To Mayor Brian Mullin
And the Grey Highlands Council

RE Boat Launch and Public Beach at Lake Eugenia

Under the former Artemesia Township, a weekend attendant was originally put in place at the public launch to screen boat traffic because of the threat from Zebra Mussels. Over time, as use of the facility increased, the attendant was subsequently asked also to address other problems such as parking, noise, overnight usage etc.

With the lake presently gearing up for summer, our association remains concerned about the very real threat from the expanding list of other invasive fish and plant species. Other environmental concerns as well as boat traffic, boating safety, and the impact on nearby residents of noise, garbage, fires and blocked roads provide other compelling reasons that a weekend attendant at the boat launch provides a much needed public service.

We suggest that the person(s) who will be monitoring the public beach and boat launch at Lake Eugenia during the 2007 summer recreational season should be educated about and empowered to act upon the following list of concerns. In addition, the municipality or other agencies should provide appropriate tools or support to assist this employee to prevent endangerment of lives and property, and protect Lake Eugenia from environmental damage.

Invasive species:
- Post a sign in the launch area (available from MNR for minimal cost)
- Visually inspect boats/trailers for Zebra muscles, weeds
- Interview operators to ensure boats have been disinfected, bilges emptied
- Ensure fishermen do not have live minnows (this is illegal)
- Hand out educational pamphlets (samples attached)
- NOTE: re the attached DVD from MNR
  - A review of the videos will give Council a clear view of the issue
  - The launch attendant should be encouraged to view the valuable educational videos so (s)he can recognize invasive species.
  - The municipality should consider ordering copies of appropriate of educational handouts (information on DVD about where to order brochures, stickers and signs - most are free of charge.)
Boat Safety:
- A sign could be posted reminding boaters of 10 km/hr limit within 30 M of shore as well as other important boating safety regulations E.g.
  - No drinking and Boating
  - Need for spotters and life jackets
  - Warning that lake is shallow with unmarked shoals and stumps
  - Requests to
    - Stay away from wild life habitat
    - Don’t litter
    - Wake Board Boats stay 100 M from shore
- Provide attendant with copy(s) of current boating regulations for reference and to settle arguments
- If concerned about a particular craft or an underage operator, attendant could ask to see boating licenses and/or appropriate safety equipment
- Alternatively, attendant should note registration numbers of craft and if appropriate call the OPP (see below re calling for help)

Boat Launching:
- Ensure that boats are launched and removed in a fair and orderly fashion
- Ensure access to the launch area is not blocked either by trailers or an excess of watercraft tied to the dock
- Be empowered to deny launching privileges to any boat contaminated by invasive species or not complying with safety standards
- In cases of non-compliance, record vehicle license numbers or boat registration numbers to pass on to the OPP.

Parking Control:
- Ensure cars and/or trailers are parked in an orderly fashion in the designated area
- Ensure no vehicles or trailers block access to the South Shores Private Road or Canrobert Street
- If the lot is full, direct vehicles to alternate parking (near the Ball Diamond?)

Health & Safety Issues:
- Monitor that sanitary facilities (outhouses) are operational and supplied with paper etc.
- Encourage boaters & beach users to use garbage bins
- Keep an eye on fires, especially in drought conditions

Operation in Peak Periods:
Hot weather and/or long weekends bring out the maximum number of
day users to the lake. The vast majority of cottage owners also use the
lake during these periods, leading to:
- Chaos at the launch site
- Overcrowding of the beach and parking lot
- Dangerous amounts of boat traffic on the lake

The municipality could consider hiring a second attendant, perhaps on an
overlapping shift during the middle of the day to ensure that on these
very busy days
- A splitting of responsibilities so that all of the concerns as listed
  above are addressed
- The beach area is monitored for a longer period of time
- Back-up is available if things get out of hand

Calling for help:
- The attendant(s) should have cell phones (either provided by the
  municipality or a suitable reimbursement paid)
- Attendant should be provided with the phone numbers and encouraged to
call for help if needed
  - Fire or Ambulance in case of accident
  - OPP for boating infractions & other legal issues
  - Workers to service outhouses or empty garbage

Prevention of Overnight Camping:
- As previously agreed, we understand that the OPP will do all possible on
  summer weekends to visit the park some time between 9 & 11 in the
  evening to ensure that day-trippers have left and all campfires are
  extinguished

A note about Launching Fees:
- When this program was originally put in place, the Property Owners
  agreed that cottagers also would pay a “seasonal” launch fee in order to
  help fund the program which we viewed as being of benefit to the Lake
- Since then, the following factors have come into play:
  - The collected fees more than cover the cost of the attendant
  - Other than collecting fees, the attendant has not addressed any of
    the other important concerns as listed above
  - The taxes paid by the property owners at Lake Eugenia have
drastically increased
- Therefore many of our members deeply resent being charged a fee to
  launch their boats, especially as they simply launch boats and immediately
  remove trailers and vehicles, thus not adding to any of the problems
  related to use of the dock, parking areas or beach.
• If council is considering a change to the fee structure, a majority of our members believe the owners of waterfront properties should be exempt, or else be able to purchase a “permanent” pass good for as long as the person owns the property
• If council decides to continue the present fee structure, then we sincerely hope that council will enhance the role played by the attendant and empower him/her to deal with all of the health, safety and ecological concerns as outlined above.

In closing we trust that council shares our concern that Lake Eugenia remain free of invasive species and other pollutants, and that boaters, cottagers and day users all are protected from dangers to their health and safety.

And we thank Council for considering the following improvements to the facilities of the Public beach & Boat Launch area:
  • Appropriate signage
  • Education and empowerment of the attendant
  • Provision of educational materials for boaters
  • Maintenance of garbage bins & sanitary facilities.

Yours truly,

Nancy Matthews
President, Lake Eugenia Property Owners
CC Board of Directors