

September 4, 2020

To the Town of Blue Mountains  
Committee of the Whole  
Re; Ellis Drive Water Access

**Re: Town of Blue Mountains Council Meeting 08-09-20, Agenda Item B.13 Follow Up Report: Ellis Drive Water Access (PDS.20.53)**

As a resident of Peaks Bay East at [REDACTED] Ellis Drive, our family and neighbours have been enjoying the limited access to our beautiful Georgian Bay via the drainage ditch (Block 29) for the launch of kayaks, paddleboards and swimming. As many residents have highlighted in their submissions, the launch and landing for un-powered water sports is currently hazardous and we look forward to the Town addressing this opportunity to make best use of expenditures to address drainage, while also supporting objectives of the Leisure Activities Plan. We are confident that Council is well versed on the history of this access conversation and wish to focus on the best course of action going forward.

We commend staff in preparation of this comprehensive report considering the Dephi Waterfront Management Plan and **wish to provide hearty support for Option 4 (or Option 5) for the access to and on the Town-owned waterfront block north of Ellis Drive.** Options 1 and 2 (which we understand would further impede pedestrian access) certainly do not support the objectives of the Leisure Activities Plan. As numerous studies have been undertaken to date, Option 3 is not a desired way forward.

We strongly support the position of many of our neighbours which note that the lands abetting the Bay in block 29 are supported by our tax dollars, and it would be a shame not to take full advantage of its potential for recreational enjoyment. In recent years, the placement of shrubbery, metal posts and large boulders on the public land extending into the water (particularly on the north-west side of the drainage ditch on block 29), have created an impediment to recreational enjoyment. In the approval of Option 4 (or Option 5), in the necessary engineering study, we urge the town to include consideration of removal of these impediments interrupting the waterfront public land access.

We note that consideration of these options for access north of Ellis Drive may be considered through the Leisure Activities Plan as a potential model for other water access points. It would be a shame not to take advantage of the opportunities which drainage ditches can provide, for pedestrian walkways to enjoy our public lands on our beautiful Georgian Bay shore. We are confident that through the selection of Option 4 (or 5) as the way forward, this can be accomplished while respecting the parameters of the numerous environmental impact and preservation guidelines.

Sincerely,

Carol Darling  
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