
Subject: FW: Beaconia Boat Access
Date: Fri, 28 May 2010 15:06:25 -0500
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To: Cottage Presidents, RM of St. Clements

This letter is being forwarded to you at the request of the RM of St. Clements. It was prepared by Beaconia Beach property owner Bob Rettie in response to a letter sent to various individuals and organizations by the East Beaches Conservation Coalition. The municipality feels that the property owner's perspective needs to be heard as well.

Should you have any questions in this regard, please feel free to contact me, Mr. Rettie or the municipality.

Lloyd Talbot MCIP
Manager
Selkirk and District Planning Area Board

Subject: Beaconia Boat Access

To: Lloyd Talbot, Selkirk & District Planning District

Hello Lloyd,

In his positions with the Eastern Beaches Conservation Coalition and Manitoba Cottage Association, Mr. Crabb has been spreading outright false statements on website and emails starting in December 2009 and continues to do so. Although Mr. Crabb has all of our contact information, he has not once contacted us to verify the information he has posted on his websites and emails.

We have owned this land since 2005 and our property has basically been used as public land by some of our neighbors and the surrounding community for fishing, swimming, camping, quadding, and hiking and, more importantly they have used our well to acquire their drinking water. We have no issues with this arrangement and have never indicated we would change access to our property in any way, however, Dave Crabb has told these same people that we will no longer allow access to our land. Among the various uses of our land, his statement that there will be a loss of public access to the water well became, understandably, a huge concern for many people.

These false statements have needlessly poisoned our relationship with some of our neighbors and the community. Other ridiculous false statements he made in his e-mails and on websites (on which he has placed a disclaimer, stating that none of the information on his website is deemed to be accurate or true, and waives him of all responsibility resulting from this misinformation), includes: blocking the road to the Island beach, that we are acquiring land on Beaconia Island, and that we are installing piles on the beach.

To clarify, we made our application and received approval from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for the boat access in April 2008. Other departments receiving copies of the DFO's approval letter were as follows:

- Manitoba Conservation, Winnipeg
- Manitoba Water Stewardship, Gimli
- Manitoba Inter-Governmental Affairs, Selkirk
- Selkirk & District Planning District, Selkirk
- R.M. St. Clements, East Selkirk

We did not receive any communication of concern from any of the above departments, and therefore believed that the approval from the DFO fulfilled all requirements to commence with the boat access, which we started a year and a half later in November 2009. On March 2, 2010 we received a letter from Water Stewardship indicating that we would require a license to construct drainage work. On March 16, 2010, we received a letter from Manitoba Conservation advising that we require regulatory approval from them to construct a boat access.

We are currently working with both departments to fulfill these requirements.

In response to Mr. Crabb's latest letter:

- On February 24, 2010 we were given instruction from the Fisheries and Oceans Department to place a plug at the mouth of the boat access, install and maintain the sediment fencing and initiate re-vegetation (including plants, trees and grass) along the east side of the boat access.
- Other than placing the new plug at the mouth, and removing the old plug, no additional excavation has been done since receipt of this letter.
- We do have equipment on the property to undertake the above re-vegetation and will complete this work as soon as possible.
- Plug and fencing are complete. We are presently completing the leveling of earth in order to re-vegetate the east side of the canal.

- To maintain the plug, sand was moved from the adjacent sand bar to the existing plug to fill in areas that had settled over winter.
- We also brought in additional rock from off-site to maintain the integrity of the plug.
- No sand was removed from the beach and the sand used from the sandbar will be replaced when the plug is removed at a future date.
- 95% of the boat access was excavated on our property in low lying and bush area (according to a Government aerial survey).
- The access to the lake from our property did require going through Crown Land (remaining 5%), and we did receive approval from the DFO to do so.
- We received a stop work order on March 5, 2010 from the Manitoba Water Stewardship, advising that we are not to undertake any further dredging for the boat access. We have since done only the above-described approved work.

According to a letter we received from a Federal Biologist, the building of this boat access “will not likely result in impacts to fish habitat”. In my own opinion (based on the significant amount of water fowl that have already frequented our boat access), we believe that the results of the completed boat access will be beneficial, and not detrimental, to local birds and water fowl, as this is the calmest water in the area.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 403-519-6773 or email brettie@platinum.ca

Sincerely,

Bob Rettie