

Fairness for Clear Lake

Impact Statements

August 2025

...

My cottage has been in our family since 1945. Five generations have and are still enjoying this beautiful lake. My grandfather had a motor boat on the lake since day one. In fact my mother, as a teenager used a motor boat to get across the lake to get to her summer job at a restaurant in Wasagamung! My brother and I grew up being on the lake all day, every day, all summer! It was our tradition on our beautiful lake. My children did the same and now the grandchildren! It is what we do, these are our family traditions: Morning boat rides with coffee and cinnamon buns, skiing, fishing, even evening sunset cruises with dives into the lake! This is our culture on our Lake! We feel Parks Canada took this away from us without consulting us and they will not meet with us and tell us what is really going on. This is not acceptable. We have the rights too!

Becki K

...

Although I have concerns in many areas regarding Park decisions, my focus as a mother and grandmother is with the decreased ability to continue our family's full enjoyment of the lake. Family, neighbours, and visiting friends (from all over Canada and the U.S.) have always shared such happy times spent together on our pontoon boat. Sadly, when we conveyed the sudden decision by the Park to ban boats on Clear Lake, their disappointment was evident. We have also been impacted at our location with the removal of docks which were always a happy gathering place...children and adults alike can no longer safely enter the lake for a swim. Lastly the loss of our lake treasure the Martese has created considerable hardship. The lack of honesty and transparency by Park officials has eroded the trust once felt by residents.

Shelley Blackburn

...

I was at the 5th dock in the Old Camp grounds. My friend saw something concerning and quickly went to get her binoculars.

She saw two kayakers in the middle of the lake. The waves were stronger than their efforts to make progress toward shore with their paddles.

A view through binoculars could tell the kayakers were probably taking on water because the sterns were very low and the bows were high in the air. Very very concerning to watch from shore. We felt helpless and how horrible for the kayakers.

In past years a recreational MOTOR BOAT would already have been out on the water to help the people in the kayakers to safety.

BUT NOT NOW

My friend called the emergency number which is answered in Jasper. She was told a message would be sent to someone here at RMNP. Some time later, my friend received a call back. She was

asked to explained the situation about the Kayaks on the lake that were in peril. The RMNP person said they would investigate.

We do not know the outcome. We know that over the years, there have been successful assistance given to boaters by other boaters in all kinds of circumstances. It is what people do.

My son and a friend were helped in about 1997 when a famous Clear Lake storm blew up quickly. Their sail boat turtled(went upside down). Those boys would not be here today except for the quick action of two motor boats who got them to safety ..

PLEASE....Thank you

Jan Bones

...

The following are the ways in which I have been personally impacted:

1. The anxiety caused by: being lied to, not having any recourse in resolving the issues, being ignored and not knowing "what the future holds". Over the past number of years we have in good faith abided by all the Park requests to help prevent Invasive species from entering Clear Lake, only to be deceived and ignored.

On top of this, we seriously worry about the value of our property dropping because of the current circumstances.

2. After 70 years of boating and sharing the joy of what it brings with family and friends is crushing. When our Grandchildren ask why we can no longer use the boat for all the activities it brings: fishing skiing, tubing, swimming of the boat, family sunset times etc. and we can't explain why.

3. Friends and family deciding to vacation elsewhere.

4. The expense of storing, maintaining, insuring and the depreciation of owning a boat that is just sitting and not being used. SHOULD WE SELL IT OR HANG ON TO IT IN HOPE, with the possibility of being to lied to again.

5. We miss our dock. We miss our family time at the dock. We miss our times with neighbours and meeting new people at our dock. Where are our docks?

6. Knowing that Parks Canada does not really share what stakeholders value here at Riding Mountain is disappointing and SUCKS some of the joy out of being here.

I could go on but am tired of the whole thing.

Regards.

Bruce Brinkworth

...

Our family has been coming to Riding Mountain National Park since the 1930s. My grandparents and my wife's grandparents were some of the original cabin and cottage owners in the park. Their passion and commitment to RMNP helped to make the park what it is today. My wife and I have spent over 60 summers here, and today, five generations of our family call Clear Lake a cherished and defining part of our lives. This is more than just a place we visit, Clear Lake is woven into our

family's identity, traditions, and memories.

Historically, we have supported Parks Canada's efforts to protect and adapt the park for future generations. But recent decisions, made without meaningful consultation or regard for the community have been deeply troubling. Nowhere is this more evident than in the handling of the boating policy. In the summer of 2023, Parks Canada introduced a "one boat, one lake" policy to help prevent the spread of invasive zebra mussels. The boating community responded with 100% compliance: boats were inspected, tagged, and monitored by Parks staff; each launch and return required oversight and retagging. While inconvenient, we accepted it willingly in the spirit of conservation.

Then, in 2024, Parks abruptly banned all boating—including non-motorized craft like canoes and kayaks—after detecting zebra mussels. Still, we remained cooperative. In January 2025, Parks Canada advised that power and other boats would be allowed under the "one boat, one lake" framework for the 2025 season. An open house was held in February to walk the community through this plan in detail. Yet, shockingly and without any warning, Parks Canada reversed this policy the Friday before the May Long Weekend—banning all power boats. This last-minute, unilateral action left boaters blindsided and alienated, despite their full cooperation in the previous two seasons.

This is not how public policy in a national park should be managed. The sudden reversals, lack of communication, and heavy-handed approach reflect a deep insensitivity to the history, stakeholders, and unique culture of Clear Lake. Use of the lake for boating with our families and fishing has always been done with respect for the lake and done within stated park guidelines for generations. Similar disregard was shown with the redevelopment of the South Shore beach and pathway, which permanently altered the lake's natural aesthetic and severely limited water access with no genuine community input.

We urge Parks Canada to immediately halt any further drastic changes and implement a transparent, inclusive community action plan—one that respects the voices of the very people who have supported, stewarded, and loved Riding Mountain National Park for generations.

J. & D. C

...

After the Jan 1 boat 1 lake announcement, we decided to upgrade our boat. Our son just graduated high school and our daughter just finished grade 10. This is the last summer our son will be able to spend the 2 months at the lake before entering the work world and we wanted to take as much advantage of it as we could. We feel this has robbed us of 2 of the few precious years we have with our children as they enter adulthood. Parks seem to have no regard or remorse for what they are doing to families and businesses.

Apart from the precious family time, we are also out \$200k for the new boat...but we will try to make the best of it and go to Sandy.

Berkley C

...

For the past 64 years I have spent the majority of my Summer life here at Clear Lake enjoying & respecting motorized watercraft on the Lake. Our Family (4 generations now) have been able to

enjoy being on the water with friends & other family members water skiing, tubing, fishing, swimming off the boat etc. The abrupt unethical, disrespectful & untimely announcement made by Parks Canada reversing their decision they made last Jan to allow “One Boat One Lake” on Clear Lake has left a negative impact on many today & will for generations to come if this decision is not overturned. This has already deterred some of our family & friends from coming to Clear Lake as they are seeking other vacation locations where they can enjoy their motorized watercraft, creating a negative impact both socially & economically here in the Park.

Zebra Muscles are here to stay & spreading regardless of the unsuccessful, expensive & failed attempts to eradicate them. Reinstating the “One Boat One Lake” policy & overturning the ban on motorized watercraft would allow all to enjoy beautiful Clear Lake, cottage owners, visitors & those with mobility issues benefitting as well as small businesses in & around Clear Lake.

Not allowing boats also creates a safety concern for water rescues (which I have had several of on the North Shore) as well as limiting exit options in storms or fires.

The Parks lack of public engagement & consultation in their decision making process is also evident in the new South Shore Lakeshore walkway & docking system. It is now very difficult if not impossible for those to access the water by foot or to access their non motorized watercraft with the huge boulders that have been put in place not only creating an access concern but a serious safety concern.

In summary “One Boat One Lake” for the win!!!

Lori Cullen

...

My wife’s cottage has been in the family since 1945. We have enjoyed the lake and its beauty. Boating is one of the things our family most treasure. Our family, including past generations have always had a boat. We are concerned about our safety. There is no egress from the North shore. With all the wildfires happening it’s a concern. We have always had a boat to rely on. We are in possession of a report supporting this. Please reinstate the one boat one lake policy.

Don Kille.

...

My mother and father met at Clear Lake in 1954 when my dad was an RMNP lifeguard.

My mom waitressed at The Park Luncheonette.

After marriage they had a cabin in the Old Campground.

I arrived here in 1962, when I was 10 days old and I’ve missed only one summer since.

We now reside at a cottage purchased in 1997 with our son who has grown up / summered here as a swimmer, bike rider, worker, boater, museum viewer and church camper.

For decades, we’ve enjoyed the ‘sights and sounds of summer’ – like when a dad or grandpa took the kids for a ‘ride’ behind their boat and they squealed with delight and begged to ‘go faster!’ or sunbathers on a pontoon boat would drift by on a windless/ calm day or the Martese gracefully slid by with countless shiploads of tourists and locals alike hearing from the captain about this beautiful place, its history and how carefully we need to treat it so it’s enjoyable for us all into the future.

For almost as long, we were a canoe-only family and ‘the lake’ was a giant thing that was not to be seen in its entirety or to be trusted any further ‘out’ than a few hundred meters for fear of being wind blown to a distant shore.

And then we got a boat – and everywhere became accessible and experience-able. We’ve since made many memories that connect us to ‘the whole lake’... cruising, swimming, fishing, friends, family, lazy summer afternoon drifts, sunsets, waterskiing, tubing and picnic lunches – all with big smiles, lots of laughter and many, many cheers.

The above is important because it shows the history of our family (like so many others) and our strong ties to The Park, going back not only decades but generations.

Like us, zebra mussels are here to stay.

We understand that in a closed ecosystem like Clear Lake they will eventually ‘kill themselves off’ by sterilizing the water to such a degree that even they can’t find sufficient nutrients to survive.

We understand that may take in the range of 40 years to run its’ course.

We also understand that the ‘recovery’ of the lake may take longer in the future if we keep boats off the water now.

Let’s get on with it.

We support “one boat, one lake” and we look forward to a return to everyone’s *full experience of Clear Lake* in the summer of 2026 at the latest.

Rick T & Candace F

...

Fairness for Clear Lake committee,

Please find my impact statement on recent decisions taken by RMNP regarding motorized watercraft on Clear Lake.

As a long time summer resident of the RMNP and a power boat owner, I am extremely upset with the decision to reverse the decision regarding motorized watercraft on the Lake.

What I find particularly galling is that on February 2nd 2025, I attended the open house held at the Park to discuss zebra mussels and the Lake.

I had the opportunity to have a good conversation with the Superintendent and two Park Staff who were in attendance.

Topics discussed were the one boat one lake program initiated by the Park in 2023 -all agreed that it was worthwhile. I also asked and was reassured that owners whose boats are tagged and have been on their trailers since August/September 2023 can come back on the Lake.

Also mentioned was the idea of a launch fee at the Cove. My reaction was that the idea was a good one as long as the revenue generated by the fee goes back into maintenance and upgrades at the Cove.

Then the topic of the zebra mussels came up - especially how did they get into the lake given that the Lake is landlocked and spring fed and that the boat owners had their boats tagged.

The answer was not direct - either they truly didn't know or did know but were not going to say.

I left the open house happy with knowledge that as boaters we would be back on the Lake in Summer of 2025.

I was shocked and bitterly disappointed with the decision came just before of the May Long weekend.

The decision has denied a user group the ability to use the Lake, ruined people's vacations and affected disastrously the livelihood of the owner of the Martese and the Marina.

Who or what spurred the decision reversal?

The current situation speaks volumes about the hypocrisy of decisions made by the Park and the lack of trust that now exists between user groups and Park Administration.

Jeff Harwood

...

As a third-generation cottage owner, I am deeply saddened by the negative changes—both those that have been made and those that have not—in Riding Mountain National Park.

To begin with, the upgraded lakefront path raises serious concerns. While it may be suitable for walking and biking, it seems the natural connection between people and the lake has been lost. The large boulders now line the shore—enough to hold back an ocean—making it nearly impossible to access the water in many areas. Dogs can no longer swim, and wildlife is affected as well. I have personally witnessed deer struggling to reach the water for a drink.

The newly elevated docks, combined with the deeper shoreline caused by the rockwork, have made it unsafe and impractical for children to play at the water's edge with their nets and pails and seniors to enter the water. The rocks around the docks are slippery and dangerous, and the large concrete anchors are a tripping hazard. Launching kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards has become very difficult.

In addition, many of the park's once-beautiful hiking trails are poorly maintained or permanently closed. It feels as though Parks Canada is moving away from encouraging people to truly engage with and enjoy the natural beauty of this park.

These recent changes appear to shift the park away from its founding purpose. According to the Parks Canada mandate, the agency is entrusted to “protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada’s natural and cultural heritage, and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment... for present and future generations.” These values are not reflected in developments that limit access, reduce safety, and distance visitors from nature. I urge Parks Canada to honor this mandate by ensuring future decisions preserve both the ecological integrity and the human experience that make Riding Mountain National Park so special to so many. I hope future decisions will prioritize meaningful public input and ensure that the park remains a place where people can truly connect with nature, not just observe it from a distance.

Judy and Dave H

...

Your Honourable Member of Parliament for Riding Mountain

Your Honourable Premier of Manitoba

As you are both no doubt aware, Parks Canada issued a notice on Friday banning motor boats for the 2025 season at RMNP. I am passing along a note to convey to you that this decision was disappointing on a number of different levels. Firstly, this notice came after a prior January notice suggesting that motor boating would be allowed on a "one boat/one lake" basis. This notice was applauded and was acceptable to a broad constituency of the RMNP stakeholders. Hence to rescind this directive without a clear, transparent rationale and at the 11th hour was deeply disturbing. Secondly, I attended a Clear Lake Cottage Owner's Association meeting yesterday where the Superintendent of RMNP, Leanne Cooper provided no further clarity on the matter short of saying (a) it was her decision, (b) it was based solely on zebra mussels and (c) that more research was required for Parks Canada to determine "how motorized watercraft affect ecological, socioeconomic and cultural components of Clear Lake." Today I was made aware that Ms. Cooper was less than forthcoming, see the attached link

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/zebra-mussels-clear-lake-watercraft-ban-1.7538174>.

This article confirms what many of us had speculated, that the January decision was rescinded in response to outside pressure. I fail to understand the First Nation's concern. That aside however, I would like to understand Mr. Plewak's statement that "While Parks Canada has the jurisdiction to issue bans on Clear Lake, First Nations have a treaty right over Riding Mountain National Park. Could either of you or preferably both please shed light on what Mr. Plewak is implying because it suggests that First Nations have rights, the impact of which may extend well beyond whether motor boats are allowed on the Lake. Simply put, existing and prospective residents and business owners at the Lake have a significant economic and emotional investment to consider and it is unclear whether all the variables that could weigh on that investment are being disclosed.

Sincerely,

A concerned second generation cottage owner that is endeavouring to make an economic decision on my own and a third and fourth generation's behalf.

Kevin Hooke

...

Impact Statement from the Hyde Family:

It is with a deep sentiment of disappointment and discouragement that we write an impact statement regarding the lack of leadership, vision and pride shown from the current senior management at Riding Mountain National Park (RMNP). We represent a large extended family of over 30 individuals from second, third and fourth generations of cottage owners, ranging in age of newborns to 90 years old.

We have experienced first hand the consequences of a subtle shift in leadership initially over a 5 year span culminating with a dramatic change in how RMNP is managed over the past 3 years. Consequently, we are directly impacted by a culture of mistrust between the Park senior management and cottage lease owners. We have also seen the ripple effect of this culture of mistrust on the many businesses and other stakeholders within RMNP. We have witnessed the poor morale of many Park employees that work the front lines with the general public. In years gone

by, the pride of a Park employee was infectious and welcomed as they worked hard and diligently to ensure a vibrant national jewel for all to enjoy. Now, one only has to walk to the Omnik Marsh, or drive a few miles to Burls and Bittersweet trail, or a longer drive over to Lake Audy to the Central and Strathclair trails, to find these trails either under construction, overgrown and not mowed, and in some cases closed for years or permanently.

The lack of leadership, vision, transparency and meaningful collaboration on critical issues such as the lake shore improvement project and the reversal of the AIS program of one boat one lake initiative is extremely disappointing and will have long term negative impact not only for cottage owners, but for all who come to enjoy RMNP. In a world that strives for ways to increase access for all, the senior management of RMNP has built a “wall meant for an ocean” that looks industrial, with virtually zero access in to the lake, with the exception of a ladder at the end of a dock, in to water that will be over most individual’s heads. The years of spending time down at the dock and wading in to the lake with little toddlers, skipping stones, or easily getting on to a floatie, kayak or canoe from the sides of a dock is gone. There will be slips and accidents, and at the very worst drownings. Wildlife can no longer enter or exit the lake easily or at all, and the same holds true for beloved family pets.

The recent years of RMNP’s perceived strategy of dealing with the AIS issue of zebra mussels prevention, where the RMNP community of indigenous peoples, cottage owners, business communities, and others did their best to support senior management has failed. This issue should have been priority for all National Parks, with a consistent Canadian approach 10 years ago. The reactionary strategy of the past 3 years clearly was too late, and zebra mussels are here to stay. The sudden reversal of an announced decision to have one boat one lake has impacted the land values of cottage lease owners, business livelihoods with significant investments, and overall public enjoyment of the beauty of being on the lake. Most notable is the impact on the soul of the lake as it sits stone quiet. No longer do we hear the small pleasures of laughter from the lake billow up to the cottages as boats traveled by, or the Martese carrying locals and tourists from around Canada and beyond. Our family is saddened and we feel it deeply.

Respectively submitted by Laurel and Bob Hyde

...

The recent actions by Parks Canada to abruptly reverse the “one boat-one lake” initiative has affected our families on the North Shore. Investment into motorized boats to enjoy the lake has created memories for us for years and is a factor, but the lack of regard for safety for those of us who have cottages on the North Shore is astounding to us! There is one way out for us should a forest fire occur & if that is blocked, the only way to safety is across the water. Our attempts to communicate, not just this concern but other concerns such as lease renewals, dock discussions, have been given lip service with little regard to the issues at hand. This has been going on for decades & the “no motorized boats” decision is only the most recent example of disrespect & fractured relationship with Parks Canada. Trust is basic for all relationships & presently there is none! As lease holders & tax payers we deserve more!

Judy C. on behalf of the Coleman/Nestibo/Meggison cottage

...

My Grandparents built our cottage in 1933 & now our grandchildren are the 5th generation to enjoy/love being here . We have been boating on Clear Lake for 90 years & to no longer be able to do so has been very sad & frustrating! The lack of honesty, transparency, integrity & consideration shown by the present superintendent has affected everyone who love & support Riding Mountain National Park/Clear Lake!

J. Kozak

...

As third generation seasonal residents of Clear Lake we are extremely disappointed & frustrated that our concerns are not being heard & disregarded by RMNP. The decision to ban motorized watercraft has a detrimental impact on our family's & friends' enjoyment & quality of life at the lake. Boating has always been an integral part of our lifestyle here with fishing, skiing, tubing & just pleasure cruising. A huge concern is that our children & grandchildren have grown up enjoying the boating lifestyle here at Clear Lake, however the elimination of motorized boats has had an adverse impact on their desire to spend time here. We are strong supporters of the "one boat one lake" policy.

Gordon & Phyllis Lawson

...

I'm writing to express my frustration at the complete lack of engagement and consideration by the RMNP Park's Administration on issues that significantly affect everyone who enjoys this amazing park, and businesses that thrive on visitors coming to the Park. My family has had cottages here for multiple generations and to no longer have a dock to enjoy close by, or access to the lake on a boat, is deeply felt by us all and our fellow cottagers. I know it is also felt by the visitors of the Park, which is a gem of Manitoba. The complete disregard, dishonesty and disrespect shown by Parks Canada on this matter is uncomprehensible.

We all continue to wait for the public consultation.

Lisa L

...

The recent boat ban and the changes made to the lakeside trail at Clear Lake in RMNP have profoundly affected the experiences we have been able to share with our grandchildren for the last 24 years. We no longer are able to take our grandchildren in our boat for rides and tubing, experiences which were a reason for coming to the lake. We cannot even take them on the Martese to enjoy the beauty of and information about our beautiful lake and Parks Canada. I noted last weekend, how we have adjusted to the change in demographic coming to the park over the last few years. Us longtime residents have « moved over » for new visitors—giving up weekend activity downtown to provide space. We want all persons to find their particular joy they seek at Clear Lake. This same accommodation for culture and interest seems now stripped from us.

There has been no credible answer to the question « By whom and for what purpose? »

Margaret L

...

We have had our cottage at Clear Lake for about 60 years. We are seniors (my husband is in his 80's) and we are sad that we no longer have a dock near our cottage. We must walk a long distance down the path and when we get there, the nearest dock is crowded with people because there are so few docks. There is no access to the water anywhere near our cottage. It would be very dangerous to try to climb over those big rocks. And how are the wildlife (deer, moose, etc) supposed to get to the water for a drink? They would break a leg if they tried to climb over those rocks. We would love to see a dock go back in at the Marigold location. And while I'm on the topic of fairness, I'd like to express our concern about our lease. Almost every cottage at Clear Lake has a "perpetual" lease. When our lease came up for renewal in about 1968, we were not given back our perpetual lease. This only happened for about a year and then the perpetual leases were renewed for those people whose leases came up for renewal. I believe that all the leases here in the park should be the same for everyone. It is not fair to single out just a few cottages that had the misfortune to have a lease come up for renewal in 1968.

Mary S

...

The banning of boating on Clear Lake has had a tremendous negative impact on three generations of our family who currently are forced to only swim in the lake. For 81 years we have been active cottage owners and were the 1st to waterski on Clear Lake in 1952. Skiing and sport water activities for the younger members of our family, as well as the viewing and quiet cruising hours for older members are all taken away. We all want the best for the waters of Clear Lake and the ONE BOAT ONE LAKE concept seemed to suggest that COMMON SENSE WAS ALIVE AND WELL! Reality has proven that not to be valid.

At the same time we are well aware of the devastating effect that the Banning of motor boats has had on the economic community of Wasagamung and are certain that others will be expressing that concern.

Allan & Valerie Matheson

...

Clear Lake and RMNP have always been my favorite places on earth. Despite extensive global travel for work, they hold a special place in my heart. The McKenzie family cottage, built in the 1930s, has been a cherished part of my life. Now, with my restored 1923 Heritage cottage, "The McKenzie Shieling," this significance extends to my children and eventually my grandchildren. I treasure photographs of my father from the 1930s, enjoying the shores of Clear Lake and playing in the water. It's impressive how the national park has maintained its integrity and appearance from the 1930s. Similarly, I have pictures of my own children playing in the same waters during the 2010s, reflecting that same timeless charm.

However, I am deeply troubled by recent changes, particularly the construction of a massive rock wall. This alteration has drastically changed the landscape and severely limited access to Clear Lake, where the McKenzie family has been recreating for nearly a century. Access for swimmers, both adults and children, pets, and various watercraft, whether motorized or non-motorized, has become extremely challenging. In some cases, especially for motorized boats, it has even become

impossible or strangely illegal. The limited availability of docks and water access points is seriously concerning. Additionally, the wasted dollars and resources on inspecting items for use in the lake, which is already infested with Zebra mussels, is troubling. A simple solution would be to allow only items exclusive to Clear Lake for use in RMNP, with an affidavit and severe penalties for abuse.

Gordon & Christine McKenzie

...

I would like to add my voice to others who are unhappy with the lack of regard the administration at RMNP is showing the community of property and business owners who call this place home. As a cottage owner whose family has been coming here for 80 years, my interactions with the Park through the last several years have left me feeling frustrated and helpless.

Lakeshore path: It broke my heart this spring to see the results of the ‘lakeshore improvement’ project. Our cottage is on the stretch where docks were removed. I was at a CLCOA meeting late last summer where concerns were voiced and a volunteer group from our organization was struck to consult with the Park through this process, but it is clear to me that the concerns of the community were ignored. It appears that the issue of shoreline erosion has been thoroughly addressed by the Park, but very little consideration given to how people will be able to access and enjoy the water. For decades families have congregated at our nearby dock to stretch out and relax, to wade into the water or launch canoes and kayaks. The dock was a huge part of the lake experience. The pile of rocks that has replaced that special spot is an affront to our enjoyment of the lake. Adding to our frustration is the most recent edict from the administration prohibiting us from leaving our kayaks along the lakeshore. The Park cites concern for the vegetation, but kayaks have been there for decades and done no harm. I suspect much more damage was done to the vegetation while widening the lake path than storing a few kayaks there during the summer. It is also very inconvenient, not to mention bad for the environment, to have to drive to a safe and accessible launch site to go for a paddle on the lake.

Motorboat ban: The community wants a healthy future for the Clear Lake as much as the Park does. We’ve been patient, cooperative and eager to help as the RMNP administration has grappled with the threat of zebra mussels. My family doesn’t own a motorboat, and we don’t particularly like them on the lake, but the way the administration handled the situation this spring —reversing their previously stated intention and announcing a ban on the eve of the May long weekend—is just one more example of their disregard for residents and businesses in the park. As with most administration decisions, one gets the sense there are perhaps hidden agendas at work behind the scenes and at the very least a lack of transparency in the process. My family feels particularly sad about the loss of the Martese as a local attraction.

Lease and land rent: Since discovering last year through real estate listings for nearby properties that my annual land rent is quadruple that of similarly situated and sized properties, I have made queries and been cited ‘privacy reasons’ in withholding information. If the current land rent assessment process is fair, why isn’t it public record? I was unfortunately not part of the arbitration process launched by the CLCOA that saw, I assume, adjustments to participants’ annual rents during the last round of lease renewals. This information also remains private. Was it naive to assume that any changes coming out the arbitration process would later be applied universally? It would seem only fair. What sort of administration would condone such disparities?

Kathy M

...

What then transpired with motorized boating in 2025 is beyond belief and has no scientific logic. Had we known RMNP was going to go back on their word, we may have forgone a significant investment in cottage renovations. Why no consultation, why no communication before May, why no real explanations, why no public meetings? This is not how you conduct business with vested stakeholders who like us have likely lost value in their investment, support the local economy and were once proud to brag about being in Clear Lake. Now being here is an embarrassment. We own a \$50,000 boat that has been locked away in storage and cannot even be enjoyed on the water anymore.

Sean & Tracy R

...

My family has been coming to RMNP since the 1930's. It holds a special place in our hearts and we have many happy memories including spending time on the water with family and friends enjoying sunsets, water skiing and other activities. The initial watercraft ban was difficult but understood to be temporary based upon Parks Canada's attempt to contain zebra-mussels. Once its containment efforts failed Parks Canada unequivocally committed to the resumption of motorized watercraft on Clear Lake in 2025. To have Parks Canada turn around and renege on this commitment, particularly at the last minute, is a definite betrayal and should be overturned. As for the new lake path, I feel that there was inadequate consideration given to people (and their pets) who enjoyed just walking into the lake for a swim or simply to soothe their feet after a long walk. I feel for families with small children who want to come in from the shore and just paddle in the shallows without having to go to the end of the new docks and work their way back. The amount of boulders also on the shoreline is really excessive. I don't know what the Park is expecting to come in over the winter. In finishing, the decisions that have been made by Parks Canada are really not for the benefit of the people who reside here, work here and who come to enjoy this beautiful lake.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy R

...

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on our views/opinions on recent projects and various strategies by Parks Canada.

1) Lakeside Walk.

Access to the lake to swim is almost impossible.

Our cottage at 303 Wasagaming, has had access for approximately 70 years, and it is no longer available because of the rocks on the lake side of the walk.

The "rock "wall is very dangerous and has likely created a litigious situation for Parks Canada.

The placement of rocks around the piers makes it virtually impossible to swim or launch a canoe.

The debris that has accumulated above the path during construction has created a serious fire hazard.

2) In addition, the lack of maintenance and landscaping is a serious problem.

An example is the gardens at the Wishing Well.

The walkway and trails require major cleaning and trimming.

K. Wallace

...

Attention: CLCOA, Parks Canada, Fairness for Clear Lake, Elected Representatives, and all stakeholders.

Greetings,

I would like to support the initiative of Fairness for Clear Lake on several levels with an impact statement. My desire extends from over eighty years of multigenerational memories.

The health, the accessibility, and the cultural aspects of RMNP are important to manage and preserve, once gone never to return. Collaborative discussions are required between stakeholders, all with listening ears. Policies and attitudes must include everyone who is fortunate enough to have a relationship with this beautiful place, Indigenous, lease holders, visitors, and all living things in the wild.

Multigenerational access to the lake itself is important for, but not limited to boaters, swimmers, and businesses dependent on the park resources.

My grandfather promoted that fact over 100 years ago, emphasizing the many levels of enjoyment available.

Some of the perplexing issues that cause me to pause are:

*How do I access the lake walk at the halfway point with limited mobility or a wheelchair?

*How do I get to a dock to swim?

*How do I get details about Park amenities at the Interpretative Centre when employees there do not have a working knowledge of information?

*Where can I recycle when the depot gate is locked (on the weekend)?

*How do I get inspections of watercraft and where?

*How do I lessen my disappointment with the maintenance at the Wishing Well, both of the spring and gardens?

Margaret W

...

Other than the majority of people effected by the boat ban, of which we are, I am offering up my multitude of paragraphs below on lack of action from the Parks Canada RMNP Office staff.

Over the past 4-5 years, I have found the RMNP, Parks Canada Administration has become almost dismissive with anything that I have brought forward to them, both in the areas of Stewardship and Public/Personal Safety.

On the subject of Stewardship, I have met in person with the Development Manager, in lieu of the not available Town Manager, to offer up, as a group of interested cottagers, to plant trees along the south shoreline between the main beach area eastward to approximately Goldenrod. The focus was to replace fallen dead trees and trees that were soon to meet the perils of erosion along the shoreline. Over the years many additional trees had also been removed by some cottagers to enhance the view of the lake. The end result, was becoming more of a clear cut scenario, rather than a Park setting. Also, new growth trees would drastically assist with slowing further erosion of the shoreline.

Under the Liberal Government's, then policy, of wanting to plant 2 million trees in a certain short span of years to help fend off the effects of Global Warming, it seemed like a perfect match that Parks Canada would engage with. Not so. After being told that it would be considered at a Management meeting, there was no feedback whatsoever.

Under Pubic Safety, I raised the following issues:

A speed limit sign and post that had been removed at the westend of Tawapit and found in the bushes along side Harebell that needed to be reinstalled. After 5 or 6 days of no action from Parks Canada, I along with a fellow cottager, carried the sign back and placed it into the hole from which it had been removed (likely vandalism),

A missing and rotted threshold board at the stairway to the Goldenrod dock. Again, after 5 or 6 days of no action, we replaced the step threshold boards ourselves,

After tripping on a 3" heaved curb, adjacent to the sidewalk that was half grown over with brush, at the corner of Columbine and Wasagaming, while trying to avoid being hit by 3 kids on bikes coming fast from behind, resulted in a face plant to the street and subsequent visit to the Dauphin ER for a Cat Scan due to a significant concussion.

Met with the A/Townsite Manager with regards to the situation 2 days later, after seeing a lady incur the same trip situation. It took over 2 1/2 to 3 weeks to be addressed. The solution in Parks' eyes was to paint the top of the curb fluorescent orange. That paint faded by the second year and is non existent today. The heaved curb hazard still exists, and now unmarked.

Regarding speeding cars on Tawapit and Wasagaming drives, I have done exactly what Parks Canada has told us to do. That being, report it to the Parks Canada Office and to also report it to the local RCMP office. While the enforcement of the Highway Traffic Act falls under the Park Wardens' duty, I met and raised the issue to the Head Warden last year and advised them of the following paragraph's action with the RCMP. In a subsequent visit to the Wasagaming RCMP detachment, I also filed a Police Report.

After touring with the A/Townsite Manager on June 30/25, and providing a detailed map of the intersections feeding Tawapit and Wasagaming Drives, that need obscuring brush cut back to not impede visibility. As of this writing I have not seen any action taken or received any feedback.

We also discussed the potential of crosswalk markings on Tawapit from cross streets that lead from the campground, including the missing stop sign at the Goldenrod/Tawapit crossing, the need for more speed limit signage, sidewalks and areas of Tawapit and Wasagaming that have brush overgrown on them, the missing radar speed sign's status, that had been on Tawapit until it blew over, and the heaved curb situation.

In fairness at the end of the tour, I was told that there would not be immediate action and that they would prioritize, to address the worst intersections first.

Ken Y