

Presentation to Parkland County Council

From: Keith Tilley, President & Casey Hutchinson, Vice President

On Behalf Of: Jackfish Lake Big Island Recreation (2002) Society

I. Introduction & Genesis (The 1950s)

Your Worship and Members of Council,

We represent the Jackfish Lake Big Island Recreation (2002) Society. Our community represents a unique chapter of Parkland County's history, dating back to when the island was first **subdivided in the 1950s**.

Unlike the high-density developments of today, the island was settled by people seeking a modest, rustic connection to the outdoors. Because of its off-grid nature, the "cost of entry" to become a resident of the island has historically remained low. This has created a vibrant, diverse community of families from **varying socioeconomic backgrounds**. Today, many of these properties are held by **second and third-generation owners**. We are entrepreneurs, tradespeople, and retirees—a distinct contrast to the more affluent estate homes and cabins found on the mainland.

II. A Legacy of Collaboration (The 1980s)

Our presence here is not an accident of geography, but the result of a long-standing partnership with the County. In the **1980s**, the Society worked in direct **collaboration with Parkland Council** to establish our current mainland parking arrangement.

That agreement was born out of mutual respect and a shared goal of managing lake access responsibly. Historically, our relationship with the County has always been **collaborative and amicable**. While recent engagement with administration has been challenging, Society leadership and members are deeply committed to maintaining that spirit of cooperation.

III. The Nature of Our Provincial Lease

It is important to understand that our tenure on the island is governed by a **Lease with the Provincial Government**.

- **Stewardship:** We are temporary custodians of crown land, mandated to protect the natural environment of the island.
- **Infrastructure:** Because we are a provincial leasehold, we do not have the infrastructure of a traditional subdivision. We provide our own solutions for waste, and transport, placing virtually zero burden on County services.

IV. The Vital Link: The Mainland Access Lot

Because we are an island community, the lot we lease from Parkland County is not just a "convenience"—it is our **critical lifeline**.

- **Accessibility:** This lot allows our multi-generational families—including seniors and young children—to safely access their properties.
- **The "Front Door":** Without this specific access point, these modest, historic family holdings would become unreachable. It serves as our staging area for supplies.

V. Conclusion

We take great pride in our "humble" roots and unique circumstances. We represent a segment of the County's population that values heritage and accessibility over luxury. We are not looking to change the landscape; we are looking to preserve a functional arrangement that has worked for both the Society and the County for over forty years.

We thank you for your time and for the continued partnership that allows the Big Island community to remain a unique part of the Parkland County story.