

**CITY OF KAWARTHA LAKES**

26 Francis Street, P.O. Box 9000,  
Lindsay, ON, K9V 5R8

**Attention: Craig Shanks, Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture**

cshanks@city.kawarthalakes.on.ca

**cc: Dave Hodgson, Councillor Ward 3**

davidhodgson@xplornet.com

**Reference: Control of access to the Public Beach and Boat Launch on Four Mile Lake  
(former Township of Somerville by-law #95-020; amended by by-law 97-012)**

Dear Mr. Shanks;

I am writing on behalf of the Four Mile Lake Association in Ward 3 of The City of Kawartha Lakes. FMLA is a registered non-profit corporation, representing over 400 year 'round and cottage properties on Four Mile Lake. For more than 25 years, the Association has represented its members and their interests on a variety of environmental, safety, governmental, taxation and quality of life issues.

I understand that you are reviewing a recent letter regarding the existing by-law 97-012.

The existing control of access to the Boat Launch on the east side of Four Mile Lake at Hillside Drive is very important to the residents of FML, and the existing bylaw should be maintained and enforced in its entirety, as-is. For the past 16 years, these controls on hours of boat ramp access have done an excellent job of satisfying the needs for access while upholding environmental and safety controls. I would like to thank you for continuing to support the FML environment and its residents.

It is very important to maintain these controls as a measure of assuring safety of swimmers; concerns of environmental impacts, resident property thefts, uncontrolled boat traffic, fish population depletion, garbage and waste issues. These issues were previously major problems and were improved through the introduction of the controlled access by-law. The former "open" boat ramp access led to serious over-fishing; careless boat traffic; loud and profane activity at all hours of day and night; garbage littering in the water and on shore; uncontrolled water pollution including urinating into lake water; infiltration of invasive species to the watershed; distress to waterfowl and lake fauna; dangerous actions on the beach and in the water; and the disruption of our environmental "shoreline ribbon of life".

It is also important to note that the by-law for control of hours of access to the boat ramp was implemented for many reasons in 1995, including - but not limited to - the important safety of public swimming and swimming lessons. The other issues were equally problematic and dangerous. All of these issues were dramatically improved since the introduction of the controlled boat ramp access in 1995.

With respect to the public swimming, the public boat ramp is located at the only available public beach on 4ML for local residents and children to play and swim. The coexistence of this boat launch facility with public swimming beach is hazardous at best, however the bylaw controls on vehicle access to the area has helped improve the risk significantly. In particular, the safety of all public swimmers – whether they are kids at CoKL swimming lessons or just

the children that have ridden their bikes to the public beach to swim or play - are equally worthy of protecting. Removing or relaxing the existing control of vehicle access hours would be an unnecessary safety risk to this public area.

You may be aware that FMLA has invested in several environmental assessment reports including the Michalski report (1986), the Environmental Report prepared by Briones/Kelly (2001) and the Garter Lee "Shoreline Environmental Studies in Support of OP Policies" (August 2002). These reports conclude that 4ML is "already considered to be over-capacity by population, and over-saturated by water-vehicle traffic; over-fished, all burdening the lake environment". The CoKL Official Plan even acknowledges that "Four Mile Lake is ...'at capacity' for activities".

Also, recall that FMLA pays 100% of the costs for gate operation to the CoKL bylaw!

Craig, we have an existing arrangement that serves FML and local residents, provides some protection to the lake environment and also allows for access by others - the current solution works! (Boat ramp vehicle traffic is limited to specified hours; public access for swimming is open all the time.)

I urge you to maintain and enforce the by-law as-is. If any changes are considered, I would request that the vehicle access controls become "effective from June to September", to better address the months of safe swimming activity at the beach, and since in the past few years we've learned more about water pollution, invasive species, and other aspects of the environment than we knew previously.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,