



Paint Lake Ratepayer's Association

P.O. Box 354, Dorset P0A 1E0

Ms. Janet P. Peake,
Mayor – Township of Lake of Bays,
Box 126,
Baysville, ON
P0B 1A0

May 25, 2009

RECEIVED MAY 29 2009

Subject: Paint Lake Boat Launch

Dear Mayor Peake and Councillors,

The Paint Lake Association wishes to clarify and reinforce its position with respect to the public access site (boat launch) on Paint Lake. In doing so we refer you to our lake plan "About Paint Lake" of 2005, Section 5, Social Events chapter, pages 33 and 34, which reads: **Recommendations – Access:**

12. "The Township of Lake of Bays should retain and improve the existing public access site".

Our position has not changed since then.

We understand that some discussions and visitations to an alternate site were conducted over the past year and that an estimated relocation cost could be in the area of \$30,000. In our member's view, we do not believe that such an expenditure should be undertaken as in our opinion, the relocation is undesirable and unsuitable for several reasons:

1. The drop to water level at the proposed site would be excessively steep;
2. The distance to back up trailers would be more than 100 Ft. and therefore difficult for many to accomplish;
3. Current wildlife in the area (ducks, herons, geese and beavers) would be disturbed and possibly fish habitat destroyed as well (the proposed site is near one of the most often used "quiet fishing spots" on the lake);
4. Some boats on the lake would not have access under the covered bridge to the main part of the lake during low water levels or because of high ski rails thus rendering the launch site useless to them;
5. Although additional day parking for trailers might be an advantage, it could also impede the existing walking route over the bridge as well as encourage more outside fishermen to the lake.

We believe that professional boat launch engineering specialists could provide a satisfactory resolution to repair the current site without substantial cost. This was and is the intent of our lake plan recommendations. In this regard, we will in the near future contact the Township with a request for a minor amount of dredging to be conducted at the edges of the existing site to render it more useful to lake residents and at minimal cost to Lake of Bays Township.

There has recently been some discussion that the damaged barrier gates to the Paint Lake Bridge will not be repaired while the issue of the possible boat launch relocation is outstanding. We trust that this reinforcement of our position will allow those repairs to go ahead soon.

We would appreciate knowing your council's intentions with respect to these two matters so we can clearly communicate them to our membership in our upcoming newsletter.

Sincerely,

Randy McNaught,
President – Paint Lake Ratepayer's Association

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cc:
Ms. Margaret Casey, District Councillor – Ridout/McLean
Ms. Ruth Ross, Area Councillor – Ridout
Mr. Herb Hickling, Director PLRA.

JRM/ss

x.c. - J.P., Councillors, C.S. - TB MB - On June 9-09 (canal) agenda
✓ A.M
6/01/09