



To Sustain And Enhance Our Lake For Future Generations

To: RM220 Reeve and Councillors

February 21, 2021

Subject: Discretionary Use Application for Recreational Campground between Sun Dale and Resort Village of Pelican Pointe

The Last Mountain Lake Stewardship Group (LMLSG) is a non-profit environmental group made up of volunteers who have a passion to protect and sustain our lake for future generations. We have been both vocal and successful on a number of environmental concerns regarding Last Mountain Lake, perhaps the most recent being our objection to the Quill Lakes Diversion Project into our beloved lake. We played a significant role in getting the provincial government back away from this controversial project. The Court of Queen's Bench (December 2017) recognized our mandate to protect this lake. In 2018, as a result of our this (successful) court case, we have been given the right to a full written hearing with the Ministry of Environment before any future diversion project is exempted from the Environmental Assessment Act.

While the LMLSG has concerns over any large community being situated adjacent to the shore of Last Mountain Lake, the recent request to the RM of McKillop to allow this high-density trailer park development to occur, causes us considerable concern.

1. We see no safe guards being offered by the developer to protect the lake or its water quality. To the contrary, we identify numerous stressors that will severely impact the Water Quality Index (WQI) that we have been working hard to improve over the past decades. In fact, we note the exact opposite will occur, with beaches and boat launches being planned by the developer and more than a kilometer of shoreline being utilized for the placement of boat lifts and docks, etc. [Two hundred boatlifts and docks, squeezed tightly together into just a 5-meter per campsite location, would still result in a solid "wall" of lakeshore infrastructure of at least a kilometer in length.]
2. In addition to the destruction and siltation of the lake bed from all this human activity, we have serious concerns over having upwards of 1000 people walking over this shoreline (possibly every day and every evening), accessing their watercrafts. These riparian areas are sensitive to foot traffic and would soon be destroyed. As you are likely aware, this semi aquatic vegetation acts as a natural filter for any surface runoff, into the lake. They absorb the harmful nitrates and phosphates that containment our lake, as well as stabilizing the shoreline from erosion and the lake from siltation. They also provide a natural habitat for the many species that live along the shoreline.



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3. Even with rules in place through the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority that prohibits any persons from disturbing or relocating rocks found in the lake or on shore, enforcing this would be impossible. Any camper wanting to place a lift or dock in their “allotted location” would undoubtedly move these rocks elsewhere, to enable them to get their desired infrastructure into the lake. These rocks provide valuable resources/shelter to the many small aquatic creatures found in the lake.
4. Refueling a large number of watercrafts is also very environmentally hazardous. Even a few drops of gasoline spilled during refuelling these vessels will do unrepairable damage to the environment. One drop of oil the size of a loonie can kill birds who spend most of their time in the water such as our grebes, cormorants, loons, mergansers, scaups, canvasbacks, teals, etc. With gasoline considerably more expensive to purchase at the Regina Beach Marina, than these campers are able to supply themselves, the majority of these campers will likely revert to “*jerry- can filling*” of their vessels. (Filling from jerry cans is also popular as it eliminates the waiting in line for fuel at the marina, especially on the busy weekends). Aside from killing birds, spilled gasoline will kill or seriously harm many of our aquatic mammals and game fish.

Unfortunately, not all petroleum products will be the result of accidental spills. A boat’s bilge contributes significantly to the amount of hydrocarbons that are deposited into our waterways each year. Bilges are seldom cleaned on land, far from water, as they should be.

5. Another source of damage we are surely to encounter are the golf carts, side-by-sides, quads, etc. that will transport people back and forth to their lifts. These wheeled vehicles will do **considerably** more damage to the shoreline than human foot-traffic will. Judging from our experience, a majority of boat lift owners will resort to using quads to winch or pull their lifts and docks out of the water each fall. This heavy hauling will destroy any natural shoreline in a very short period of time, likely a season or two.
6. Additionally, it is very likely that these hundreds of docks and lifts will simply be left along the shoreline during the 8 to 9 months of “non-boating” weather. This is aesthetically unpleasing, and creates significant barriers for any large wildlife, such as deer, to access the water. Equally important, they will also prevent families from hiking along the shoreline of our beautiful lake during the majority of the year while these docks and lifts are simply abandoned there. Access to the shoreline is an inherent right that Saskatchewan residents enjoy and one which they are legally entitled to have. We need to protect this.



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Thank you for taking the time to consider our concerns. We would be very willing to provide the RM with any additional material they may require to oppose this discretionary development. Our goal here is to identify the impact this high density, unregulated development will have on the water quality of Last Mountain Lake.

Please keep us informed of any decision the RM makes going forth and please feel free to contact us regarding any additional questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Forsyth
On Behalf of the Last Mountain Lake Stewardship Group

cc: Steve Mazurak, Mayor of RV Pelican Pointe

Aura Lee MacPherson, SAWS