable wood from cut trees, may be salvaged by the landowner,
- ✍ Trees and brush shall be cleared to the County property or where wild fruit trees are on adjacent County property the fruit trees shall be trimmed to 2m on County property,
- ✍ Fence brush pile to be burned and debris to be picked up by the contractor and hauled to an agreed-upon location,
- ✍ Landowner and County to agree on the removal of the debris.

Installation:

The installation of the fence shall be done in a neat and workmanlike manner in order that the fence is serviceable for a minimum of twenty-five years. The following shall be undertaken in conjunction with the installation:

- ✍ Wire will be adequately stretched,
- ✍ Wire shall be applied on the landowners side of the fence,
- ✍ Staples shall be placed at every location where wire crosses the wood posts,
- ✍ The County shall review each installation and rate the contractor on his efforts.

Access:

Where the landowner has property on each side of the former rail corridor, the new fence will accommodate one crossing access point per property owned by the landowner. This access point shall include the necessary brace panels and a western gate made of the same material as the balance of the fence. All other costs related to the access shall be borne by the property owner. The County considers access over the rail corridor a privilege and the users of the access must give the right-of-way to the trail users and must conform to other rules established by the County.

Process:

The Fencing Sub-committee shall place an advertisement in local papers annually requesting interest in fencing along the corridor. The Fencing Sub-committee shall review the submissions and determine the priorities. Fencing work shall be undertaken up to the fencing budget amount established by the County Highways Committee.

The County tenders and awards a contract to undertake the work of supplying and installing the fence, yet if a landowner wishes to undertake his own work, the County may be prepared to compensate the landowner in a similar amount as if the contractor undertakes the work.

If the landowner undertakes the work, the following will be the protocol:

- ✍ An agreement shall be signed with the County for the work,
- ✍ The adjacent landowner shall undertake the work,
- ✍ The County shall review the work to ensure that it meets the minimum County standards and shall confirm the length of the fence which will be the basis of the County's contribution,
- ✍ If the fence meets or exceeds the County standard, then the County shall make the contribution.