

April 11, 2016

#### Letter to Parkland County

The unofficial boat launch at Fallis on Beach Way is not being requested by the tax payers of that community to become a formal public boat launch. Why are the public servants of the county determined to make the boat launch a formal structure? It appears to me that the tax payers of the Fallis lake community have clearly requested the boat launch be either eliminated or restricted to the local residents. The public servants, being the elected counsel and staff, appear to be ignoring the directive of the Fallis lake community taxpayers. What is the problem? The Fallis lake community taxpayers probably contribute close to one hundred thousand dollars in annual tax payments to the county and I am sure that based on my years of experience in the community that nowhere near the amount of taxes collected ever go back into the Fallis lake community. Isn't it about time that the Fallis lake community received appropriate attention from the county?

A large percentage of users of the lake are from outside of the county and for the most part have no vested interest and little regard for the care or upkeep of the lake. I have been a member of the lake community for over 50 years. From personal experience, and I am sure other lake community members have also experienced, that almost all of the damage, garbage and disregard for other users of the lake is from non lake community members. The town of Seba Beach took action to stop the problem and the town of Wabamun is trying to manage the problem by charging fees for boat launching. So why is the county council now trying to expand and magnify the problem by putting a formal public boat launch in the Fallis area that is already feeling the growing impacts from an informal boat launch? Your most impacted stakeholders, the Fallis lake community taxpayers, have told you they have a problem with the boat launch. You need to respond appropriately to your most impacted stakeholders.

This lake is a major asset of the county and it has the responsibility to use its powers to try and protect this asset with the best efforts possible. The county may not have formal control of the navigable waters or formal control of the bed and banks, however it does have the right to protect this asset by any means it can put in place. The county does have the power to control the access and monitoring of the lake for the purpose of protecting this lake as one of its major assets and to protect the effects of casual users that do not have proper respect for the protection of this asset.

Stand up and protect our most valuable resources. The county needs to be the lead authority in setting up rules for the proper protection of this lake, one of our most valuable resources. The lake shore community owners and the county cannot sit back and wait for the province or the federal government to come to our rescue. This is just a bad idea. The province is busy trying to gather money to fund some social experiments, and the federal government is in some far off land called Ottawa, that will come charging in to save us after the irreparable damage has already been done. The lake shore community are the ones that you need to stand up for, and you need to protect the lake from non lake community users that are the highest potential to cause irreparable damage to the lake. The lake shore cottage owners have the highest vested interest and compassion in seeing the proper protection of this lake.

My father and mother were also lake community members before they passed away and I remember the efforts they were involved in when the power plants were making major impacts to the lake by taking away all of the natural ground water and surface water flows from the area south of the lake. This was considerable effort on their part and resulted in that they were given status with a registered statement of concern regarding the impacts to the lake. We need to see the county take a more active role in going forward in setting processes in place for the protection of this lake.

I have worked for many years for the energy regulator and later for many years as an independent regulatory consultant to the energy industry. In all of those years I was involved in many levels of setting regulation and preparing applications that were in compliance with those regulations. All those regulations that were applicable to protecting the environment and especially the water resources were very rigorous and thorough because they were meant to keep impacts negligible. I just have to shake my head every time I see these issues that are before the council today and say why can you not just step to the plate and make a difference before it is too late. What you could do to control the access and use of the lake would not come close to the level of regulations that are in place elsewhere to protect the water resources in this province.

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