

Martina,

Thank you for taking my call last week with respect to the issues of concern at Crowe's Landing;

1. Public wharf usage by private contractors - long-term docking, damage and congestion
2. Waterfront/environmental degradation due to road maintenance and user abuse

I'm reaching out today, along with Rob Knox, my brother-in-law and longtime Crowe's Landing resident. As detailed below, we are looking to the township to take action and work to improve conditions. In preparation for the June 20 council meeting, the purpose of this note is to provide an overview of the current situation.

The thrust of the discussion, will focus on the uncontrolled overnight/extended docking of multiple private contracting businesses using the two public wharves as free, 24/7 private docking spaces.

A number of contractors take special privileges with zero concerns or respect for reasonable docking time limits. They use the public wharves to operate as they travel to and from work sites, parking overnight and all weekend (a high-traffic period). They do not utilize the wharves as they are intended, as a hub where all boaters can easily find dock space to use for a reasonable and courteous amount of time.

Wharves are currently being used for long-term docking where they load and unload products, refuse and heavy-duty equipment (often improperly). During these extended stays their vessels shear off dock rings and damage the wharves. The north-facing cement wall has also incurred damage when barges are loaded with materials while silt, gravel, sand and fuel spill directly into the lake. **Note, at one time the depth at the wall was roughly 8ft. Today it would be under 5ft.

The entitlement continues when contractors return to the wharves and find cottager and local resident boats in their once-occupied space. These boats are untied and moved to ensure their long-term parking is never affected.

At this time, the entitlement and lack of respect for other boaters and the landing, in general, is met with no enforcement by the township or consequence for ignoring what have been longstanding/common-sense regulations.

This unreasonable use has forced the majority of boaters to take a back seat to these full-time wharf residents who occupy the dock space for business and even their personal enjoyment.

We are also speaking for those without a voice, the frogs, turtles, and small fish whose habitat over time has been affected by unnecessary road work and winter maintenance. Runoff and debris deposits dumping directly into what was once a marshy area. Stoney Lake is one of the finest cold-water lakes in the world with a history of good stewardship from its residents, however, it has not taken long for the waterfront area to decline.

Please allow these issues and concerns to form a basis for our address to council on June 20, 2023. This email also includes a small selection of images documenting the congestion we are dealing with. Please see attached.

It is our hope that by addressing these issues we have the opportunity to return the landing back to a useful and harmonious access point for all – cottagers, locals and the boating community at large.

Thank you in advance,

Dan McWilliams and Rob Knox