

August 10, 2020

Deputation of Peter Samson

Re: Road Access at Foot of Lansdowne

For the meeting, I do not plan to make a formal presentation, just to say a few words in support of the deputation that Jeff Schwarz is making. I plan to cover:

- Our history at this property
  - The area in question, at the foot of Lansdowne, was a quiet, somewhat secluded foot path when we bought our house three years ago
  - People would walk there with their dogs, throw a few sticks in the water and leave after 10 minutes
    - Very few people would drive here to use this path
      - Once in a while some people might drive here to launch their kayak
    - A few neighbours would come down and launch their kayaks or SUPs
  - Our property was separated from the path by some boulders that were on our side of the property and connected to the groyne in water
  - We also had hedges that the previous owners had planted along our waterfront
  - There were wild bushes that had sprouted along the public path
  - The entrance to the path at the foot of Lansdowne had an obstructed view to the water due to the hedges and the bushes
- The sequence of events that we believe has led to the current situation
  1. The “Halloween Storm” was the first big thing
    - It deposited massive amounts of sand onto the shore and dramatically changed the beach
      - The storm buried our rocks and hedge as well as the wild shrubs
      - What used to be a couple of feet of narrow beach now extended ~15-20 feet into the water and sat on top of what used to be boulders, hedges and bushes
      - The narrow strip of stones, was now a beach

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2. To shore up their waterfronts, our three neighbours to the east hired an excavator to place rocks along their shoreline
  - To give the excavator access to their shore, the contractor built a “road” of wooden planks and laid down gravel on the road access
    - In the process, small saplings were removed and the much of the undergrowth and wild bushes between the road and the water were trampled, killed or removed
  - When the excavator left, it left behind a gravel path where the “wooden road” had been and there was now a clear path to the water
    - Today, as you head north on Lansdowne you can see a big opening right to the beach; this is new and inviting
3. The closure of Little River Beach led people to look for somewhere to go
  - This new opening looked like a great new beach
- The current situation
  - People now view the road access as a beach
    - We have reason to believe that it was being recommended to guests at the Royal Harbour Resort as a beach destination
  - People are driving to this site specifically to park on Lansdowne or Lakeshore and then spend a day at the beach
  - We’ve had motorcycles drive right up to the water, rev their engines and park (a picture of one parked motorcycle is attached)
  - We’ve had people pitch tents for the day
  - We’ve had spillover of beach patrons onto our beach
  - We’ve had dogs running across our property
  - We’ve counted up to 15 people on the beach at a time, there may have been more
  - At night, people have been sitting on the rocks drinking alcohol, smoking and having little parties
  - There has been garbage left on the property
- Our perspective of the appropriate actions to mitigate the situation
  1. We would like to have a guard rail put in at the foot of Lansdowne street to deter motorcycles from driving onto the path

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2. We would like to have no parking on Lansdowne, Lakeshore and possibly Bay Street with signs displayed prominently and with active enforcement
3. We would like the Town to put up signage protecting our private property and discouraging the use of this property as a beach
4. We would like to have the access to the water remediated to its original state
  - The Town should plant bushes and trees so that it is not an open access to the water
    - This remediation will likely occur naturally but it will take time and with the current volume of foot traffic, it may not ever happen
5. We have put up our own temporary fence on the western side of the pathway
  - We plan to replace this with a permanent structure (likely rocks or boulders) that can demarcate our property and that can deter dogs and people from running back and forth

Thanks,  
Pete Samson