

# Information Package # 1

## Lakeshore Boat Launch – 2021

3/4/2021

Gmail - Fwd: Re: Proposed boat launch site



Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>

## Fwd: Re: Proposed boat launch site

1 message

Greg Gostic <roads@township.mckellar.on.ca>  
To: Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>

Thu, Mar 4, 2021 at 11:38 AM

Let me know if I should let Sandy post it. Thanks

Sent from BlueMail

On Mar. 4, 2021, at 9:07 a.m., [REDACTED]

Morning Greg

Thanks for getting back to us so quickly. Firstly we want to thank you for the great job you are doing. It is nice to know that a few people involved in the township have common sense. Your recommendation regarding the work yard got our respect for your decisions. Hopefully the council will decide to just do a upgrade to the existing boat launch as it basically hasn't had any major work done to it in probably 20 years when the rock screen retaining wall was installed. Do you mind if I post your email response to mckellar free speech on Facebook. I will not post it without your ok. I'm sure you have seen the comments and questions. Your email answers some of those questions. If not no worries at all as I fully understand.

Thanks again  
[REDACTED]

On Thu., Mar. 4, 2021, 8:41 a.m., <roads@township.mckellar.on.ca> wrote:

[REDACTED] Thank you for expressing concern over the use of the government dock area for the new boat launch. After receiving numerous complaints about the steepness of the current boat launch. Council asked to see if there would be other areas in Mckellar that could be used for a launch. We looked at the possibility of installing a launch at Minerva Park. The water depth along the area that could be suitable for a launch is too shallow. This would likely cause people to back there trailers out in the lake too far and most likely result in vehicles getting stuck. So we then looked at the government dock area this area has the right depth of water and the grade leading to the launch can be constructed to have a minimal slope to the water and new docks could be installed. We could widen the area of the launch to right and left along Lakeshore to allow vehicles to pull over and back their trailers in the launch. However you are correct, that the entrance to this launch is located on a low visibility corner. I was simply instructed to come up with a plan to deal with this issue. Council has the right to refuse or accept this proposal.

Thanks again for your concern

Greg Gostick-CRS

McKellar Twp Public Works Superintendent

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: March 3, 2021 4:43 PM

To: roads@township.mckellar.on.ca

Subject: Proposed boat launch site

Hi Greg

At last night council meeting you suggested the proposed boat launch site at the now existing govt dock on Lakeshore Rd. We live on [REDACTED] and have been here since 1968, we have seen what the problems have been with the existing boat launch already on Lakeshore. We have also seen so many near misses and accidents from vehicles coming around the blind corner at Henry and Lakeshore. We are very concerned if the boat launch is located at the govt dock site that there will be more accidents and be extremely dangerous. A person backing their boat onto the boat launch blocking Lakeshore and Henry Street and someone coming around the corner on



3/4/2021

Gmail - Fwd: Re: Proposed boat launch site

Lakeshore will not have time to stop as they do not drive slow along the road is the potential for a fatal accident. There is also no place for people to park their vehicles and boat trailers in this area except for the roadways along Lakeshore and Henry. They also line up to wait their turn to launch their boats which will cause a blockage of the roadway for regular traffic. The existing parking area on Henry Street is not large enough or properly maintained to accommodate more than a few vehicles with trailers. Presently most people do not use the parking area and park along Henry or Lakeshore to use the beach. Numerous times they park right beside the no parking sign without a concern and no one is patrolling the area to stop them. A number of village residents draw their water from this area and the boat launch will create more spillage of gas, oil etc. contaminating the water even more. Greg I could go on with many more reasons why this will be a very disastrous spot for the boat launch but I have gotten our main reasons across to you. Could you tell us how you are going to remedy these extremely unsafe problems for the area? I am open to having a new updated boat launch but feel that this is not the appropriate site for it. Updating the now existing boat launch or installing the new launch at Minerva Park would alleviate most of the above problems. We would appreciate a timely response back from you on the matter.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

*objection to boat launch at Municipal  
Hall*

B. CHRONOLOGY AND DOCUMENTATION OF THE BOAT LAUNCH ISSUE.

June 8, 21 – staff resolution #21-220 - Council unanimously received the Staff report – Admin # 2021-02 with little or no discussion which stated very clearly:

“that the Council of the Township of McKellar does hereby direct staff to permanently remove the Lakeshore Boat Launch from service due to liability and safety concerns.”

June 9, 21 – the Lakeshore Boat Launch was closed to the public by staff

June 9, 21 – staff put up signs to other launches on Lake Mantouwabing and circulated a notice to that effect

June 9, 21- staff were prevented from improving the Lakeside Boat Launch with a dock by a few Lakeside citizens

June, July - staff and council were startled by the organized opposition to the closing of the launch who had major concerns for the safety along Lakeside.

At the same time staff gathered these concerns and responded to many

The CAO spoke personally to many concerned citizens explaining our safety and risk management concerns.

June 22, our CAO sent INTACT – our insurance company - a copy of the staff report for comment

June 24 – The CAO circulated a confidential summary to Council which supported the decision

June 29 – our Public meeting on Boat Launches scheduled for July 8 was rescheduled to July 15<sup>th</sup> due to the Canada Day holiday, and we were still waiting on the new AV system so that as many residents as possible could attend the meeting, both virtually and in-person.

Further comments were made by INTACT on July 5, July 12 and July 22, who our CAO consulted with via phone – INTACT - and received verbal and then written support of closing the Lakeshore Boat Launch ( [REDACTED] )

July - The CAO summarized their Liability report and sent it to our Lawyer – Christie- for comment which was received July 14 – File #64-103-042 which re affirmed Council’s decision of June 8, 21.

Throughout this time, our CAO talked with MNRF about a new boat launch possibly in Minerva Park which raised their major concerns about the effect on fish habitat and discouraged this option. He has also asked for boat launch standards and other site locations which may be appropriate. Along with Public Works staff, they have explored many new sites in the north end and looked at options at private launches with little success.

July 15 – a public meeting was held. The Mayor gave an introduction to the process and produced a handout of the History of Boat Launches in McKellar. The meeting was full and lively with many concerns and suggestions coming forward. It was agreed that the CAO would prepare the documentation, a summary of the meeting and the formation of a working committee to make recommendations for future boat launches. Council was to look for immediate ways to



Improve the remaining boat launches – signage, lighting, as recommended in Risk Management reports written by Intact Public Entities Risk Management department.

July 17 – The Mayor made confidential options for Councils consideration

July 27 – The Mayor posted a press release "Moving Forward with Positivity"

A follow up meeting was scheduled for July 29 but due to a death in the CAO's family it was deferred to August 10

Early August, there were serious issues raised that needed to be dealt with in CLOSED session Saturday Aug 7. The Mayor called a special Council meeting on the August 10<sup>th</sup> to deal with confidential matters and rescheduled the normal Council meeting of Aug 10 to Aug 17

C. A SOBER SECOND LOOK AND CONSIDERATION:

What can we do immediately and in the long run to deal with the safety and risk management concerns at our boat launches which would restore confidence in our staff, council and decision making process?

A Few Options:

1. Status Quo – keep Lakeshore closed and look for a new site in the north end
2. Keep Lakeshore closed until a proper plan is recommended to restore the launch with safety measures of signage, remediation of key water pipes near by, widen the roadway for parking, rebuild a gentler sloping boat launch to reopen in 2022, install lighting at the launch, and install recommended signage. Estimated cost: \$350,000
3. Improve signage, lighting docking and instructions at the Lakeside and Steward Park launches
4. Letters were sent out last week to seven ratepayers requesting their participation in a Boat Launch Working Group. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

D. SUMMARY:

There is a lot of anger in a small segment of the community which has thrown a dark cloud over the credibility of our staff and council. We have only ourselves to blame. We unanimously made the decision to close the Lakeshore ramp. We need only ourselves to take a second sober look and work as one to reinstate the credibility of staff and council.

Please consider what we can do now.

As well, please review the suggested set of immediate, short term and long term priorities to work towards to the end of our term.

Respectfully,

Peter Hopkins, Mayor



## Township of McKellar Report to Council

Prepared for: Council

Department: Administration

June 8, 2021

Report No: ADMIN-2021-02

Subject: Lakeshore Road Boat Ramp

### \* Recommendation:

THAT the Council of the Township of McKellar does hereby receive Report ADMIN-2021-02 (Lakeshore Road Boat Ramp) for information purposes; and

\* THAT the Council of the Township of McKellar does hereby direct staff to permanently remove the Lakeshore Boat Launch from service due to liability and safety concerns.

### Background:

An upgrade of the Lakeshore Road Boat Ramp was being considered as a 2021 capital project. As staff was undertaking the necessary due diligence to improve the ramp, certain issues and concerns were brought to light.

- a) It was learned that there are an unknown number of private residential waterlines servicing homes in the Village of McKellar immediately adjacent to the boat launch;
- b) Additional gravel was required to be dumped into the lake in an after to lessen the slope of the ramp, which would also result in extending the ramp further into the lake. The addition of gravel to the lake for this purpose would require permits from MNRF and DFO;
- c) Parking concerns for trucks and trailers was also raised as a concern, given the Unopened Road Allowance (URA) immediately across from the launch is currently an entrance for at least one residence;
- d) The width of Lakeshore Road is quite narrow when maneuvering a trailer to access the ramp.

### Analysis:

The issue that has perhaps the greatest impact on the municipality is arguably the unknown number of private water supply lines in close proximity to the boat launch. This is of concern for the following reasons:

- a) an accidental spill of a hazardous substance that could occur during the launching of a water craft. Not only would this cause an environmental concern for the lake, but the Township does not have records of what properties are serviced by waterlines in the lake along Lakeshore Road. In the event of a spill, the Township would have to issue a broad warning to all households in the Village, at which time an alternative water source would have to be provided to residents of the Village until such time as the spill is no longer a threat, or the Township can



determine which households are drawing their water from the lake. This is a large liability for the Township.

b) Adding gravel to both address the steep slope of the ramp, with the resulting extension of the ramp further out into the lake is a practice that ministries from both senior levels of government expressed concern about, this putting approvals by these ministries in doubt.

c) The URA concern focuses on the current use by residents to access their home, the impact that permitting parking on the URA would have not only on these residents, but also the requirement for by-law enforcement that would be required to ensure the homeowners could access their homes.

d) The width of Lakeshore Road presents another liability for the Township. This roadway is narrow when contemplating maneuvering a trailer onto this relatively steep ramp. Not only is it difficult for many once-a-year operators to navigate, but it also requires that many of the ramp users will ultimately block 2-way traffic while they negotiate backing their trailer onto the ramp. This creates another liability issue for the Township, as a relatively hazardous activity is seemingly supported by the municipality. As new residents, both seasonal and permanent, arrive in McKellar, more traffic will ultimately result on roads in the municipality, and many of the users will not be familiar with some previously established uses, such as this. Diligence should be applied to addressing these types of situations well in advance.

**Financial:**

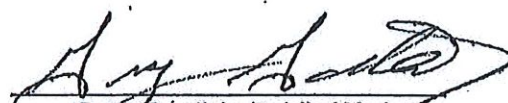
None

**Policies Affecting Proposal:**

**Conclusion:**

It is recommended that the Township of McKellar permanently remove the Lakeshore Road Boat Launch from use.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

  
Lance Sherk, CAO/Clerk  
Greg Gostick, Public Works  
Superintendent

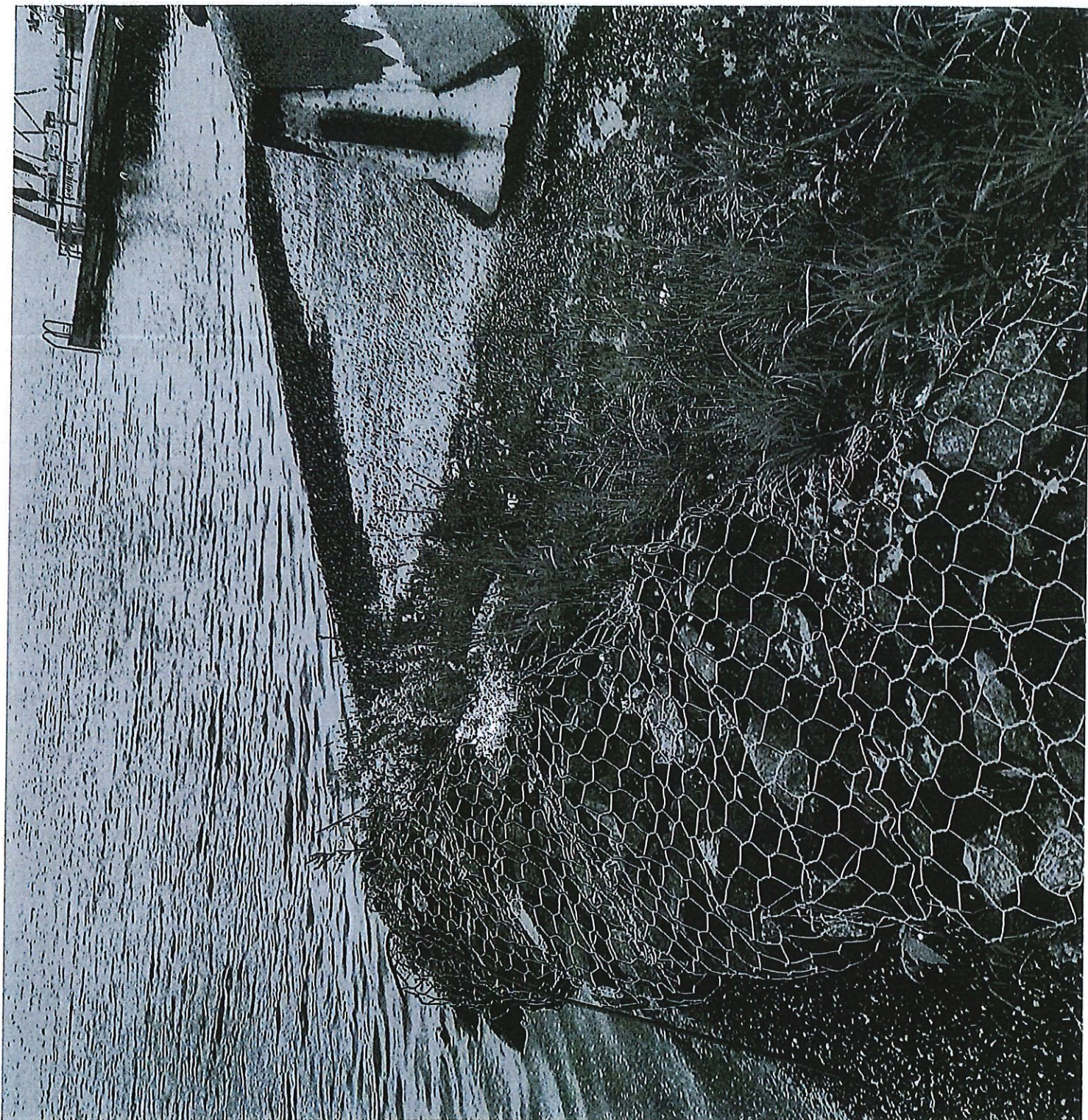




















TOWNSHIP OF MCKELLAR

Council Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2021

*X*

21-220

Be It Resolved That the Council of the Township of McKellar does hereby receive Report ADMIN-2021-02 from CAO/Clerk, Lance Sherk on the Lakeshore Road Boat Ramp.

*[What did Report say - immediately close]*

*X*  
Carried

CORRESPONDENCE FOR CONSIDERATION

Moved by: Councillor Carmichael

Seconded by: Councillor Ancinelli

21-221

Be It Resolved That the Council of the Township of McKellar does hereby receive the Correspondence for Consideration.

Carried

Moved by: Councillor Kekkonen

Seconded by: Councillor Carmichael

21-222

Be It Resolved That the Council of the Township of McKellar does hereby support the Town of Parry Sound Resolution No. 2021-63 with respect to the creation of Ontario Provincial Police Department Boards

Carried

Moved by: Councillor Kekkonen

Seconded by: Councillor Ancinelli

21-223

WHEREAS the Community Safety and Policing Act (CPSA), 2019 calls for the end of Community Police Advisory Committees (CPACs) and the creation of Ontario Provincial (OPP) Police Department Boards;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of the Solicitor General has developed an OPP detachment board framework that will allow affected municipalities and First Nations the flexibility to create a board that reflects community and local needs;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of the Solicitor General has asked municipalities and First Nations within a detachment area to work together to determine the composition of their board and the manner in which they will submit their proposal to the Ministry;

AND WHEREAS members of the existing West Parry Sound District CPAC have indicated interest in establishing a Board representative of CPAC municipalities and First Nations;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Township of McKellar hereby supports submission by the CPAC representative from the Municipality of McDougall to the Province of Ontario, the Ontario Provincial Police Detachment Board Proposal substantially in the form attached, representing the 7 West Parry Sound Area



6/22/2021

Gmail - FW: Risk Mgt and municipal boat launches - Lakeshore boat launch



Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>

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**FW: Risk Mgt and municipal boat launches - Lakeshore boat launch**

1 message

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**lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca** <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>  
To: Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>

Tue, Jun 22, 2021 at 12:00 PM

Peter,

This just came in from the Township's insurance provider. This came from the Risk Management department.

Lance Sherk, MSc.

CAO/Clerk

Township of McKellar

701 Hwy 124, P.O. Box 69

McKellar, ON P0G 1C0

P: 705-389-2842



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: June 22, 2021 11:43 AM  
To: lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Risk Mgt and municipal boat launches - Lakeshore boat launch

Hi Lance,

As discussed I sent this information over to our risk management department for review and they've provided the following comments. Separate emails to follow for the McKellar, Lakeside and Stewart boat launches. Please let me know if you have any questions or require further information.



*June 22/21*

Lance Sherk, MSC.  
CAO/Clerk  
Township of McKellar  
701 Hwy 124, P.O. Box 69  
McKellar, ON  
P0G 1C0

**RE: Lakeshore Boat Launch**

Dear Lance,

As per our correspondence regarding this boat launch, I've compiled all of our comments and recommendations into this letter. I trust that all of the below will be found to be in order.

June 22, 2021 our Risk Management department has responded with:

In review of that attached report, we agree with the closure of the Lakeshore boat launch. The Township's concerns are sufficient for removing the boat launch from use.

It looks like barricades have already been situated to prevent usage. Signs should be posted in conjunction with barriers, we recommend signage stating "Boat Launch Closed – No Access Permitted"

Also, we recommend posting the addresses of nearby boat launches that residents are allowed to use.

July 5, 2021 our Risk Management team supplied the following recommendations:

From a coverage standpoint should the Township reopen this boat launch there is no specific exclusion that would restrict coverage. We would however assume the Township has reopened this launch implementing proper risk management controls to assist in eliminating potential hazards. Please note we do not have any lawyers on staff, so this is not legal advice. I also sent this information back to our risk department and they've provided the following recommendations.

Pursuant to the *Occupiers' Liability Act*, municipalities "owe a duty to take such care as in all the circumstances of the case is reasonable to see that persons entering on the premises, and the property brought on those premises are reasonable safe while on premises." ✱

As the Township is the Occupier they owe a duty to take reasonable care to keep their premises safe for the public. Having said that if a vehicle were to hit a child running for a beach while launching their boat, it would be a catastrophe regardless, especially if the municipality knows, or should know, that the hazard exists.

Ample and adequate signage should be in place and proper inspections and maintenance should be completed and documented on a regular basis. Adequate lighting should be installed on the shore to ensure safe docking and boat removal operation. Also, adequate parking areas that can handle a truck and trailer sized vehicle should be available.

- Continued -



*June 22*

The signage posted at the boat launch can include the following:

- Use at your own risk, this area is unsupervised
- The rules such as no fishing or no swimming, no bare feet, no alcohol, etc.
- State the hours it is open (dawn to dusk for example)
- Emergency numbers to call, as well as location to the nearest telephone
- Contact information to report damages or maintenance requirements
- Indicate inherent hazards – the boating activity and a drop off. The Township should ensure that shallow water areas or below surface rocks that could damage boat operation be marked.
- Ensure appropriate signage and warnings regarding Covid-19 be placed around the area.

On July 12, 2021 our Roads Specialist provided the following comments:

I did find the boat launch in question on Google Street view. Lakeshore Road appears to be a low traffic volume road serving residential properties. I did not see any speed limit signs so I assume the speed limit is 80km/h. I did observe that No Parking signs are in place in the area of the boat launch. In the area of the boat launch residential is on the north side of the road, the lake is on the south side. In my opinion, the majority of drivers on the roads would be people familiar with the area and accustomed to the boat launch and the issues of backing a trailer onto the ramp and the maneuvering required to launch or load a boat and block the road during this time. The liability concern would be for those unfamiliar with the road and the boat launch. The issue on blocking the road could be mitigated via the use of sensors and advance warning signs with flashing beacons that would advise approaching drivers that the boat ramp was in use (that is providing my assumption that this is a low traffic volume road used by local residents is correct). The main concern would be the lack of parking for those who may want to launch at this location for day trip on the lake and park the vehicle and trailer plus the location of water intakes near the ramp and potential for a discharge of gasoline and motor oil. For these reasons I would agree with the reports recommendation to permanently remove the boat launch.

July 20, 2021 Risk Management and I have commented the following:

Having the boat launch open or closed does not jeopardize how coverage responds. Ultimately the Municipality must choose how they'd like to move forward with this decision and implement proper controls to reduce exposures whether it's open or closed.

Thank you,

*— Arthur Reas*

*Jason Gervais*

Jason Gervais, CRM, C.Tech, R.I.B. (Ont.)  
Regional Manager  
Intact Public Entities

/kn  
Encls.



June 22, 2021

Intact Public Entities - Risk Management Department

Intact Public Entities

278 Pinebush Road, Suite 200

Cambridge, Ontario, N1T 1Z6

### Lakeshore Road Boat Launch

In review of that attached report, we agree with the closure of the Lakeshore boat launch. The Township concerns are sufficient for removing the boat launch from use.

Barricades have already been situated to prevent usage. Signs should be posted in conjunction with barriers, we recommend signage stating "Boat Launch Closed – No Access Permitted"

Also, we recommend posting the addresses of nearby boat launches that residents are allowed to use.

July 12, 2021

Intact Public Entities Roads Specialist - this recommendation is to minimize exposure to a claim.

No parking signs are in place in the area of the boat launch. In the area of the boat launch, residential is on the north side of the road, the lake is on the south side. The liability concern would be for those users unfamiliar with the road and the boat launch. The issue on blocking the road could be mitigated via the use of sensors and advance warning signs with flashing beacons that would advise approaching drivers that the boat ramp was in use (assuming this is a low traffic volume road used by local residents). The main concern would be the lack of parking for those who may want to launch at this location for day trip on the lake and park the vehicle and trailer plus the location of water intakes near the ramp and potential for a discharge of gasoline and motor oil. For these reasons I would agree with the report's recommendation to permanently remove the boat launch.

July 5, 2021

### Intact Public Entities

Pursuant to the Occupiers' Liability Act, municipalities "owe a duty to take such care as in all the circumstances of the case is reasonable to see that persons entering on the premises, and the property

As the Township is the Occupier, they owe a duty to take reasonable care to keep their premises safe for the public. Having said that, if a vehicle were to hit a child running for a beach while launching their boat, it would be a catastrophe regardless, especially if the municipality knows, or should know, that the hazard exists.

Ample and adequate signage should be in place and proper inspections and maintenance should be completed and documented on a regular basis. Adequate lighting should be installed on the shore to ensure safe docking and boat removal operation. Also, adequate parking areas that can handle a truck and trailer sized vehicle should be available.



- We would recommend signage in the parking area to advise that the area is not monitored and the Township will not be responsible for lost or stolen articles.
- People coming off their boats will want to dispose of all their garbage – this can either be permitted, and garbage dumpsters or cans provided, or signage advising to take all garbage out and no dumping – with a fine associated with anyone found to be in breach of that rule.
- Appropriate signage and warnings regarding Covid-19 should be placed around the area.
- As a conciliatory gesture, neighbouring homeowners could be provided a phone number (other than 911, which should be discouraged) to call if and when problems arise – this could be an aid to actual monitoring of the area.

**June 22, 2021.**

**Intact Public Entities - Risk Management Department**

#### **Stewart park boat launch.**

Signage posted at the boat launch should include the following:

- Use at your own risk, this area is unsupervised
- The rules such as no fishing or no swimming, no bare feet, no alcohol, etc.
- State the hours it is open (dawn to dusk for example)
- Emergency numbers to call, as well as location to the nearest telephone
- Contact information to report damages or maintenance requirements
- Indicate inherent hazards – the boating activity and an undertow, or drop off
- Ensure that shallow water areas or below surface rocks that could damage boat operations are marked.

Adequate lighting should be installed on the shore and/or docks to ensure safe docking and boat removal operation. In the pictures, there does not seem to be a designated parking area. Parking areas that can handle a truck and trailer sized vehicle should be available. We would recommend signage in the parking area to advise that the area is not monitored and the Township will not be responsible for lost or stolen articles.

Proper inspections and maintenance should be completed and documented on a regular basis.

Additionally, appropriate signage and warnings regarding Covid-19 should be placed around the area.



*Long history - before our Council and long before my involvement. Not sure when? over 20 years ago*

#### **1. Background and history of boat launches:**

There are four municipally owned boat launches in McKellar – three on Lake Manitouwabing – Lakeshore (now closed), Lakeside and Stewart Park, and one on McKellar Lake. There are two private launches on Deerfield and Grey Owl Road that we have unsuccessfully tried to open to the general public. As well, there are three private launches at Tait's Landing, the Outpost and Glenwood Marina – some free, while others charge.

The Township of McKellar owns, operates, insures, regulates, maintains and is legally responsible for our municipal public launches. They are provided for public use and as a service to our local community, as well as serving and welcoming our guests and visitors.

Boat launches have been an issue for council and staff for a while. Our "2018-2022 McKellar Action Plan" identified boat launches as a priority to be reviewed. Historically, there have always been safety issues associated with the Lakeshore site. Our new council directed staff to find ways of improving our launches – other locations, safety, parking, docking and signage. There was a public outcry when an attempt by some to have a launch near Hurdville, which was dismissed by council. Staff was asked in 2019 to find another location to replace the current Lakeshore launch. A new launch was approved by council and MNRF to be installed in the spring of 2020 near the public beach and government dock on lakeshore. Due to covid-19, the project was deferred to the spring of 2021.

Due to the recent oil spill in the village and the objection of some residents, this site was abandoned. Again, council asked staff to find a new location for the Lakeshore ramp and make a report and recommendation to council. Staff found that, besides the on-going Lakeshore safety concerns, a new one had emerged when staff discovered that numerous water intake pipes ran under the road in close proximity to the launch. A spill could contaminate their water supply and therefore put the municipality at-risk. The staff report to council recommended that the Lakeshore boat launch be closed immediately on a safety and risk management basis. Council unanimously received their report and the launch was closed immediately.

Staff not only have an obligation and authority to act immediately, but a duty to act when our municipality and community are at risk that involve legal, safety, risk management, environmental and liability issues. We have had road wash outs; a recent oil spill in the village; appearance of blue-green algae, as well as high e-coli counts at one of our public beaches, and a state of emergency for covid-19. Staff has always acted immediately in these matters. Staff has the duty and authority to act in these matters.

It is no different from anyone finding a safety or other major liability concern on their property that puts you and others at risk. You take immediate action.

As a result, we are one public launch short, especially in the north end. Staff continue to investigate new, safer and affordable options going forward.

Any and all positive solutions are welcomed. In the meantime, we will listen to your ideas to improve the two remaining public launches on Manitouwabing.

#### **B: clarifying some issues and concerns:**

1. proper community development processes:

Council holds the belief that for normal issues, the more people you involve in the decision-making process, the better the decision. There are many proper ways in which our community is involved in



- [redacted] - maintenance
- all overhauled. Boat launch
- Safe -
- Fort ready again - water
- Emergency - MP
- the MP launch & parking
- non residential area
- & - Temp. no pen. Lakeshore -

- uses Lakeshore launch same
- Spills - off the launch possible
- roller ramp - to Mantua
- keep ramps open
- keep Lakeshore ramp open
- incl. row launch -

- Lakeside
- process - immediately action
- safety on road
- camp issues -
- all other action -
- 35 years - concern
- Safety issues
- reports - not provided
- all launch -

usage



council operations as outlined in previous public documents, reports, newsletters and social media. Ultimately, Council is responsible for making decisions that best suit the majority of our citizens. Our record is a positive one as our Action Plan progresses.

We are quite concerned about what happened at the public municipally-owned Lakeside boat launch which put our staff at risk for doing what they were asked to do – put in a new dock, as we have done at other launch sites. There are more legal and acceptable ways of raising citizen concerns, as we have already mentioned. This action by a few was not appreciated and, frankly, illegal. It could have escalated except for the common sense of our staff. There are many more appropriate ways to be heard.

## **2. Staff authority:**

Staff has the right and duty to act immediately on legal, risk management, environmental and safety issues in a financially responsible manner. Council is advised under the Municipal Act to accept the advice of experts like lawyers, planners, auditors, staff other professionals and recommendations from staff. Council unanimously received staff's report and recommendation to immediately close the Lakeshore boat launch.

## **ii. Council's responses to issues.**

Normally, council will raise issues of concern from the public at large in council. It is not the practise for council to engage in social media campaigns. Collectively, they can issue a press release or update on matters at hand. Rather, they are to ensure that they direct the correspondence to the CAO and to ensure the issue is on an agenda, fully discussed, and ultimately to recommend further action. Since this was a staff recommendation to council, which council supported, all correspondence was directed to staff for comment. Our CAO has tried to answer many of your concerns, as well as arranging for today's public meeting to look at positive ways of moving forward.

## **3. Getting it right:**

Sometimes council does not get it totally right. You always let us know. More important is how to correct it and find more positive solutions going forward. That is what today is all about - working together to find ways to provide for accessible, safe, affordable public boat launches in McKellar.

## **4. Moving forward:**

Today we hope to listen to your concerns but more importantly, to listen to your suggestions. We need to explore all options and collectively arrive at a common sense approach which meets our legal and other requirements. We hope that we can gather in the fall to make recommendations to improve our public boat launches in McKellar.

Thank you for taking the time to help resolve this issue.

On behalf of Council, respectfully,

Mayor Peter Hopkins, 705 389 2228, peterhopkins1942@gmail.com



- ok - same issues

- letter to council

- reputation

- lack of communication

- no resolution

- CRO - report -

- M. Park -

- Re open -

- process, angry

- maintain

- no reg safety

- CRO to close -

- no notice -

- council - no action

- Fairs - 32 years

- quick decision, no discussion

- closed pipe alternative location

- Lakeside, ramp a problem

- dust -

- causes safety / traffic issues

& narrow

- new boat ramp - m.p.



Confidential: For your eyes only:

McKellar Boat Launches: Issues, processes, concerns, background and actions forward - June 24, 21

#### A- Introduction:

Over the last while, we have all been made aware of numerous boat launch issues. We need to all reflect on how we got there, how we have dealt with it and how to proceed to a win-win-win solution for staff, council and our community. More importantly, how do we regain public confidence in being open and transparent, with a community development philosophy and in making wise and correct decisions that we have worked so hard to live up to. Our credibility is the foundation of what we all do. We all certainly need to review how we have dealt collectively with the issue as a council supporting our staff. We need to certainly clarify our new roles and authorities between staff and council. Ultimately we must all follow our code of conduct and procedural by laws.

We all agreed as a council to receive a staff report – unanimously - which recommended the immediate closure of Lakeshore launch for a variety of reasons. In practice, it is recommended in the Councillor's handbook that Council should support recommendations from staff, lawyers and other related professionals. The recent insurance report supports staffs' position regarding safety, liability and on a risk management basis. We had very little discussion except a few over all question resulting in council receiving the staff recommendation. We need to clarify the need for a resolution supporting this action. When it comes to legal, insurance and safety concerns, staff can and has acted immediately as evidenced by the recent oil spill. You do not need a council resolution in this regard.

Ultimately it may be the right decision in the long run. Obviously we missed a few steps along the way such as the community impact of the closure – realistic or not. We have prided and promoted ourselves as being open with our community and to listen to major concerns. It is critical moving forward that we restore public confidence in our staff and council decisions. We are in this collectively and will resolve it collectively. We have some serious concerns about how council has dealt with the issue in the public domain.

#### Actions :

1. We immediately need to clarify and define the roles and authorities of staff and council- working together
2. We need to fully review and agree that we need wide spread public input on major decisions before moving forward. Ultimately council makes the decision and lives with it. We should be making decisions that are best for the majority of our community and not for other reasons
3. We all need to agree to improve our public communication processes with a plan for time sensitive, clear and concise notices.



**B. Background: Facts regarding Boat Launches in McKellar :**

It is always important that we make decisions on an evidence – based - fact basis. We have four municipally owned public boat launches- Lakeshore, Lakeside, Stewart Park and McKellar lake; two closed private launches ( Deerfield and Grey Owl) and three private boat launches at marinas- Talts, Outpost and Glenwood.- some with fees , others free, some great, others not so good

For the record, public boat launches are owned by and the responsibility of the municipality. They provide for the use of our local community and serve and welcome our guests and visitors.

Boat launches have been a staff and council issue for a long time – especially the one on Lakeshore. It is well - documented that our citizens seem to react quickly to three issues: large development projects, front yard resolutions or boat launches. Council has always revisited these topics and found a way to move forward with public – almost all – support. It was a priority in our 2018-2022 Action plan, page 12. Council asked staff after the Harris-Hurdville boat launch debate to improve our boat launches – parking, docking etc - and to look at another site for Lakeshore as it was deemed unsafe for a variety of reasons- parking, slope, location, deteriorating and the like. We tried to have public access to private launches on Deerfield and Grey Owl without success. Staff has been slowly improving our public launches over the last few years. Staff recommended a new launch be put in at our government dock and beach area on Lakeshore. Council approved it, as well as approving the budget and obtaining MNRF approval to be installed in 2020. Due to Covid, it was deferred to the spring of 2021. The project was cancelled recently when local citizens complained that this site was not appropriate especially after the major oil spill nearby. Staff was then asked to review the Lakeshore sight and report back to Council. Their report brought to our attention that besides the long standing safety issues there were numerous water intake lines nearby which if a spill occurred could contaminate their water supply. Staff felt our Municipality was at risk. Staff recommend we immediately close it for a variety of long standing issues and the new liability concern. Council unanimously received their report and recommendation. The boat launch was closed

It should be noted staff has the responsibility to act immediately on safety, legal and liability issues, keeping council and the community informed. Ultimately, in the longer term it was the right decision but we could have done things that would have helped the process. The following are suggestions that make sense for staff, council and the community. Other options may also be considered such as closing all public launches.

Just a friendly reminder that these are public launches, owned and operated by the municipality - not by the immediate rate payers - to accommodate public launches of our citizens, guests and visitors of McKellar, it is a free service of which we are ultimately liable



**Suggested Actions:- Before the long weekend**

**Have Council and Staff agree to:**

1. Immediately re-open Lakeshore boat launch with the following conditions:
  - i- Large notice- this launch is "unsafe, uninsured and use at your own risk" and will be "closed" at the end of 2021 boating season - like Balsam Trail and unsafe beaches
  - ii- Direction to other public and private boat launches in McKellar
  - iii- Immediately post signs at all launches – Caution: " children at play"; new 40 km/hr signs and Caution: " boat launch vehicles turning"
  - iv- Inform our insurance company of our immediate interim and future action.
2. Direct staff to make a recommendation of a new safer boat launch site in the north end of McKellar to be put in in spring of 2022
3. Hold a public meeting in early July regarding these immediate and long term actions and solicit their collective input and support.
4. Quickly and clearly communicate actions taken through our social media - new website, facebook, MLCA, public notices and press releases, electronic sign, to committees and electronic newsletter and other means.

**Conclusion:**

By implementing these suggestions, we can solve the short and long term concerns regarding boat launches, address clear lines of responsibility in decision-making between council and staff, ensure that council and staff are working as one; clearly demonstrate we listen to and engage our citizens in matters McKellar; have clear processes and authorities, improve our communications and ultimately to restore confidence of our staff and council.

Respectfully, for your consideration

Peter Hopkins, Mayor McKellar

Note: It is never wise to hang your dirty wash in public.



6/13/2021

Gmail - RE: Boat launch

P: 705-389-2842



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: June 11, 2021 3:58 PM  
To: lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca  
Subject: Boat launch

Hi

Just wondering why the boat launch is closed in Mckellar for lake manitouabing

And no notice given?

Thanks

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 11, 2021 4:52 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Boat launch

There were variety of reasons that I'll have the CAO send you

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** Fri, Jun 11, 2021 at 4:06 PM

**Subject:** Boat launch

**To:** <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>

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Hi Peter

Just wondering why the boat launch is closed on lakeshore road for lake manitouwabing

Is this permanent? And why no notifications were given

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad



6/13/2021

Gmail - RE: Boat launch



Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>

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**RE: Boat launch**

1 message

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Lance Sherk <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>

Sat, Jun 12, 2021 at 11:22 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>

Hello Dave,

The main reason was liability to the Township, with the primary concern being the number of private waterlines in the lake immediately adjacent to the boat launch. The Township does not know who these water lines belong to. In light of the furnace oil spill and subsequent clean-up efforts that occurred earlier this year on the north side of the Government Dock, the liability concern became much more focused.

- There is also the liability associated with increased traffic along Lakeshore; drivers who trailer a boat once or twice a year, who take a great deal of time to maneuver their trailer onto the ramp on this relatively narrow road, stopping traffic in both directions until they are successfully able to launch their boat, causing a variety of concerns and hazards both for other drivers and pedestrians from the homes along Lakeshore trying to access their docks located on the Lakeshore waterfront;
- No parking availability for day-trippers at this location;
- The ramp required significant attention this year, including new material to raise it to lessen the steepness of the ramp, which would have resulted in the ramp being extended further out into the lake, which requires a permit from MNRF and DFO to dump more gravel into the lake. This was not being met with much enthusiasm by the ministry.

The boat launches at Stewart Park and Lakeside are considered much better locations for the majority of the public and residents to access the lake.

With respect to notice, given the on-going hazards associated with the furnace oil spill and the unknown origin of the many waterlines in the lake by the boat launch, combined with the fact that the community would begin to see a large influx of seasonal residents, many who would want to launch their boats in the coming days, it was deemed prudent to move swiftly to limit the Township's liability. As both the Stewart Park and Lakeside launches are relatively close to the village, this was seen as a judicious action under the circumstances.

Regards,

Lance Sherk, MSc.

CAO/Clerk

Township of McKellar

701 Hwy 124, P.O. Box 69

McKellar, ON P0G 1C0



**Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca**

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 12, 2021 7:50 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Re: Boat launch

Councillor Kekkonen has raised concerns about closing it with a resolution approved by Council. I know we received the report, He questions the authority of the staff to make this type of decision with input and a resolution. See you Mon am. Just a heads up

On Sat, Jun 12, 2021 at 10:45 AM Lance Sherk <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca> wrote:

Will have one for Monday.

L.

**From:** Peter Hopkins [mailto:peterhopkins1942@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** June 12, 2021 6:48 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Boat launch

Need a press release response

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Fri, Jun 11, 2021 at 11:07 PM  
**Subject:** Boat launch  
**To:** pdhopkins@lycos.com <pdhopkins@lycos.com>

Hello mr Hopkins, A large number of Mckellar residence and cottages are wondering why the boat launch on Lakeside has been closed? Will it be reopening, will it be relocated, I cannot seem to find any information on the Mckellar website. Any information would be appreciated

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 14, 2021 6:54 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk; greg gostick  
**Subject:** Fwd: Lakeside Crescent Boat Launch

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Mon, Jun 14, 2021 at 5:51 PM  
**Subject:** Lakeside Crescent Boat Launch  
**To:** [pdhopkins@lycos.com](mailto:pdhopkins@lycos.com) <[pdhopkins@lycos.com](mailto:pdhopkins@lycos.com)>, [ancinelli@gmail.com](mailto:ancinelli@gmail.com) <[ancinelli@gmail.com](mailto:ancinelli@gmail.com)>, [don@carmichael-co.com](mailto:don@carmichael-co.com) <[don@carmichael-co.com](mailto:don@carmichael-co.com)>, [mhaskim@hotmail.com](mailto:mhaskim@hotmail.com) <[mhaskim@hotmail.com](mailto:mhaskim@hotmail.com)>, [mikeonMckellarCouncil@outlook.com](mailto:mikeonMckellarCouncil@outlook.com) <[mikeonMckellarCouncil@outlook.com](mailto:mikeonMckellarCouncil@outlook.com)>

Mayor Hopkins and Councillors,

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the recent decision to close the Lakeshore Road boat launch and install a dock and additional parking at the Lakeside Crescent boat launch. It is my understanding that the decision was made by the CAO with no direction/approval from Council.

I am concerned with the impact this decision will have not only on the road, but on the lake itself and its residents. If you are aware, the road is very narrow with no soft shoulder and has a hilly/blind spot leading to the launch site. It would be a challenge for a large boat and trailer to use. Pedestrians and other vehicles use the road and increasing the traffic load will increase the risk to them.

Access to the main lake is difficult to navigate and I am concerned about the impact increased boat traffic will have on the already endangered shoreline. The water level on the river is shallow and the narrows that go by the camp docks with the campers swimming off the docks can be a challenge for boats, especially with campers in the water, canoeing, swimming and boating. Campers often don't pay enough attention to boats using the channel. I would consider this a significant liability.

I would suggest that the Minerva Park area is a much better option and will provide boaters with much easier access to the lake as well as providing more foot traffic for the small businesses in the village that depend on summer visitors. It could be a win/win option.

Please reconsider this plan and develop a more workable solution. I would appreciate hearing back from you regarding my concerns.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]



**Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca**

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 14, 2021 6:56 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk; greg gostick  
**Subject:** Fwd: PROTEST AGAINST THE DOCK & EXTENDED PARKING BEING INSTALLED AT LAKESIDE BOAT LAUNCH

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Mon, Jun 14, 2021 at 6:37 PM  
**Subject:** PROTEST AGAINST THE DOCK & EXTENDED PARKING BEING INSTALLED AT LAKESIDE BOAT LAUNCH  
**To:** lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>, peterhopkins1942@gmail.com <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED], ancinelli@gmail.com <ancinelli@gmail.com>, don@carmichael-co.ca <don@carmichael-co.ca>, mhaskim@hotmail.com <mhaskim@hotmail.com>, roads@township.mckellar.on.ca <roads@township.mckellar.on.ca>

Addressed to: Mayor Perkins, Lance Sherk, and McKellar Township Council,

How is it fair and just that the Lakeshore boat ramp be closed without any notice to the public and then council try to sneak the installation of a dock at the Lakeside Crescent boat launch, without any public consultation whatsoever!!!!? Open your eyes and open a new boat launch at Minerva Park where it makes the most sense, or at the very least, find another spot that does not endanger people's lives!!!!

I am a cottage owner directly beside the boat launch and have just taken part in a protest (with a group of my fellow concerned property owners) against the attempt to install a dock at the direction of the Township CAO. Our understanding was that the relocation of the Lakeshore ramp was discussed at Council and no action was taken. A neighbour subsequently spoke with a member of Council who assured him that no action was imminent.

The decision to close the Lakeshore ramp, install a dock at the Lakeside boat launch, and increase the size of the adjacent parking lot appears to have been made by the CAO without Council direction or approval!

The CAO cited 'liability' issues as being his motivation for going forward with these actions. However, we as taxpayers are protesting this unethical attempt to underhandedly sneak these changes through and collectively, we as a group are citing serious and 100% warranted 'liability' issues relating to the Lakeside location!!!!

1) ROAD SAFETY for PEDESTRIANS & VEHICLES - The site at Lakeside is extremely constricted, has many sharp turns, is on a very steeply inclined, narrow, winding road with poor & limited visibility (especially for drivers to see pedestrians (many elderly) who are often out walking their dogs, or with their young children or bike riding.) It is already dangerous enough with local traffic that has resulted in many near misses. The steep hills



and turns on Lakeside offer limited visibility on the corners and pose a 100% increased risk to both pedestrians and vehicular traffic. I, myself witnessed a near head on collision this past weekend with a boat/trailer and another truck! At the boat launch, there is a steep turn that is heavily treed and very difficult to see pedestrians and other vehicle traffic. HAS MR. SHERK EVEN DRIVEN THE ROAD TO THE LAKESIDE BOAT LAUNCH??? Talk about liability concerns!!!!!! **Does the township seriously want to be responsible for pedestrian/vehicular accidents!?!?! If council turns a blind eye to this very obvious and real risk, your agenda is not one that considers its residents' safety whatsoever. There are just no words to this incredulous irresponsible decision!!!!**

2) **SAFETY OF SWIMMERS** - The dock and picnic table will encourage people to swim in a closely confined area with boats being constantly launched. In addition, many residents swim in the boat launch, Robertson Bay and especially in the channel leading up to the main lake. Boats launched at Lakeside would have to navigate up the river and through the constricted narrows adjacent to the Camp Manitou facility. The water there is quite shallow (as little as 7 feet in some areas), with many fallen trees and rocks just below the surface in several locations. The summer camp especially has young children swimming in that area. The increased boat traffic poses substantial risks to them. Again, talk about liability risk to the Township!

3) **OIL SPILL / CONTAMINATION TO WATER LINES:** The CAO pointed out this is a risk at Lakeshore. Are my water lines less of a risk? Our main water source to the house is a 100 feet to the boat launch and will be very susceptible to contamination! The adjacent Middle River area is very shallow and susceptible to water contamination as well.

4) **SHORELINE EROSION** - Increased boat traffic along the river portion will lead to further erosion of the shoreline which is already a known environmental issue. This is already a big issue in the area, with boaters not respecting erosion to property owners and fish / wildlife habitat. This will significantly increase erosion to properties around the boat launch, and channel leading to the main lake.

5) **SECURITY:** Being the main boat launch, we will see a large increase of out-of-town visitors coming for day / short term trips and increases risks to our neighborhood.

6) **PRIVACY:** Lakeside Drive & Lakeside Crescent is a very quiet, mature RESIDENTIAL street with the boat launch at the Crescent. To make this the main boat launch would be irresponsible and very disruptive to the residents. The boat launch is on a narrow lot between two very nicely landscaped cottage properties and would seriously infringe on the privacy of those cottage owners. The installation of a dock will not only certainly infringe upon the privacy of my property and my neighbours', but will have trespassing issues to deal with (as our property is only a few feet from the boat launch shoreline). T

The proposed actions are not well thought out nor are they indicative of consultation with the community. It had been suggested that a new boat ramp be put into Minerva Park where Township docks already exist and there is ample room for boats and trailers to access the ramp, parking and will have no significant intrusion on any private property or neighbourhood.

Is council not interested in supporting local business???? A main boat launch in the vicinity of the village is what is best for all tax payers. It is easier access for the Boat Marinas, day/short term visitors, and many of the residents of Fox Farm and Tait's Island. It supports our local business, specifically the restaurants, Farm, and General store. There is already infrastructure in place in terms of parking, easy highway access, and boat docking. IT DOES NOT EVEN MAKE SENSE NOT TO OPEN THE BOAT LAUNCH THERE!!!!



**Petition Ignored:** There was a petition signed a few years ago speaking to increased boat launch traffic to Lakeside specifically. Why is this being disregarded without any correspondence to the residents? Has something changed that make the wishes of those residents less valid?

**WE HIGHLY OPPOSE THE INSTALLATION OF THE DOCK & EXTENDED PARKING AT LAKESIDE CRESCENT!**

We trust that council will do what is RIGHT, WHAT IS RESPONSIBLE and WHAT MAKES SENSE, especially in terms of mitigating the outlined safety risks, not to mention the environmental and support of local business by opening the boat launch at Minerva Park. What did we as taxpayers spend thousands of dollars for to upgrade that area if it can't be well utilized other than the once per week market during the summer months?

We will not stand for this irresponsible decision, which may very well be unsanctioned without council vote. As homeowners and taxpayers residing in the Lakeside Crescent/Drive area, we are 100% opposed to this and will keep fighting it. Your consideration of the above is appreciated.



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 15, 2021 8:46 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Lakeside Boat Ramp  
**Attachments:** Lakeside Boat Ramp Keen-Smith.pdf

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 12:01 AM  
**Subject:** Lakeside Boat Ramp  
**To:** [peterhopkins1942@gmail.com](mailto:peterhopkins1942@gmail.com) <[peterhopkins1942@gmail.com](mailto:peterhopkins1942@gmail.com)>, [ancinelli@gmail.com](mailto:ancinelli@gmail.com) <[ancinelli@gmail.com](mailto:ancinelli@gmail.com)>, [don@carmichael-co.ca](mailto:don@carmichael-co.ca) <[don@carmichael-co.ca](mailto:don@carmichael-co.ca)>, [mhaskim@hotmail.com](mailto:mhaskim@hotmail.com) <[mhaskim@hotmail.com](mailto:mhaskim@hotmail.com)>, [mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com) <[mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com)>  
**Cc:** [lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca](mailto:lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca) <[lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca](mailto:lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca)>, Craig Smith <[craig.smith101@outlook.com](mailto:craig.smith101@outlook.com)>

Mayor Peter Hopkins

Councillor Marco Ancinelli

Councillor Don Carmichael

Councillor Morley Haskim

Councillor Mike Kekkonen

Dear Elected Members of Council,

We are 25-year residents, taxpayers and voters from Lakeside Crescent near the boat ramp on Lake Robinson. It is our understanding that council had discussed, but deferred, a decision to close the main boat ramp on Lakeshore in favour of expanding the boat ramp near us. We were therefore very surprised to see the Township's work crew arrive today to install a dock.

Fortunately a number of us who live in the immediate vicinity were able to gather, and we succeeded in having the dock installation aborted, at least for today. We learned at that time, which was confirmed by a curious



email from Manitouwabing Lake Community Association this afternoon, that the "... Lakeshore boat ramp has been permanently closed and that the town is working on a notice that will state the reasons for the closure".

Why on earth would we receive an incomplete message about an issue of such importance from a membership group, before we hear directly from you, our elected officials? This makes us question the way this whole situation has unfolded – dare we say, the way it was attempted to be completed without any notice to the taxpayers, or at the very least, consultation with the residents of the road most affected by this decision. We noticed an increase in boat trailer traffic this past weekend and wondered aloud. Now we know why.

We insist that you consider a number of legitimate and serious concerns:

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Under this mayor's watch in particular, there has been an emphasis on economic development with an effort to build traffic and generate customers for current and future businesses in the town of McKellar.

Huge amounts of money have been spent to develop Minerva Park with a gazebo, docks, nice gardens and benches, the market, etc. It is incomprehensible to us why you would want to direct traffic to a tiny dead end residential road that is 6 km away from the centre of town.

## **ROAD TRAFFIC & SAFELY**

Lakeside Drive winds its way to Lakeside Crescent and the boat ramp through hills and sharp corners, including one into the boat ramp itself. As such, it is far from a suitable route for increased vehicle traffic with boat trailers. It is a quiet, dead-end, residential road. It's our experience that many people bringing trailers to the boat ramp do not respect it as such – they speed over the hills and drive like they're on a city road.

There are many residents, children and dogs on this road who walk it morning, day and night. Many do fitness laps around the crescent where the road is narrow with no sidewalks, no usable ditches. We have serious safety concerns with an increase in speeding drivers hauling boats, who don't respect the rules of the road or the local residents.

## **LAKE TRAFFIC & SAFETY**



There has never been a dock here – why does this ramp need one now? Installing a dock that will encourage more swimmers at a busy boat ramp is incompatible, illogical and dangerous. This boat ramp is on a busy narrowing of Lake Robinson where there are many paddlers, water skiers, tubers and speeding jet skis. We see this as a huge liability risk.

We're also concerned about increased boat traffic down Middle River into the main part of the lake. The children from Camp Manitou swim in that river all day long. Indeed some are learning to swim there. Will they be able to get out of the way fast enough for a boater who isn't abiding by the speed limit? Particularly for those from out-of-town who are not familiar with the area?! We all know those idiots, and we already see too many of them. Please don't exacerbate the situation.

## **LAKE QUALITY & SHORE EROSION**

Shore erosion is a concern around all the shores of our lake, but nowhere more so than near this boat ramp and down the narrow, very shallow river. Additional boat traffic will increase the issue.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD QUALITY**

The boat ramp on Lakeside Crescent is very secluded, it's almost like a private sloping driveway down to the shore. If there is mischief there, it will be incumbent on the immediate neighbours to resolve disputes. Such behaviour and disputes would be less likely to happen in a more public, openly visible location.

We moved to this road 25 years ago because it was a quiet, dead-end cul de sac. We appreciate that things change, but in this instance who would anticipate that a dead end road would ever become a thoroughfare to the lake's main boat ramp when there is/was already one on Lakeshore, and a town centre with plenty of space for another one if needed?

We insist that you reconsider the decision to close the boat ramp on Lakeshore which forces boaters to Lakeside, and we implore you not to install a dock at Lakeside. As you have undoubtedly realized by now, today's action awakened our quiet, sleepy community. We are galvanized in opposition and we will not stop fighting this until we win. And dare we say, there are upcoming elections and we are voters.



Respectfully, we also ask for an acknowledgement to our letter and an explanation of steps council will take to make decisions and take action transparently, to the satisfaction of the electorate, particularly to the issues we have raised.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

c.c. Lance Sherk, COA/Clerk



Hwy124+~\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 15, 2021 8:46 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Lakeshore Boat Ramp Closure

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 8:02 AM  
**Subject:** Lakeshore Boat Ramp Closure  
**To:** [peterhopkins1942@gmail.com](mailto:peterhopkins1942@gmail.com) <[peterhopkins1942@gmail.com](mailto:peterhopkins1942@gmail.com)>

Dear Mayor Hopkins:

The closing of the Lakeshore boat launch came without prior notification to the residents of McKellar Township. The first written notification came from the Lake Association. How is this appropriate and how is this the "communication and transparency" that you promised the voters of this township? The second part of this plan was to install a dock at Lakeside Crescent and expand the parking lot adjacent. This decision was also made without consultation or notification. You have obviously heard from local residents that they are displeased with these actions and you have been strangely silent about them.

I live on Lakeside Crescent and, as most of neighbors, am opposed to development of the Lakeside ramp, however, if Council conducts due diligence with regards feasibility and public consultation, I would accept the will of the majority if this option is proved acceptable.

The crux of the problem is the lack of communication and the appearance of devious actions that undermine trust and confidence. Please do whatever you can to correct this disruptive situation.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



**Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca**

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 15, 2021 2:45 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Re: Mckellar Boat Launch Situation

more coming- see you after 3

On Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 10:58 AM <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca> wrote:

Not too bad. Less than 10 people in total.

L.

**From:** Peter Hopkins [mailto:peterhopkins1942@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** June 15, 2021 10:56 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: Mckellar Boat Launch Situation

Is your file getting full. I had lots of calls and e mails and hearing about a petition and even a blockade. Will come in 3:30 for a follow up. Peter

On Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 10:22 AM <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca> wrote:

Thanks Peter,

Have received that one already.

Lance

**From:** Peter Hopkins [mailto:peterhopkins1942@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** June 15, 2021 8:47 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Mckellar Boat Launch Situation



fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Mon, Jun 14, 2021 at 8:45 PM

Subject: Mckellar Boat Launch Situation

To: [lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca](mailto:lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca) <[lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca](mailto:lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca)>, [peterhopkins1942@gmail.com](mailto:peterhopkins1942@gmail.com) <[peterhopkins1942@gmail.com](mailto:peterhopkins1942@gmail.com)>, [don@carmichael-co.ca](mailto:don@carmichael-co.ca) <[don@carmichael-co.ca](mailto:don@carmichael-co.ca)>, [mhaskim@hotmail.com](mailto:mhaskim@hotmail.com) <[mhaskim@hotmail.com](mailto:mhaskim@hotmail.com)>, Mike Kekkonen <[mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com)>

Date: June 14, 2021

Attn: CAO, Mayor, and Councillors

Subject: Lakeshore & Lakeside boat launches

Evening All,

I am writing to you to you all for the following reasons:

1. I am requesting that you immediately take actions to re-open the Lakeshore boat launch, while you consider and plans to find an alternate site for Lakeshore.

Whatever the reasons for closing it, liabilities, traffic, oil spills, risk to swimmers, etc, you have now shifted all of that to the Lakeside drive neighborhood.

2. I would like to know who has made the decision to close the Lakeshore boat launch?

My understanding was that there have been discussions by council on exploring alternate sites to relocate the Lakeshore boat ramp. No decisions or reviews had been discussed to date. Then this past Friday, I see several Trucks with boats lined up waiting to be launched on Lakeside drive. After walking down to speak with them, I learned of the surprise closure and now understood why there were boats from all the various Marinas in the area waiting to launch customer boats.

3. I would like to understand why a petition that was submitted to Council just a few years back regarding adding infrastructure to the Lakeside boat ramp was totally disregarded with actions taken Friday and now today.

This petition was submitted the old school way, on pen and paper with each resident detailing their respective addresses. It would seem that whomever has made the decision to close Lakeshore, and now install docks,



additional parking and paving on Lakeside could care less what residents deem important to them. Why was no correspondence or opportunities to discuss this further provided.

4. I would like to convey my concerns on the serious issues that the decision to close Lakeshore has caused my family and my neighbors on Lakeside drive and crescent.


By closing Lakeshore with no alternate, you've now make Lakeside the primary boat launch for hundreds if not thousands for boat and PWC launches. Stewart park is not a great alternative. As a result, the safety in my neighborhood has been seriously compromised. Lakeside is a very quiet residential area, that has never had the planned infrastructure to be a #1 boat launch.

- **Road safety to pedestrians and drivers:** There are 2 points with posing grave danger to both driver and pedestrian alike. There is a hill that curves sharply and many a time vehicles have had to swerve to avoid colliding with other on coming vehicles and the many pedestrians that walk with children and pets. The 2nd area is the curve around Lakeside crescent. It is well treed and is very difficult to see various children and locals going for walks around what was a quiet crescent. This is where I live, and this is where my dog and children are now at risk. It's one thing to drive a small car at 40km / hr and stop quickly. It's another when you're driving a Dodge 2500 full size pickup with a 7500lb boat and trailer attached.
- **Residential vs. Commercial area:** This is now disrupting what was a quiet neighborhood. Traffic should be directed towards the village. We have infrastructure there, it is right off of the 124 for the Marinas and day trippers, and it brings foot traffic to our local shops and restaurants. This also services residents that reside on that area of the lake.
- **Shoreline erosion:** The area already has an issue with shoreline erosion from boaters not respective no wake zones. The additional boat traffic, especially with boaters not familiar with area with cause exponential damage to the shorelines surrounding the boat launch, the channel leading to main lake, as well as the summer camp. Will the township take any responsibility in accessing the environmental impact to fish and wild life habitat destruction, damage to property owners? Perhaps adding signage on the water and enforcing no wake zones?
- **Danger to swimmers:** There are a lot swimmers in the area, some at the boat launch and many in Middle River and up the channel to the main lake. More boat traffic means greater risk to all of them. We have to remember that it's not just residents that use boat launches. There are many day trippers as well as Renters coming in that don't know the areas very well.

The only way to provide immediate relief is to re-open the Lakeshore boat launch, while you investigate and consider alternate plans. Making haste decisions will result in additional liabilities in other areas or in other ways. Sometimes status quo is the best decision in the short term. I would ask that you reconsider. Please do provide some correspondence on the above, and also acknowledge receipt.

Thanks,





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Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

---

**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 15, 2021 2:46 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: re Boat Ramp

#11

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 11:18 AM  
Subject: re Boat Ramp  
To: peterhopkins1942@gmail.com <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>, Lance Sherk  
<lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>, don@carmichael-co.ca <don@carmichael-co.ca>,  
haskim@hotmail.com <haskim@hotmail.com>  
[REDACTED]

We have just been made aware that the Lakeshore boat ramp has been removed and replaced by a boat launch on Robinson.

To be honest we are surprised we were not made aware of this as already the boat traffic along the river in the last five years has risen considerably to the point where any additional boat traffic would impact the safety of our campers.

To find out now that all of the boat launches will be conducted in an area of the lake that will result in people having to travel through the river to get to their cottages in our view is

a safety issue for the campers and staff who swim on the river and for the campers that kayak and canoe near the camp as well.

I contacted the Muskoka lakes township to find out where their boat ramps are located and they said its always in a major part of the lake not the quietest area.

We would ask that this boat ramp be moved back to the main part of the lake where use of the river will not be necessary.

We will assume that by the time the campers get to camp that this boat ramp will not be open ( that being July 2<sup>nd</sup> )as we feel the potential unnecessary liability exposure to the township and the camp can be easily averted by placing the ramp on the main lake. We would be doing our families an injustice if we did not speak up about this. Why increase boat traffic near the greatest source of potential swimmers?

We realize there may be excellent reasons for moving the ramp to a small side of the lake and we are happy to discuss this in person at any time so you can explain to us how this decision was made. We realize that this is



just our point of view and we are sure there was much healthy debate and discussion that resulted in this decision but we would be curious if anyone realized about the safety of the kids. I do not know who is responsible for such decisions and if notice is required to us but we did want you to know that honestly this is a legitimate concern for the safety of our campers.

We thank you for taking the time to read this letter and know how busy you are and appreciate you taking our concerns seriously and respond at the appropriate time.

Wishing you well,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

---

**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 15, 2021 2:49 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Concern resident

#12

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 12:17 PM

Subject: Concern resident

To: peterhopkins1942@gmail.com <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>, ancinelli@gmail.com  
<ancinelli@gmail.com>, don@carnichael-co.ca <don@carnichael-co.ca>, mhaskim@hotmail.com  
<mhaskim@hotmail.com>, mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.co <mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.co>,  
lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>  
[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

We are the residents of [REDACTED] in McKellar, we were notified this morning that the boat ramp in McKellar on Lakeshore Dr has been shut down and a decision has been made to reallocate the flow of traffic down to Lakeside Dr to utilize the boat launch on Lakeside Cres. The first question I have is, has a study been completed on the impact it will have on the seasonal business that the commercial business rely on. These business that are allocated around the boat launch depend on the traffic coming from the Lakeshore Dr Boat launch. Second question I have, does the study show the impact it will have to our residential community and traffic going up and down Lakeside drive. The 3rd question, does the study show any safety element impact on Lakeside Dr. My major concern is how were these decisions made without the residential input, how does council review these type of topics, how does the mayor address this with his residential community. I could be reached to discuss this further my phone number is below . I'm a concerned resident and I would like to get feedback on my questions, before I escalate this matter.

Very concerned resident.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 15, 2021 2:50 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Lakeside Boat Launch

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 12:35 PM

Subject: Lakeside Boat Launch

To: peterhopkins1942@gmail.com <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>, ancinelli@gmail.com  
<ancinelli@gmail.com>, don@carmichael-co.ca <don@carmichael-co.ca>, mhaskim@hotmail.com  
<mhaskim@hotmail.com>, mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com <mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com>,  
lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>

Hello,

I am a resident on Lakeside Drive. I just got off the phone with Peter Hopkins and he suggested I write to the council members with my concerns.

I would like to start by saying that the boat launch on Lakeshore Dr should never have been closed before a study was completed on an alternative location! This is simply unheard of the way this was handled! The mayor agreed there were things missed...how does this happen??

My biggest liability concern is once the boats are launched in Robinson's Bay they are required to go through the narrows. Over the years the water level there has dropped and the most important point is the children's camp at Manitou. The residents of the bay are very familiar with this camp and proceed with the caution. The children are in canoes, playing on water floats, learning how to swim etc. A resident not knowing this trying to get out quickly to the big water for a day of fun is totally unaware of this!!!

This is an enormous concern! Obviously!!

I would like to see the launch on Lakeshore drive open immediately until proper studies are done and residents are properly informed.

Thank you!

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**Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca**

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 15, 2021 8:10 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: `132

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]

Date: Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 3:50 PM  
Subject: `132  
To: [peterhopkins1942@gmail.com](mailto:peterhopkins1942@gmail.com) <[peterhopkins1942@gmail.com](mailto:peterhopkins1942@gmail.com)>, [don@carmichael-co.ca](mailto:don@carmichael-co.ca) <[don@carmichael-co.ca](mailto:don@carmichael-co.ca)>, [mhaskim@hotmail.com](mailto:mhaskim@hotmail.com) <[mhaskim@hotmail.com](mailto:mhaskim@hotmail.com)>, [mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com) <[mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com)>, [ancinelli@gmail.com](mailto:ancinelli@gmail.com) <[ancinelli@gmail.com](mailto:ancinelli@gmail.com)>  
Cc: [lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca](mailto:lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca) <[lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca](mailto:lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca)>

Good afternoon,

As a resident of Lakeside Drive, I am writing with regards to the changes planned to the boat launch on our street. This is currently a very quiet street where you constantly see families walking and many, many dogs. The crescent has very sharp turns that are not conducive to the large number of cars/trucks that will be coming and going pulling boat trailers and is an accident waiting to happen.

The channel that we live on does not have access to the big lake from the boat launch and no signs indicating such. There will be increased traffic through the channel of boats thinking they can access the big lake. Already this weekend there was a boat that went speeding through the channel that my husband and I were screaming at to slow down. There is a house across the way with children that play in the water, along with many other swimmers, creating a great safety hazard when there is that much more boat traffic. This boat did not get very much further before he realized he was going the wrong way and had to pass us again, obviously slower this time.

Our channel also does not have any no wake signs therefore there are quite often boats and jet skis that go through at far too fast a speed.

I have spoken to a number of residents on the street that are not happy with these changes, including myself and wanted to share my feelings.

Thank you and stay safe.

[REDACTED]



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 15, 2021 8:12 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Formal Complaint Safety concern registration of

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 3:56 PM  
Subject: Formal Complaint Safety concern registration of  
To: <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>, <ancinelli@gmail.com>, <don@carmichael-co.ca>,  
<mhaskim@hotmail.com>, <MikeonMcKellarCouncil@outlook.com>,  
<lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>, <roads@township.mckellar.on.ca>,  
<mary.smith@township.mckellar.on.ca>

I understand from neighbours that the boat ramp on Lakeside Drive is being improved to increase use. My concerns are:

This boat ramp is not level in the water, there is a deep hole so while it is fine for putting in your boat, it is not great for removing your boat as your trailer will not be level. It takes a lot of time and patience to get a boat on to a trailer properly. It is not a great ramp to encourage additional use. It would probably need work in the way of additional gravel or cement to be used as a reliable boat ramp.

Increasing traffic to this road is dangerous. The road to the boat ramp is very steep, hilly and narrow with various full time residents and cottagers going for walks or walking their dogs. Adding traffic to this dead end road will increase the potential for collisions between vehicles and pedestrians.

For boaters looking to access the main lake, increasing traffic in the narrow and shallow river is dangerous. This river is used by the Camp who frequently have children swimming and in kayaks in this area, increasing boat traffic to such a highly used and narrow river is dangerous and irresponsible. There are also many fallen trees in the river that boaters have to pilot around causing it to be even more narrow.

While I believe the boat ramp is ok for occasional use, it is a poor alternative to a main boat ramp for the lake. I believe with this knowledge, it would be irresponsible for the township of McKellar to increase traffic to the Lakeside boat ramp. With this information in advance, if the council decided to pursue encouraging additional traffic to the Lakeside boat ramp, they may be considered liable for any accident that may occur from it;s increased use.

[REDACTED]



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 15, 2021 8:16 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Lakeside Drive Dock Installation/Lakeshore Boat Ramp Closure  
**Attachments:** McKellar Council Letter.docx

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----  
[REDACTED]

Date: Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 4:58 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Lakeside Drive Dock Installation/Lakeshore Boat Ramp Closure  
To: <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>

Mayor Hopkins, this was originally sent to an incorrect email address. Please take the time to read the below email addressed to you and your Councillors. Thanks.

----- Forwarded message -----  
[REDACTED]

Date: Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 4:56 PM  
Subject: Lakeside Drive Dock Installation/Lakeshore Boat Ramp Closure  
To: <Peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>, <ancinelli@gmail.com>, don carmichael <don@carmichael-co.ca>, <mhaskim@hotmail.com>

Mayor Hopkins and Councillors,

I would like to comment on the double barrelled blow that residents in and around the Lakeside boat ramp have received in the past few days. The news that docks are to be installed at the Lakeside boat ramp is very concerning. We first heard of this possibility 5 years ago and drafted the attached letter that we ended up not sending as we heard that wiser heads had prevailed and the decision to go ahead with the docks was not to happen. Unfortunately the issue has reared its ugly and dangerous head again. This time however, the folly of the decision and the risks involved have significantly escalated as the dock installation will coincide with the closure of the public boat launch in McKellar and the subsequent diversion of all of that boat launch traffic to the Lakeside Drive launch. The concerns that are outlined in my attached letter all still exist and are now even more serious and alarming. The primary issues and concerns are:

- safety of people in the water swimming at the installed Lakeside dock and for homeowners in the area swimming off of their own docks. As my letter states, this is already a concern and will only get worse with these two developments. Something bad is going to happen!!
- increased traffic on Lakeside Rd and the associated safety risks to residents and pedestrians
- shoreline erosion
- risk of increased boat traffic through the narrows leading to safety issues (Camp Manitou campers) and environmental concerns



- noise and additional commotion in the area. Resident's quality of life in the area will definitely take a hit

If all of this weren't bad enough, the fact that all of these decisions have been made without communicating or consulting with local residents demonstrates incredibly poor leadership and quite frankly, is an abuse of power. These two decisions in combination (installing Lakeside docks and closing McKellar boat launch) are very bad and dangerous and appear to be the product of an, at best flawed process:

Please reconsider your decision or at the very least allow the residents an opportunity to educate you as to the issues and then reconsider your decision.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to your prompt reply.

Regard,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 15, 2021 8:23 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Closure of Ramp in McKellar

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 5:18 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Closure of Ramp in McKellar  
To: <Peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>

[REDACTED]  
Begin forwarded message:

[REDACTED]  
**Date:** June 15, 2021 at 3:49:40 PM EDT  
**To:** Peterhopkins1942@gaill.com, ancinelli@gmail.com, don carmichael <don@carmichael-co.ca>, mhaskim@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Closure of Ramp in McKellar

Mayor Hopkins and Councillors,

I am writing to address the closure of the ramp in McKellar. As a resident, I'm disappointed with the lack of transparency on this and the potential risks associated with additional watercraft and docks at the Lakeside ramp. As someone who lives directly across from the ramp on Lakeside, we are in full view of the volume of boats going through this area and feel that this is definitely an issue that needs more thought and consideration for many reasons, some of which I list below:

- 1) Congestion with more traffic on Lakeside Drive and safety of those living there
- 2) Risks for our properties, ie., shoreline erosion, oil spills
- 3) Safety - many people swimming in this area which already has poor visibility from east and west sides of the general area
- 4) # of additional boats using the river to access the big lake and thus putting young children campers at risk
- 5) Negative Economic impact on Town of McKellar businesses
- 6) Additional Noise Level

These are in no particular order but safety of our children campers is paramount and a priority in the river leading to the big lake. If you have never been down this area in a boat, I suggest you



go down and see, first hand, how narrow and potentially dangerous it could be with what, would undoubtedly be a significant increase in watercraft traffic.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 15, 2021 8:25 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Lakeside Dr/Cres boat launch

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 7:03 PM  
Subject: Lakeside Dr/Cres boat launch  
To: <ancinelli@gmail.com>, <don@carmichael-co.ca>, <mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com>, <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
Cc: <admin@mlca.com>

As a resident of Lakeside Dr I am concerned regarding the recent unexplained closure of the boat launch in Mckellar. This arbitrary decision, to negatively impact both the town and Lakeside Dr residents is in my opinion illegal.

Community rumour indicates the township desires to 'improve ' the current ramp and parking area on Lakeside Dr as a response to the closure if the town launch.

Should this be true, I am astounded at the arbitrary and ill thought planning of town officials. This decision is dangerous in the extreme and without merit.

My communication with the MLCA indicates that they have not been apprized of the Townships intention. This again is a sign of the arbitrary and callous intent of the township.

My temporary solution to the existing problem is to designate the ramp at the town park as the primary boat launch. To accommodate the Saturday market, have clear plain signage which indicates at which times the ramp is closed.

Thereafter, institute a comprehensive community discussion at improving the currently closed town facility. Improving the current facilities at Lakeside Dr/Cres would be against, not just the immediate residents, but also all residents who currently use the town facilities.

I look forward to your response.

[REDACTED]  
  
Sent from my Galaxy

Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 15, 2021 8:57 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Boat Launch Lakeside Drive

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 8:46 PM  
Subject: Boat Launch Lakeside Drive  
To: <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>  
Cc: <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>, <ancinelli@gmail.com>, <don@carmichael-co.ca>, <mhaskim@hotmail.com>, <MikeonMcKellarCouncil@outlook.com>

Lance Sherk  
Chief Administrative Officer and Clerk  
Township of McKellar

I am writing to express my concern regarding the decision and action being taken by the McKellar Mayor and Council to move and place the boat loading area for Lake Manitouwabing to Lakeside Drive.

I am totally against this occurring.

The road is twisty with hills and blind spots. It is totally inadequate for the quantity and size of vehicles that will be regularly using it should this become the main boat launch. It will be a danger to youngsters and residents of any of the homes located on Lakeside Drive. You are turning a side street crescent into a major through way.

The parking lot is a danger as it is on a curve and visibility of on coming traffic with large trucks and boating trailers will make the road even more dangerous.

The lake is narrow there. At this time there is no monitoring of the water traffic. Boats already speed through the narrows causing erosion. They pay no heed to boating safety. As a swimmer I have noted one of 20 maximum will slow down when approaching swimmers. The water traffic is already excessive. It will now be a traffic jam.

The garbage is no longer picked up.

Daytime users accessing the lake at this point have no investment in the upkeep or care of the community. A boat launch here will take away the community aspect of Lakeside Drive.



I would like to know what the process was in making this decision. Were the citizens of Lakeside canvassed as to how it would affect them? Is the expansion and location of the boat ramp being placed there with their good will or is it being placed there without their consent?

As a neighbour said to me just this weekend "Well there goes the neighbourhood!"

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction mark covering the signature area.

Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 15, 2021 9:06 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk; Peter Hopkins

Upon reflection, I would recommend that we immediately reopen Lakeshore Boat Launch until we have an opinion from our insurance company about the liability issue;; have a suitable plan B in place to replace it and to have a full discussion and resolution moving boat launches forward.including notice of improvements to Lakeside boat launch

I have also just heard via facebook that our BLO's contract has been officially cancelled. Some council members are again concerned that there was no discussion or input and no approved plan in place to create a new BLO position.

We need to talk about how to deal with these items. Wed at 1 ish would be ok.



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 16, 2021 8:13 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: McKellar lake boat ramp

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Wed, Jun 16, 2021 at 7:01 AM  
Subject: McKellar lake boat ramp  
To: <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>

We on Lakeside Dr. are very concerned about boat ramp. Our road is very busy with cars speeding to their cottage. Walking my dog is sometimes dangerous. The camp on the river is used by kids to canoe and swim. Often we have to stop and also if another boat is coming the other way it is quite scary as it is a narrow stretch of water. Our small Robinson bay is extremely busy already. It seems boats come from Manitouwabing Lake to seadoo and pull kids around and around on those tubing things. Lots more negative things to say. Please take our concerns seriously. [REDACTED]

Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

---

**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 16, 2021 8:13 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: I SAY NO to LAKESIDE DRIVE DOCK & MAIN BOAT LAUNCH FOR MANITOUWABING

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Wed, Jun 16, 2021 at 6:09 AM  
Subject: Fwd: I SAY NO to LAKESIDE DRIVE DOCK & MAIN BOAT LAUNCH FOR MANITOUWABING  
To: <pdhopkins@lycos.com>, <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>, <ancinelli@gmail.com>, don carmichael <don@carmichael-co.ca>, <mhaskim@hotmail.com>

Mayor Hopkins and Councillors,

My guess is that you are not surprised that the troops have rallied and you have received many letters of complaint from my fellow neighbours, including my husband. Many of my neighbours state multiple reasons for why the decision to install a dock at Lakeshore and make this boat launch a main ramp for the lake is so very wrong. I wanted it noted that I strongly agree with all that is being said, but I am personally going to focus on just a couple of the concerns I am most upset by.

**1. This decision is just plain dangerous and I am shocked.** We live just across from the boat launch. This area is narrow and boats often speed by. There are major blindspots. It has always been a top worry for me, family members and guests who decide to swim. Now that you are making this boat launch a main launch the danger will increase tenfold. Especially because people who do not live on the lake are not aware of its dangers, and/or respect the lake. It already is disappointing to have to worry about swimming at the cottage, and now you have greatly increased the negative side of cottage living with this increase traffic. Please don't think of cutting down trees for better viewing or adding a bunch of visually noisy speed limits and warning signs that don't usually work. I seriously caution you on this decision, something bad will happen and I am sorry to say, you will need to be prepared to accept responsibility. I wish I didn't have to say that, but I feel so very strongly about this.

**2. I am also shocked at the lack of respect for residents and taxpayers.** I don't appreciate the town installing a dock & making a big decision like this under the radar. It's a sneaky and unbecoming tactic. I would think your job descriptions would rank being trustworthy pretty important. As homeowners, we have to abide by many bylaws and permitting. We can't make a move without your knowledge and approval. When an owner does do something inappropriate, they pay the consequences. We're asked to pay fines, remove structures, replace trees etc. at our own expense. It's time for you to walk the talk. I would like to ask that you behave in the same manner we are asked to, and please remove the dock immediately if it has been installed and start over in a



more professional way that encourages dialogue and demonstrates respect for taxpayers that have put their trust in you to be transparent and forthcoming with decisions that impact our properties, safety, and enjoyment of our beautiful lake.

I hope we hear a response to each and every one of our letters and points of concern.

Thank you

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area.

Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 16, 2021 6:58 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Boat Launch for Lake Manitouwabing Should Not be on Lakeside

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Wed, Jun 16, 2021 at 5:27 PM  
Subject: Boat Launch for Lake Manitouwabing Should Not be on Lakeside  
To: <don@carmichael-co.ca>, <mhaskim@hotmail.com>, <MikeonMcKellarCouncil@outlook.com>, <ancinelli@gmail.com>, <pdhopkins@lycos.com>, <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>  
[REDACTED]

Hello all!

We are writing to express our deep concern if the Boat Launch for all of Lake Manitouwabing is the one located on Lakeside Drive/Crescent.

That should NOT happen for many reasons, with only some of the reasons listed below:

**Poor Visibility & Very Dangerous to Pedestrians:** As a crescent, many of the residents walk the area (pets, children, elderly). On Lakeside drive, there is a large hill that curves sharply. It is very dangerous to vehicles driving head on as well. At the boat launch, there is a steep turn that is treed and very difficult to see pedestrians and other vehicle traffic.

**Safety of Swimmers:** Many residents swim in the boat launch, Robinsons Bay and especially in the channel leading up to the main lake. The summer camp especially has young children swimming in that area. The increased boat traffic poses substantial risks to them.

**Oil Spills & Contamination to Water Lines:** The CAO pointed out this is a risk at Lakeshore. Are my water lines less of a risk? The Middle River area is very shallow and susceptible to water contamination.


**Shoreline erosion:** This is already a big issue in the area, with boaters not respecting erosion to property owners and fish/wildlife habitat. This will significantly increase erosion to properties around the boat launch, and channel leading to the main lake.

**Need to support commercial:** A main boat launch in the vicinity of the village is what is best for all ratepayers. It is easier access for the Boat Marinas, day and short term visitors, and many of the residents of Fox Farm, and Tait's Island. It supports our local business, specifically the restaurants, Farm, and General store. There is already infrastructure in place in terms of parking, easy highway access, and boat docking.



Please respond to our email and hope you agree that having Lakeside boat launch be the only boat launch is NOT appropriate for all our lake users and visitors.

Advise and thank you.



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Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud. ~ Maya Angelou



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Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 16, 2021 6:49 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Lakeside Dr & Lakeshore Boat Launches

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Wed, Jun 16, 2021 at 3:50 PM  
Subject: Lakeside Dr & Lakeshore Boat Launches  
To: peterhopkins1942 <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>, ancinelli <ancinelli@gmail.com>, don <don@carmichael-co.ca>, mhaskim <mhaskim@hotmail.com>, lance.sherk <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>, mikeonmckellarcouncil <mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com>  
Cc: admin <admin@mlca.ca>

Mr. Mayor and Councillors:

The action taken in the Township of McKellar to close a boat launch and divert all traffic to a quiet residential boat launch located at Lakeside Drive was totally inappropriate in my mind and that of the many concerned citizens I spoke to. There is a right way to do things and a wrong way. Obviously this is the wrong way to make major changes that affect the long time residents and businesses of McKellar. Transparency from this council would have gone a long way to avert the displeasure of the many concerned citizens of Lakeside Drive and surrounding areas.

Absolutely no notice or reason was given to the residents of the closure at Lakeshore boat launch. No notice of the intentions to expand parking (due to the increased volume expected) and the placement of a dock at Lakeside Drive was given to the residents. **This is the most blatant disregard for the voting, tax paying residents of the Township of McKellar.**

I have been informed that no safety, environmental or feasibility study has been done on the closure or the intention to make Lakeside Drive the Main Boat Launch. Has consideration been given: to any of the towns businesses? the considerable infrastructure already in place at Minerva Park? or the fact that diverting all boating traffic through a narrow, shallow channel that the children's summer camp accesses been taken into account? can all boats in fact navigate safely through the channel?

Myself and many fellow residents have major concerns over safety issues that these plans create:

- 1) The increase to traffic flow of trucks and trailers on a dead end street that has steep inclines and sharp curves.
- 2) Many residents walk children and pets on this already busy road.
- 3) Will installation of a dock encourage people to swim, fish or picnic at a now very busy boat launch?
- 4) Will increased boat traffic down the channel to the open water create further shoreline erosion?




5) This size of lake has had access to two launches for over 30 years, and as new cottages are built and day traffic increases, is it even feasible to only have one access launch?

You were prudent in closing the Lakeshore Boat Launch after the Spring/Summer surge to launch boats.....but i wonder how the Fall withdrawal of boats from the lake will take place!

My hope is that you will reopen the Lakeshore Boat Launch immediately. Take the time to come and walk, drive and observe the safety and environmental concerns that will affect our communities. Take action to listen to and respond to the residents that supported your nomination to council.

A Concerned Resident of Lakeside Drive



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 16, 2021 2:37 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Re: Draft press release

Very late night thought we can discuss tomorrow. We could simply post a sign saying USE AT YOUR OWN RISK until we get an insurance and possibly an MOE report and find location B. I realise - not sure all of Council does - that authorities have changed with a CAO in hand. We need to clarify. In the past Council has been involved in the planning, hiring, and disposition of staff including contractual resolutions regarding positions - market, custodial and BLO.

Can we also listen to MK recording during the launch debate tomorrow as well.  
back to bed

On Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 9:29 PM Lance Sherk <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca> wrote:

I was going to put out a separate information piece dealing with Minerva Park. Tying these two disparate issues together will, I feel, only add legitimacy to the argument that Minerva should be looked at as a boat launch location.

I would be very open to providing the residents of Lakeside an opportunity for a public meeting, or town hall to discuss, but would be leery of allowing a deputation to council. I would also schedule that meeting for the Monday or Tuesday before the Canada Day weekend.

We can discuss that tomorrow.

L.

**From:** Peter Hopkins [mailto:peterhopkins1942@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** June 15, 2021 9:19 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: Draft press release

Needs some more work; clarify Minerva Park-MNRF issue; get an insurance validation of liability; the fact that we did have a Plan B at the town dock and beach that was approved by council but fell through and to clarify the need to improve communication regarding change as well as official council resolution approval.

We should invite Lakeside residents to do a deposition as a good faith gesture at our next special meeting with the Ridge etc..



Talk tomorrow around 1ish

On Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 9:08 PM Lance Sherk <[lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca](mailto:lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca)> wrote:

Peter,

Attached is a draft press release for the Lakeshore boat launch.

Lance Sherk, MSc.

CAO/Clerk

Township of McKellar

701 Hwy 124, P.O. Box 69

McKellar, ON P0G 1C0

P: 705-389-2842



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 16, 2021 2:40 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Ramp Closures

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----  
[REDACTED]

Date: Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 10:16 PM  
Subject: Ramp Closures .  
To: <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>

I was extremely angry to see that the McKellar boat ramp was closed without any public consultation or any alternative plans in place to replace it.

It seems to me that the council is making many decisions without proper public notification.

I personally have ordered a new dock which was to be delivered to the McKellar ramp and floated over to my cottage on Taits island. What am I to do now. I won't get my money back and the dock will probably not fit through the narrows by the camp.

The boat ramp is extremely important to the majority of the people on the lake and to arbitrarily close it is very short sighted.

[REDACTED]



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 16, 2021 2:44 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Lakeside Cr. Boat Ramp

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 9:59 PM  
Subject: Lakeside Cr. Boat Ramp  
To: peterhopkins1942@gmail.com <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>, lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca  
<lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>, mhaskiim@hotmail.com <mhaskiim@hotmail.com>

Reeve Hopkins, Mr. Sherk and Mr. Haskim:


We are residents on Lakeside Dr. and would like to voice our concerns over the expansion of the public boat launch on Lakeside Cr. With the closure of the boat ramp on Lakeshore Rd. in the village of McKellar, it's inevitable that the ramp on Lakeside Cr. will see significantly increased usage. It's apparent that Council is fully aware of this since work to add docks and expand parking at the Lakeside Cr. location has already been started. We are concerned for several reasons:

1. **Swimmers safety:** Many residents swim in the boat launch area, Robinson Bay and especially in the channel leading from Robinson up to Lake Manitouwabing. Camp Manitou especially has many children swimming, kayaking and canoeing in the channel just before it enters Lake Manitouwabing. The increased boat traffic poses substantial risks to them.
2. **Shoreline erosion:** This is already a big issue in the Middle River and Robinson area, with some boaters and jet skiers not respecting speed limits and no-wake rules near the shore and fish / wild life habitats. The increased boat traffic will significantly increase erosion to properties around the boat launch, and on the channel leading to Lake Manitouwabing.
3. **Oil Spill / contamination to water lines:** Apparently, this was identified as a risk at the Lakeshore Road boat ramp. Is the risk to the water lines in the Middle River and Robinson area any less? The Middle River area is very shallow and susceptible to water contamination.
4. **Steep hills:** On Lakeside Drive, which is the only route to the Lakeside Cr. boat launch, there is a large blind hill that curves sharply. You simply cannot see over the top of the hill until you're at its peak. Increased traffic will increase the risk of an accident at this particular location, and will also increase the danger to pedestrians. As well, the Lakeside Cr. boat ramp itself is located at the bottom of a fairly steep hill. While there is a turn-around just before the ramp, so drivers don't have to back down the hill, more traffic will certainly lead to congestion problems at the ramp.

We can certainly understand why the residents on Lakeshore Rd. will be happy that the boat ramp there has been closed, but you are simply moving the same problems Lakeshore Rd. residents were experiencing, as well as the issues listed above, to a different location. A main boat launch in the vicinity of McKellar village is what is best for all rate payers. It is easier access for the residents of McKellar, the McKellar Marina, day / short term visitors, and many of the residents of Fox Farm, and Tait's Island. It supports businesses in McKellar, specifically Scoobys and the Farm and General stores. There is already infrastructure in place at Minvera Park in terms of parking, easy highway access, and boat docking. And a boat launch at Minerva Park would have no significant intrusion on private property, which is definitely not the case at the Lakeside Cr. boat ramp, which is on a narrow lot between 2 cottages.

It seems the decisions concerning the Lakeside Cr. boat launch have been made arbitrarily with no consultation with the affected residents and no attempt to address or mitigate the many problems and concerns. We hope that Council will reconsider the closure of the Lakeshore Rd. ramp until a new ramp is built at a more appropriate location in McKellar Bay.

Respectfully,



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 16, 2021 2:44 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: boat launch change  
**Attachments:** Boat Launch Letter June 2021.docx

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, Jun 15, 2021 at 9:40 PM  
Subject: boat launch change  
To: Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>, Don Carmichael <don4mckellar@gmail.com>, marco ancinelli <ancinelli@gmail.com>, mike kekkonen <MikeonMcKellarCouncil@outlook.com>, morley haskim <mhaskim@hotmail.com>, <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>

Attached please find my letter to council on the issue. Wave

McKellar Council,

Boat Launch Letter June 2021

I would like to express some opinion on the proposed alternative boat launch for the main traffic on to Lake Manitouwabing.

I do not know the reason for the change, nor whether I have missed discussion or notification of the proposed change; to make the Lakeside Boat launch the main access to the lake.

We swim at the launch daily. The launch is in a narrows and several other people use it for swimming as well. I believe there is deeded use of the launch for the nearby citizens who own property. I believe that the children from the camp also swim in the narrows.

We found that it is already getting dangerous for all swimmers, even before your closure. With the heavy influx of people, particularly in this year of lockdown, only two boats slowed for our group of swimmers all last summer. Through the narrows, they should be going slow to begin with, but that is never the case, and it is rare that one slows, even if we wave our hand asking them to do so.

Suddenly, this past weekend our usual group of swimmers was surrounded by boats. They were totally ignored, even though they were calling out! No-one had previous knowledge that anything had changed and the swimmers were at risk and had to make their way to shore and leave.

I would like to consider this suggestion that Lakeside Drive becomes the main launch;

Some years back the Township ditched the roads to such a small margin it is not safe to be walking on Centre Rd. My father, on a scooter, was forced to become housebound. What is left, is to walk on the secondary roads. They too have been ditched over the years, but being secondary, the traffic is less, usually slower and can be watched for.

We have had a dramatic increase in full time occupancy. Our road is used daily by several dog walkers, seniors strolling, baby buggies and mom's with kids, bicycles, and joggers. It is a delight to see! Neighbours are meeting neighbours. People know each other's first names, and the names of their dogs.... Rarely is there a moment that someone does not go by the front of the house, walking for their mail. This is the perfect scenario. It is what all health practitioners and governments encourage, keeping individuals healthy. With Centre Road unsafe, people use Lakeside Drive for recreation, sport and need.


Lakeside Drive is not without difficulties. There is a double hill with a twist that has to be negotiated. Coming either way there are serious blind spots for drivers and pedestrians. The hills, like the rest of the road, have ditches to the edge of the chip. One needs to walk up on the right side of the first hill, cross at the crest to the left side, cross back at the dip, to the right going up the second hill, but because of the curve, come over the crest on the left. I do this every morning. This of course gets reversed on the way back. Needless to say, the increase in traffic, the larger vehicles pulling trailers with large boats, the lack of awareness of the safety issues on the hills, the lack of awareness of the increased amount of pedestrian traffic, and an often exhibited cavalier attitude, makes for a tragedy waiting to happen.



Safety issues aside, the township has within its official plan a clause that states that new building and development must maintain the character of the neighbourhood. What this move to change this sideroad to a major, well-travelled thoroughfare does, is to simply destroy the neighbourhood. It will be unsafe on the road for the duration of the boating season. People, now strolling regularly will become restricted to their property. As well as being against what you promote as a welcoming community, this is blatantly going against the principals voted on and approved by council and the municipal board.

I have just been informed that I am not the only one to hold such opinions. I am sure that if you were to ask, the majority, if not perhaps unanimous opinion in this neighbourhood would be that we do not accept your suggestion that this side road and rural neighbourhood becomes the major thoroughfare for Lake Manitouwabing traffic.

An alternative in the village has long been suggested in order to address the difficulties of the present village launch. Parking, road blockage and general safety have been concerns for some time. I would be interested in the discussions around that proposed option, for this suggestion is creating compounded safety issues as well as disrupting a neighbourhood community, all without, and now against, their wishes. There has got to be a well-planned, safe alternative available.



**Hwy124+ - \*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca**

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**From:** lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca  
**Sent:** June 16, 2021 5:59 PM  
**To:** Peter Hopkins  
**Subject:** Press release  
**Attachments:** Lake Manitouwabing public boat launch closure (9) (6).docx

Peter,  
Revised, as discussed.

Lance Sherk, MSc.  
CAO/Clerk  
Township of McKellar  
701 Hwy 124, P.O. Box 69  
McKellar, ON P0G 1C0  
P: 705-389-2842





Thank - input from concerned residents.



**MEDIA RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 16 2021**

### **Lake Manitouwabing public boat launch closure**

Municipalities are often faced with situations in which a service they are providing to their community is faced with unforeseen and potentially precarious circumstances. This is the position the Township of McKellar found itself in this year with the Lakeshore Road boat launch.

While there were several factors under review with respect to the Lakeshore Road boat launch, it was a combination of public safety and environmental concerns along with extensive repairs which led to a staff report to Council recommending the closure of the boat launch.

A report was provided to Council recommending this action, and staff moved to close the boat launch expeditiously.

Boaters are reminded that there are two other public boat launches on Lake Manitouwabing, one on Lakeside Drive, and one at Stewart Park, both off of Centre Road. Additionally, there are two other commercial launches in Hurdville; Tait's Marina and at the Manitouwabing Outpost.

Efforts are ongoing by the Township to identify additional sites around the lake where a public boat launch may be located. In the meantime, the Township recognizes that the closure of the Lakeshore boat launch will likely result in additional activity at the two remaining public boat launches on the lake, and would ask that as people access these launches, they respect neighbourhoods around these boat launches. Also, in compliance with the Township's stated object of striving for a sustainable environment throughout the community, we would appeal to boaters using the Lakeside Drive and Stewart Park boat launches to respect **No Wake** boating, and to be aware of swimmers and paddlers along the stretch of water from the boat launch to open waters of the lake. The Township will be hosting an open public meeting in the near future to discuss public boat launches in the Township. A notice will be posted to the Township's website as to date, location and time of this meeting.

(30)

For further information, please contact:

Lance Sherk  
CAO/Clerk  
705-389-2842  
[Lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca](mailto:Lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca)

*2 mail June 17  
a) Re-open until 2021  
x close when new one  
open - 2022  
b) S. grey M: S/PW  
Down - Boat launch  
Vehicle turning*

## Ina Watkinson

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**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Fw: Lakeshore boat launch  
**Attachments:** Receiving an item.docx

---

**From:** Mike Kekkonen <mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** June 16, 2021 10:25 AM  
**To:** lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>  
**Subject:** Fw: Lakeshore boat launch

Hi Lance, this is an excerpt from the Handbook for municipal councillors. Thanks, best regards, Mike.

---

**From:** Mike Kekkonen  
**Sent:** June 11, 2021 6:04 PM  
**To:** lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>  
**Subject:** Lakeshore boat launch

Hi Lance, at the June 8, 2021 regular council meeting council passed resolution

Moved by: Councillor Haskim  
Seconded by: Councillor Ancinelli  
21-220 Be It Resolved That the Council of the Township of McKellar does hereby receive Report ADMIN-2021-02 from CAO/Clerk, Lance Sherk on the Lakeshore Road Boat Ramp.  
Carried

The resolution was to receive report ADMIN-2021-02 from CAO/Clerk Lance Sherk.  
There was no subsequent decision and direction from council by resolution to direct staff to close the boat launch.

It seems that the lakeshore boat launch has been closed to the public. Is this correct?



## Ina Watkinson

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**From:** Mike Kekkonen <mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** August 28, 2022 5:51 PM  
**To:** Ina Watkinson  
**Subject:** Fw: council update and regular memorandum from the clerk

---

**From:** Mike Kekkonen  
**Sent:** June 17, 2021 8:44 AM  
**To:** lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>  
**Subject:** council update and regular memorandum from the clerk

Hi Lance, it was reported on social media yesterday regarding the boat launch issue:

"Members of the Lake Association have received a follow-up email from the Treasurer indicating that "they have been talking to the CAO and one Council Member" and expect some resolution soon. I received the email because I am a member of the Lake Association but I do not expect or want them representing the interests of the entire community. There are many residents who do not belong to the association but are represented by an elected council. The council should be discussing this matter and using the Public Notice portion of the Township website to update all citizens of McKellar."

Is this reporting accurate. If it is, I was just wondering if it would be a good idea to update all of council on current issues and any future imminent decisions. In fact, as a member of council, I have not even heard back from you from a previous email to verify if the Lakeshore boat launch had been closed to the public. Once again this was information reported on social media. If you recall we had two council meetings in the week of June 7, 2021. In my humble opinion, ample opportunity to keep all of council in the loop regarding imminent decisions.

Thank you, best regards, Mike.

## Receiving an item

Typically a motion to receive indicates acknowledgement of the formal placing of the matter before council, with no action to be taken, although a motion to receive may be joined with a motion to refer, respond or communicate the matter to third parties.

A motion simply to receive normally involves recording that the matter was before the council, but that no action was taken.

Handbook for Municipal councillors, George Rust-D`eye, Second edition.



Hwy124+ - \*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

---

**From:** lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca  
**Sent:** June 17, 2021 2:11 PM  
**To:** Peter Hopkins  
**Subject:** Next week's council meeting

Hi Peter,

We should have a discussion about next week's meeting. [REDACTED]  
I have spoken with our insurance company and they are going to do a Risk Management/Assessment review of all the municipal boat launches, so we should delay any discussion in open council about municipal boat launches until we have received this review, and until after the public meeting on municipal boat launches when we will have a better idea of how we want to approach the whole of topic of boat launches. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Lance Sherk, MSc.  
CAO/Clerk  
Township of McKellar  
701 Hwy 124, P.O. Box 69  
McKellar, ON P0G 1C0  
P: 705-389-2842



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 17, 2021 3:12 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Re: Next week's council meeting

Thanks for the update. [REDACTED] please prompt for the 24th. I'll be in shortly

On Thu, Jun 17, 2021 at 2:15 PM <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca> wrote:

Hi Peter,

We should have a discussion about next week's meeting. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I have spoken with our insurance company and they are going to do a Risk Management/Assessment review of all the municipal boat launches, so we should delay any discussion in open council about municipal boat launches until we have received this review, and until after the public meeting on municipal boat launches when we will have a better idea of how we want to approach the whole of topic of boat launches. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Lance Sherk, MSc.

CAO/Clerk

Township of McKellar

701 Hwy 124, P.O. Box 69

McKellar, ON P0G 1C0

P: 705-389-2842





Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

---

**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 17, 2021 3:15 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Boat launch

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Thu, Jun 17, 2021 at 11:20 AM  
Subject: Re: Boat launch  
To: Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>

Hi Peter just checking I. As I haven't heard from Lance

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 12, 2021, at 6:49 AM, Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com> wrote:

I have forwarded your inquiry to our CAO Lance who with Public works made a report to Council. Peter

On Fri, Jun 11, 2021 at 11:07 PM [REDACTED]  
Hello mr Hopkins, A large number of Mckellar residence and cottages are wondering why the boat launch on Lakeside has been closed? Will it be reopening, will it be relocated, I cannot seem to find any information on the Mckellar website. Any information would be appreciated

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

---

**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 18, 2021 1:39 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Lakeside Drive Boat Launch

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Fri, Jun 18, 2021 at 10:06 AM  
Subject: Lakeside Drive Boat Launch  
To: peterhopkins1942@gmail.com <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>, ancinelli@gmail.com <ancinelli@gmail.com>, don@carmichael-co.ca <don@carmichael-co.ca>, mhaskim@hotmail.com <mhaskim@hotmail.com>, mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com <mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com>, lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>

Good Morning,

I was made aware of the closure of the boat launch at Lakeshore and the plan to divert all boat launch traffic to the Lakeside Dr boat launch and installing a dock there.

We are extremely concerned with this plan for many reasons. We feel that this would negatively impact those who own properties on Lakeside Drive and Lakeside Crescent.

The increased traffic on the road would be very dangerous for the many elderly, children and pets that regularly walk on these roads. There are parts on these roads that can be difficult to see oncoming pedestrian or car traffic due to the hills and sharp turns.

We are also concerned for the swimmer safety as well. Many people swim in this area, including the summer camp. The increased boat traffic would put these swimmers at great risk.

Also we don't feel that installing a dock where boats are to be launched is a good idea since it puts swimmers and boaters in conflict and at risk of an accident.

There's also the risk of contamination of our water that we are concerned with.

We feel that it makes more sense to have the boat launch more in the main village of McKellar since this would help support the local businesses especially since they have been greatly impacted during this pandemic and it would be easier for visitors to access the Boat marinas, etc. Also there's already substantial infrastructure in place there like parking, access to the highway.

Looking forward for your response on our concerns.

Thanks  
[REDACTED]



**Hwy124+ - \*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca**

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 21, 2021 7:50 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk; Peter Hopkins  
**Attachments:** -july 21.docx

Boat Launches:  
Immediate steps and Public meeting steps- attached  
See you after 9. Peter

6/21/2021

Gmail - (no subject)



Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>

---

**(no subject)**

1 message

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**Peter Hopkins** <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>

Thu, Jun 17, 2021 at 2:06 AM

To: Lance Sherk <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>, Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>

More weird and wonderful thoughts on Boat Launches and BLO

Boat Launches: release.

- I would only add a thank you acknowledgement for input from those concerned citizens

-thoughts going forward:

Reopen Lakeside until end of 2021 Boating season while securing a new launch in the north end. Use at your own risk -

like Basam Trail

Put up new signs- slow down boat launch -ahead, children at play- post a limit of 40 kms nearby

CBO - like your idea to extend the contract until Oct 1 - end of tourist season to allow for a new CBO position and training to be finalized.



6/21/2021

Gmail - RE: LAKESHORE ROAD PUBLIC BOAT LAUNCH



Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>

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## RE: LAKESHORE ROAD PUBLIC BOAT LAUNCH

1 message

lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>

Mon, Jun 21, 2021 at 6:44 PM

To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: peterhopkins1942@gmail.com, mhaskim@hotmail.com, mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com, don@carmichael-co.ca, andinelli@gmail.com

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

If, as you assert, you read the report, and as a police officer of many years standing, you will understand that risk mitigation is also part of the duties of a CAO/Clerk, and as such, is responsible for bringing identified risks forward to the attention of Council.

What was not covered in the report was the furnace oil spill that occurred in the village this year, and the contamination from this spill that made its way into the lake at a drainage outlet not too far from the Lakeshore boat launch. This house had not realized any problems for decades either, and certainly was not anticipating leaking furnace oil into the lake after sitting in that location for decades. This resulted in a massive clean-up bill. As you must be aware, once a risk has been identified, there is an expectation by the insurance provider that corrective action will be taken. As the report outlined, there were a number of other issues identified at this public boat launch other than just the risks of a spill to the waterlines immediately adjacent to the launch.

While the ramp may have been open for many years, that doesn't support continued risk. A risk management assessment is being conducted on the other two public boat launches, and what those risks might be will be identified when the report is complete. The assumption that I chose to zero in on this particular launch is not based on the facts or evidence. As a former officer, you are also more aware of provincial legislation than most, and how specific legislation can impact municipal staff and councils, if not considered.

The assertion by different ratepayers near the Lakeside public boat launch that the conditions recognized at the Lakeshore ramp are consistent in nature with many of the other public launches in this Township, and should be treated in the exactly the same manner, is disingenuous on the part of those making this argument. While there are going to be some similarities due to the very nature of the infrastructure in question, the other two public boat launches do not, for example, have the constricted road surfaces immediately adjacent to the ramp that Lakeshore does, and both have far more room for vehicles to manoeuvre when accessing the ramp, and this is identifying just one of the differences. As a police officer, you would undoubtedly be familiar with insuring access for emergency vehicles, something that was negatively impacted with vehicles attempting to access the Lakeshore ramp. Vehicles would consistently block traffic in both directions while attempting to access the ramp. This situation, when coupled with the parallel parking on the road while drivers waited to access the ramp, effectively creating a bottle neck, makes it almost impossible for emergency vehicles to get through. As you point out, time and distance to reach a person or persons in distress on water, *or land*, is paramount! This is especially true in a community with a retirement population of the size that McKellar has, and with many of the homes and cottages on Fire Routes, private roads and Rights of Way, many of which are a challenge for emergency vehicles to navigate at any kind of speed, another on-road impediment simply adds to the response time.



6/21/2021

Gmail - RE: LAKESHORE ROAD PUBLIC BOAT LAUNCH

There are issues and concerns with both Stewart Park and Lakeside, which we expect to be identified through the aforementioned risk management report. Until that report is completed, there are steps the municipality is considering to address identified risks around both of these public launches, ranging from additional cautionary road signage, to a reduction in speed limits along Lakeside.

If you are interested in further discussion, I can be reached at 705-389-2842 X4.

Regards,

Lance Sherk, MSc.

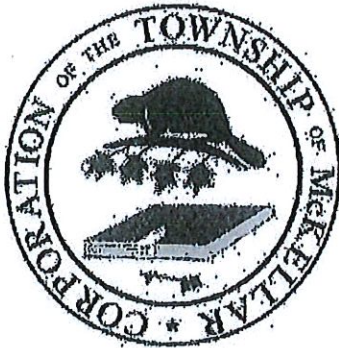
CAO/Clerk

Township of McKellar

701 Hwy 124, P.O. Box 69

McKellar, ON P0G 1C0

P: 705-389-2842



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: June 21, 2021 4:07 PM

To: lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca; peterhopkins1942@gmail.com; mhaskim@hotmail.com; mkeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com; don@carmichael-co.ca; ancine11@gmail.com

Subject: RE: LAKESHORE ROAD PUBLIC BOAT LAUNCH

**Attention Mr. Lance SHERK**



6/21/2021

Gmail - RE: LAKESHORE ROAD PUBLIC BOAT LAUNCH

***I would like to introduce myself. My name is [REDACTED] I moved to McKellar approximately two years ago. I retired from the Toronto Police Service as a Detective after forty five years of police service. I have many years of investigative experience. Prior to my police service I served three years in the Canadian Armed Forces as an Infantry Soldier and Military Police Officer.***

***I am aware that you are the new CAO clerk recently hired by the Township of McKellar. Regardless of the title that precedes your name, I stress the word "CLERK". It is well known throughout the community that within the past weeks you have taken it upon yourself to arbitrarily shut down and barricade a long standing public boat launch on Lakeshore Road. You took this action without the proper protocol through council but you seemed to have given Royal Assent on your own.***

***I have read the report that you filed to Council on June 8<sup>th</sup> 2021 which was only a "Recommendation" not official approval. After some investigation into your report I learned that many of the problems you cited about the public launch on Lakeshore Road are consistent in nature with many of the other public launches in this Township. However, you chose to zero in on this particular location, "WHY"?***

***I know that you came here recently with many years of Economic Development experience but there are set out rules and procedures that must be followed for which the taxpaying general public at large expect. Not only were your actions not properly sanctioned through due process but in addition you unfairly implicated the Works Department Superintendent.***

***The closing of this public launch was certainly not an emergency. It has been in operation for many years. May it be further noted Mr. SHERK and most importantly, that public launch along with others in the area provide emergency access to the lake by members of the OPP, MNR, and Fire Department personnel. Time and Distance to reach a person or persons in distress on the water are paramount.***

***I am very surprised that the Mayor and Council would allow your endeavour to occur outside of proper protocol which is questionable in itself.***

[REDACTED]

**Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca**

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 21, 2021 12:06 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Lakeside Drive Boat Launch  
**Attachments:** Letter to Mckellar Council June 21, 2021 from 56 Lakeside Dr.pdf

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----


[REDACTED]  
Date: Mon, Jun 21, 2021 at 10:56 AM  
Subject: Lakeside Drive Boat Launch  
To: <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>, <ancinelli@gmail.com>, <don@carmichael-co.ca>,  
<mhaskim@hotmail.com>, <mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com>, <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>

Good morning Mayor Hopkins and Members of Council,

Please find attached correspondence of today's date, from the residents of [REDACTED]. Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Thank you  
[REDACTED]





June 21, 2021

Township of McKellar Municipal Office  
PO Box 69, 701 Hwy 124  
McKellar, ON  
POG 1C0

Attention:

Mayor Peter Hopkins ([peterhopkins1942@gmail.com](mailto:peterhopkins1942@gmail.com))  
Councillor Marco Ancinelli ([ancinelli@gmail.com](mailto:ancinelli@gmail.com))  
Councillor Don Carmichael ([don@carmichael-co.ca](mailto:don@carmichael-co.ca))  
Councillor Morley Haskim ([mhaskim@hotmail.com](mailto:mhaskim@hotmail.com))  
Councillor Mike Kekkonen ([mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com))  
CAO/Clerk Lance Sherk ([lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca](mailto:lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca))

**RE: Lakeside Drive Boat Launch**

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We are residents of Lakeside Drive writing to you to express our concerns and disappointment about the recent closure of the McKellar boat launch. We understand that it is the intention of the Township to divert launches to the Lakeside Drive boat launch permanently. The closure was made with no public consultation and without regard to the issues it will cause to the residents of Lakeside Drive and surrounding area.

Once Lakeside Drive becomes the primary boat launch for this area, it will cause a number of issues:

- It will result in an increase in the number of day trippers launching at Lakeside Drive, which are extremely disruptive to residents. Day trippers will result in a significant increase in road traffic on the local roads, as well as an unacceptable increase in boat traffic in Robinson Bay. Robinson Bay is a quiet bay away from the busy main part of Lake Manitouwabing, with many families with children who swim in the bay. Because the bay is quiet and has less boat traffic, boaters often come into the bay to learn water sports and to drop their anchors and swim safely. Day trippers are dangerous to swimmers and other boaters on the lake, as they are typically inexperienced boaters who do not follow boating rules.
- It will result in an increase in boating traffic in general, which is disruptive and dangerous to swimmers and boaters using Robinson Bay. The summer camp on the narrow river often has children swimming in the river, and in order for boaters to reach the main areas of Lake

Manitouwabing or the town dock, boaters will be passing through the river and endangering swimmers and children.

- It will result in additional erosion along the shorelines of Robinson Bay and the adjacent river. The river already faces issues with erosion from the boat traffic that travels through the river, and the large increase in boat traffic will increase the rate of erosion of the shoreline.
- The Township has not conducted any traffic impact study or shoreline erosion assessment study on the impacts of the increased road and boat traffic that will result from the diversion of launches to Lakeside Drive. If the Township has conducted such studies, it has not shared the results with the public.

The McKellar boat launch is already well suited to be in the primary boat launch for this area, because:

- The McKellar boat launch already has built up facilities, including parking, easy highway access, docks, a park with washroom and picnic facilities, and local stores.
- People who come to launch their boats will support local businesses by spending time and money at the local stores located near the McKellar boat launch. There are no local businesses on Lakeside Drive, as it is residential.
- The lake areas around the McKellar boat launch are better suited to handle boat traffic and the increase in boaters and day trippers, mitigating the concerns listed above.

For the reasons above, we believe it makes much more sense financially and economically to build up and repair the McKellar boat launch instead of diverting all boat launches to Lakeside Drive. This will also be aligned with the wishes of the concerned residents along Lakeside Drive and surrounding area and will mitigate the issues that will result from the closure of the McKellar boat launch.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction mark covering the signature of the sender.



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

---

**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 21, 2021 7:04 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: McKellar Boat Ramp

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Mon, Jun 21, 2021 at 6:51 PM  
Subject: McKellar Boat Ramp  
To: [ancinelli@gmail.com](mailto:ancinelli@gmail.com) <[ancinelli@gmail.com](mailto:ancinelli@gmail.com)>, Morley Haskim <[mhaskim@hotmail.com](mailto:mhaskim@hotmail.com)>, Mike Kekkonen <[mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com)>, don <[don@carmichael-co.ca](mailto:don@carmichael-co.ca)>, Peter Hopkins <[peterhopkins1942@gmail.com](mailto:peterhopkins1942@gmail.com)>  
Cc: Lance Sherk <[lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca](mailto:lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca)>

Dear McKellar Council,

I have a water access only property and you have blockaded my entry point without prior warning or notification. Do you think your actions don't have consequences to the ratepayers of this Township? I have been using this access for nearly 30 years and now all of a sudden, it is deemed unsafe because of liability issues. If there were issues with the ramp, why were they not dealt with by Council, and resolved before cottage season.

I look forward to your response in this regard. Please include the details that necessitated the closure, who ordered it closed, and the timeline to re-open this critical piece of our infrastructure. I presently have my boat in storage and I no longer have a safe or convenient way to launch it.

Sincerely,



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: June 21, 2021 12:59 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Lakeside boat launch [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Sent: June 14, 2021 6:37 PM  
To: lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>; peterhopkins1942@gmail.com <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
[REDACTED] <ancinelli@gmail.com> <ancinelli@gmail.com>;  
don@carmichael-co.ca <don@carmichael-co.ca>; mhaskim@hotmail.com <mhaskim@hotmail.com>;  
roads@township.mckellar.on.ca <roads@township.mckellar.on.ca>  
Subject: PROTEST AGAINST THE DOCK & EXTENDED PARKING BEING INSTALLED AT LAKESIDE BOAT LAUNCH

Addressed to: Mayor Perkins, Lance Sherk, and McKellar Township Council,

How is it fair and just that the Lakeshore boat ramp be closed without any notice to the public and then council try to sneak the installation of a dock at the Lakeside Crescent boat launch, without any public consultation whatsoever!!!!? Open your eyes and open a new boat launch at Minerva Park where it makes the most sense, or at the very least, find another spot that does not endanger people's lives!!!!

I am a cottage owner directly beside the boat launch and have just taken part in a protest (with a group of my fellow concerned property owners) against the attempt to install a dock at the direction of the Township CAO. Our understanding was that the relocation of the Lakeshore ramp was discussed at Council and no action was taken. A neighbour subsequently spoke with a member of Council who assured him that no action was imminent.

The decision to close the Lakeshore ramp, install a dock at the Lakeside boat launch, and increase the size of the adjacent parking lot appears to have been made by the CAO without Council direction or approval!

The CAO cited 'liability' issues as being his motivation for going forward with these actions. However, we as taxpayers are protesting this unethical attempt to underhandedly sneak these changes through and collectively, we as a group are citing serious and 100% warranted 'liability' issues relating to the Lakeside location!!!!

1) ROAD SAFETY for PEDESTRIANS & VEHICLES - The site at Lakeside is extremely constricted, has many sharp turns, is on a very steeply inclined, narrow, winding road with poor & limited visibility (especially for drivers to see pedestrians (many elderly) who are often out walking their dogs, or with their young children or bike riding.) It is already dangerous enough with local traffic that has resulted in many near misses. The steep hills and turns on Lakeside offer limited visibility on the corners and pose a 100% increased risk to both pedestrians and vehicular traffic. I, myself witnessed a near head on collision this past weekend with a boat/trailer and another truck! At the boat launch, there is a steep turn that is heavily treed and very difficult to see pedestrians and other vehicle traffic. HAS MR. SHERK EVEN DRIVEN THE ROAD TO THE LAKESIDE BOAT LAUNCH??? Talk about liability concerns!!!!!! Does the township seriously want to be responsible for pedestrian/vehicular accidents!?!?! If council turns a blind eye to this very obvious and real risk, your



**agenda is not one that considers its residents' safety whatsoever. There are just no words to this incredulous irresponsible decision!!!!**

**2) SAFETY OF SWIMMERS** - The dock and picnic table will encourage people to swim in a closely confined area with boats being constantly launched. In addition, many residents swim in the boat launch, Robertson Bay and especially in the channel leading up to the main lake. Boats launched at Lakeside would have to navigate up the river and through the constricted narrows adjacent to the Camp Manitou facility. The water there is quite shallow (as little as 7 feet in some areas), with many fallen trees and rocks just below the surface in several locations. The summer camp especially has young children swimming in that area. The increased boat traffic poses substantial risks to them. Again, talk about liability risk to the Township!

**3) OIL SPILL / CONTAMINATION TO WATER LINES:** The CAO pointed out this is a risk at Lakeshore. Are my water lines less of a risk? Our main water source to the house is a 100 feet to the boat launch and will be very susceptible to contamination! The adjacent Middle River area is very shallow and susceptible to water contamination as well.

**4) SHORELINE EROSION** - Increased boat traffic along the river portion will lead to further erosion of the shoreline which is already a known environmental issue. This is already a big issue in the area, with boaters not respecting erosion to property owners and fish / wildlife habitat. This will significantly increase erosion to properties around the boat launch, and channel leading to the main lake.

**5) SECURITY:** Being the main boat launch, we will see a large increase of out-of-town visitors coming for day / short term trips and increases risks to our neighborhood.

**6) PRIVACY:** Lakeside Drive & Lakeside Crescent is a very quiet, mature RESIDENTIAL street with the boat launch at the Crescent. To make this the main boat launch would be irresponsible and very disruptive to the residents. The boat launch is on a narrow lot between two very nicely landscaped cottage properties and would seriously infringe on the privacy of those cottage owners. The installation of a dock will not only certainly infringe upon the privacy of my property and my neighbours', but will have trespassing issues to deal with (as our property is only a few feet from the boat launch shoreline). T

The proposed actions are not well thought out nor are they indicative of consultation with the community. **It had been suggested that a new boat ramp be put into Minerva Park where Township docks already exist and there is ample room for boats and trailers to access the ramp, parking and will have no significant intrusion on any private property or neighbourhood.**

Is council not interested in supporting local business???? A main boat launch in the vicinity of the village is what is best for all tax payers. It is easier access for the Boat Marinas, day/short term visitors, and many of the residents of Fox Farm and Tait's Island. It supports our local business, specifically the restaurants, Farm, and General store. There is already infrastructure in place in terms of parking, easy highway access, and boat docking. **IT DOES NOT EVEN MAKE SENSE NOT TO OPEN THE BOAT LAUNCH THERE!!!!**

**Petition Ignored:** There was a petition signed a few years ago speaking to increased boat launch traffic to Lakeside specifically. Why is this being disregarded without any correspondence to the residents? Has something changed that make the wishes of those residents less valid?

**WE HIGHLY OPPOSE THE INSTALLATION OF THE DOCK & EXTENDED PARKING AT LAKESIDE CRESCENT!**



We trust that council will do what is RIGHT, WHAT IS RESPONSIBLE and WHAT MAKES SENSE, especially in terms of mitigating the outlined safety risks, not to mention the environmental and support of local business by opening the boat launch at Minerva Park. What did we as taxpayers spend thousands of dollars for to upgrade that area if it can't be well utilized other than the once per week market during the summer months?

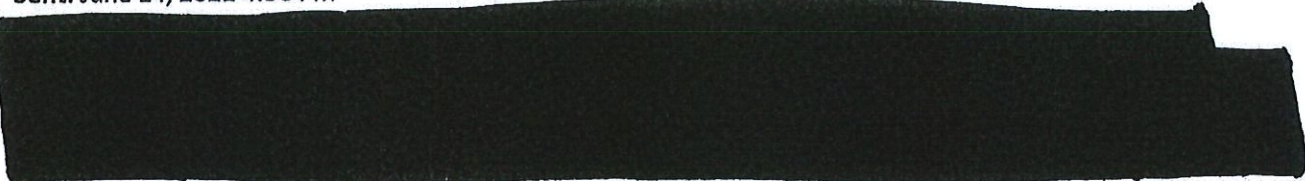
We will not stand for this irresponsible decision, which may very well be unsanctioned without council vote. As homeowners and taxpayers residing in the Lakeside Crescent/Drive area, we are 100% opposed to this and will keep fighting it. Your consideration of the above is appreciated.



*"Carpe diem"*



Sent: June 14, 2021 4:56 PM



Subject: RE: Lakeside boat launch

Welcome to the Angry Mob!

Ok, I made the changes you mentioned [REDACTED] I removed the loitering bullet point but I left the security issue as it only speaks to day trippers, not residents. Also added a point about the petition being disregarded from a few years back.

For me, I'm not going to focus on where else I think they should have a boat launch. My focus will be Lakeside should not be the main boat launch to support the entire lake, for all of the various reasons we listed. I will ask that they immediately reopen Lakeshore until they can find a suitable alternate. Ultimately we need another boat launch asap to relieve traffic, especially come Fall.

I would address emails to all of them. We elected the councilors, they hired the CAO. They all have skin in the game.



I would still get the Library to print. After [REDACTED] phone calls today, it's no secret that something like this is coming. The key to this will be that many of the area residents voice a strong opinion on this matter, and quickly.

## Discussion Points

1. **Residential area:** Quite street, with the boat launch at a crescent. Very disruptive to the residents of Lakeside drive and crescent.
2. **Poor visibility / Very dangerous to pedestrians:** As a crescent, many of the residents walk the area (pets, children, elderly). On Lakeside drive, there is a large hill that curves sharply. It is very dangerous to vehicles driving head on as well. At the boat launch, there is a steep turn that is treed and very difficult to see pedestrians and other vehicle traffic.
3. **Security:** Being the main boat launch, we will see a large increase of out of town visitors coming for day / short term trips and increases risks to our neighborhood.
4. **Swimmers safety:** Many residents swim in the boat launch, Robertson bay and especially in the channel leading up to the main lake. The summer camp especially has young children swimming in that area. The increased boat traffic poses substantial risks to them.
5. **Oil Spill / contamination to water lines:** The CAO pointed out this is a risk at Lakeshore. Are my water lines less of a risk? Middle River area is very shallow and susceptible to water contamination.
6. **Shoreline erosion:** This is already a big issue in the area, with boaters not respecting erosion to property owners and fish / wild life habitat. This will significantly increase erosion to properties around the boat launch, and channel leading to the main lake.
7. **Need to support commercial:** A main boat launch in the vicinity of the village is what is best for all rate payers. It is easier access for the Boat Marinas, day / short term visitors, and many of the residents of Fox Farm, and Tait's Island. It supports our local business, specifically the restaurants, Farm, and General store. There is already infrastructure in place in terms of parking, easy highway access, and boat docking.
8. **Petition Ignored:** There was a petition signed a few years ago speaking to increased boat launch traffic to Lakeside specifically. Why is this being disregarded without any correspondence to the residents? Has something changed that make the wishes of those residents less valid?

## Contact List:

**CAO/Clerk – Lance Sherk**

Phone: (705) 389-2842 Ext. 4

Email: [lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca](mailto:lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca)

**Peter Hopkins, Mayor**

E-mail [peterhopkins1942@gmail.com](mailto:peterhopkins1942@gmail.com) or Phone (705) 389-2228

**Committees:** Cemetery Committee, Roads Committee, Committee of Adjustment, Library Board, DSSAB Housing & Homeless Committee, Heads of Council

**Marco Ancinelli, Councillor**

E-mail [ancinelli@gmail.com](mailto:ancinelli@gmail.com) or Phone (416) 856-4615

**Committees:** Cemetery Committee, Roads Committee, Committee of Adjustment, Chamber of Commerce

**Don Carmichael, Councillor**

E-mail [don@carmichael-co.ca](mailto:don@carmichael-co.ca) or Phone (705) 996-0424

**Committees:** Cemetery Committee, Roads Committee, Committee of Adjustment, Parry Sound Area Planning Board, Belvedere Heights Board of Management, District of Parry Sound Municipal Association Executive Committee

**Morley Haskim, Councillor**

E-mail [mhaskim@hotmail.com](mailto:mhaskim@hotmail.com) or Phone (705) 389-1035

**Committees:** Cemetery Committee, Roads Committee, Committee of Adjustment, Recreation Committee, Parry Sound Area Planning Board, West Parry Sound Pool & Wellness Committee

**Mike Kekkonen, Councillor**

E-mail [MikeonMcKellarCouncil@outlook.com](mailto:MikeonMcKellarCouncil@outlook.com) or Phone (705) 389-1346

**Committees:** Cemetery Committee, Roads Committee, Committee of Adjustment, Historical Committee, West Parry Sound Veterinary Unit, Community Policing Advisory Board, 9-1-1 Operations Committee, Provincial Offences Act Advisory Committee

**Areas to cover:**

- Local residents of Lakeside
- Residents across from boat launch
- Residents of the channel
- Summer Camp



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 21, 2021 7:07 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: PROTEST AGAINST THE DOCK & EXTENDED PARKING BEING INSTALLED AT LAKESIDE BOAT LAUNCH (Second Letter)  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Mon, Jun 21, 2021 at 4:32 PM  
Subject: PROTEST AGAINST THE DOCK & EXTENDED PARKING BEING INSTALLED AT LAKESIDE BOAT LAUNCH (Second Letter)  
To: peterhopkins1942@gmail.com <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>, lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>, ancinelli@gmail.com <ancinelli@gmail.com>, don@carmichael-co.ca <don@carmichael-co.ca>, mhaskim@hotmail.com <mhaskim@hotmail.com>, roads@township.mckellar.on.ca <roads@township.mckellar.on.ca>  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mayor Hopkins, and Members of Council,

I am writing you today as a follow up to our attached letter from June 14<sup>th</sup> regarding the closure of the Lakeshore Boat Launch, and the re-direction of traffic to the Lakeside Crescent Launch.

Understandably, I am sure you receive many messages throughout the day, but we have not received a response from any member of council regarding this matter.

My family are new to the community (Late Aug 2020), and [REDACTED] to the boat launch on Lakeside Crescent.

Since our acquisition, we have invested substantially in both dwelling and landscaping to clean up and modernize our property.

I would even say a "night and day" transformation, that has added to the beauty of both the natural surroundings and a look that compliments our neighbours beautiful homes.

The decision by Council, CAO, or committee, (we are not sure who), to make this change is extremely concerning to us as new property owners, and the residents of both Lakeside Drive, and Lakeside Crescent.

To consider putting in floating docks is such an already restricted location, let alone the danger of boats launching / loading while people are swimming/fishing. **It is an accident waiting to happen.**

The area is way to restricted, and I see first hand the difficulty boaters have currently when they are launching.

We are also concerned about the encroachment on our private property by boaters and public using the launch/docks.

The proximity is that close, that some kind of enforcement would need to be established by the Town of McKellar, for the properties on both sides of the launch.

You have received correspondence from my wife and I attached, as well as many other members of the community.

Most members share the same concerns as we outlined in our first letter.

We would like a response from you and council as to the plans or study going forward. It has been over a week.

Sincerely



**Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca**

---

**From:** lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca  
**Sent:** June 22, 2021 12:01 PM  
**To:** Peter Hopkins  
**Subject:** FW: Risk Mgt and municipal boat launches - Lakeshore boat launch  
**Attachments:** ADMIN-2021-02 - REPORT TO COUNCIL re Lakeshore Rd Boat Launch 062021.docx;  
Lakeshore boat launch2.jpg; Lakeshore boat launch3.jpg; Lakeshore boat launch5.jpg;  
Lakeshore boat launch6.jpg

Peter,  
This just came in from the Township's insurance provider. This came from the Risk Management department.

Lance Sherk, MSc.  
CAO/Clerk  
Township of McKellar  
701 Hwy 124, P.O. Box 69  
McKellar, ON P0G 1C0  
P: 705-389-2842



---

**Sent:** June 22, 2021 11:43 AM  
**To:** lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

**Subject:** FW: Risk Mgt and municipal boat launches - Lakeshore boat launch

Hi Lance,

As discussed I sent this information over to our risk management department for review and they've provided the following comments. Separate emails to follow for the McKellar, Lakeside and Stewart boat launches. Please let me know if you have any questions or require further information.

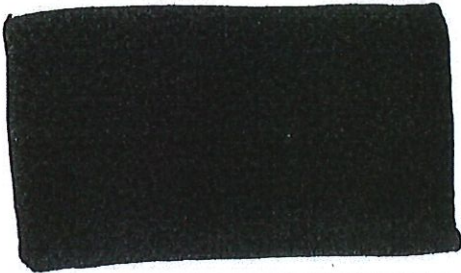
Have a great day!

In review of that attached report, we agree with the closure of the Lakeshore boat launch. The Townships concerns are sufficient for removing the boat launch from use.

It looks like barricades have already been situated to prevent usage. Signs should be posted in conjunction with barriers, we recommend signage stating "Boat Launch Closed – No Access Permitted"

Also, we recommend posting the addresses of nearby boat launches that residents are allowed to use.

My email address has changed, I ask that you kindly update your file.



**From:** [lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca](mailto:lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca) <[lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca](mailto:lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca)>

**Sent:** June 18, 2021 12:06 PM

**Subject:** Risk Mgt and municipal boat launches - Lakeshore boat launch

 This may take a couple of emails to provide all the information.

As I indicated when we talked, this is the launch that has private water lines immediately adjacent to it. As you will see, the road is very narrow, with virtually no shoulders on either side, and when cars are manoeuvring and stopping on the road waiting for the ramp, access to the ramp is pretty steep, the dock in the pictures is not owned by the municipality (private dock), and there is no parking anywhere near this ramp for day-trippers. The staff report is attached.

Pictures for the Lakeshore ramp are included with this email. I will provide the others with emails specific to each of the 4 launches.

Regards,  
Lance Sherk, MSc.  
CAO/Clerk  
Township of McKellar  
701 Hwy 124, P.O. Box 69  
McKellar, ON P0G 1C0  
P: 705-389-2842





Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

---

**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 22, 2021 7:50 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Lakeshore Rd. boat launch

fyi and response

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Mike Kekkonen <mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Jun 21, 2021 at 8:42 PM  
**Subject:** Lakeshore Rd. boat launch  
**To:** peterhopkins1942@gmail.com <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>

---

Township of McKellar Mayor Peter Hopkins,

As an elected member of McKellar Council, I have not received confirmation from McKellar CAO/Clerk, Mr. Lance Sherk if the LAKESHORE ROAD BOAT LAUNCH is CLOSED even though I have made several inquiries.

1. I ask you, Mayor Hopkins, why is it that the CAO/Clerk Lance Sherk will not provide a response to a question from a member of McKellar Council that directly impact McKellar residents at the present moment.
2. If the Lakeshore Road Boat Launch is currently closed to the public, is it acceptable for a member of council not to be updated and provided with the current status.
3. If the Lakeshore Road Boat Launch is currently closed to the public, I respectfully inform you in this email, as I had in our phone conversation on Saturday June 12, 2021 at about 4:30pm, that my position is that I have not and would not support the closure of the Lakeshore Rd. Boat Launch unless there was a suitable primary replacement boat launch providing direct access to that area of Lake Manitouwabing for residents and EMS, and with sufficient time and public notification of the intent to shut down .
4. If the Lakeshore Road Boat Launch is currently closed to the public,
  - a) given that McKellar Council DID NOT PASS A RESOLUTION directing staff to close the Lakeshore Boat Launch I respectfully request to be informed who directed the closure?
  - b) given that McKellar Council did not pass a resolution directing staff to close the Lakeshore Boat Launch, and given the information that I currently have, My position is that I respectfully suggest that it be immediately re-opened, followed by a thorough assessment. Subsequently, a future plan can be developed and voted on by Council.

Again, if the Lakeshore Road Boat Launch is currently closed to the public, given the information that I currently have, it is my opinion that an error has been made and it is my position that it needs to be reversed immediately.

5. After reading [REDACTED] June 21, 2021 email, I ask

a) has the CAO/Clerk of McKellar Township Lance Sherk consulted with the Municipalities insurance provider in regards to the current situation? What is their assessment? Regarding Lakeshore Rd. Boat launch if there was any liability risk, what suggestions did they provide to mitigate that risk? Currently the second hand information that I have indicates that the Lakeshore Rd. public boat launch that serves a significant portion of Lake Manitouwabing is closed. Is there any associated risk that this action would bring given it does not have council's approval? Does that put McKellar Township in a position of increased risk for liability and negligence? The Lakeshore Road Boat Launch has been used for decades by McKellar residents and Emergency Services, such as the OPP and EMS.

If the Lakeshore Road Boat Launch is currently closed to the public, I believe that [REDACTED] has raised some valid concerns and I am very concerned if this situation puts me in a position, or McKellar Township in a position of Liability and Responsibility. These are serious questions worthy of consideration and a reply. I would appreciate receiving factual answers to these questions without unnecessary, irrelevant comments.

Thank you, best regards, Councillor Mike Kekkonen.



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 22, 2021 5:40 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Lakeshore Boat Launch Closure  
**Attachments:** Hopkins Letter .pdf

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, Jun 22, 2021 at 4:00 PM  
Subject: Lakeshore Boat Launch Closure  
To: <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
Cc: <don@carmichael-co.ca>, <ancinelli@gmail.com>, <mhaskim@hotmail.com>, Mike Kekkonen  
<mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com>

Dear Mr Hopkins

Please see my attached letter below with regard to the lakeshore Boat Launch closing.

June 22, 2021

Mr. Peter Hopkins  
Mayor Town of McKellar

Dear Mr Hopkins

I am now forwarding you a letter regarding the closure of the Lakeshore boat launch and last weeks Lakeside Boat Launch confrontation.

As you are aware I have submitted two previous emails addressed to Lance Sherk C.A.O. Also copied on those letters were you and the Members of Council. I requested a response and or acknowledgment to these letters. I still have not heard one word from any of you with the exception of Mr Kokkonen, who responded almost immediately to both letters.

As mentioned in my second letter I believe that there is a problem with the chain of command in this Township, to my knowledge the C.A.O has acted without proper council approval and taken it upon himself to make the decision to close the Lakeshore Launch without proper procedure.

The closing of this launch is no different than closing a public road or the Town's Recycling facility, there has to be proper public notice, due procedure followed, including the repealing of bylaw's allowing such uses and of course approval from yourself and council prior to the closure of any public facilities, roads or services.

There is a natural right of way giving to access Lake Manitouwabing via the Lakeshore Launch that has been in place for 60 + years according to local knowledge. This access point to the lake is also used for many other services not just launching Boats.

This launch is considered as an access point for immediate responders and emergency services as well as the O.P.P. who patrol the lake for safety concerns. I am simply amazed that none of the elected official including yourself and of course the C.A.O./ Clerk did not take these factors into consideration prior to closing this launch.

During my telephone conversation with the C.A.O. this past Monday, Mr Sherk told me the main reason the Lakeshore Launch was being closed was due to liability. Now all of the elected officials as well as the C.A.O. have placed the Town at greater risk. All of you better hope that there are no boater safety issues or an emergency that requires an immediate response, comprising the public's safety. If a situation like this occurs you will then see what real Liability looks like. We are coming up on one of the busiest weekends of the year with huge increase in traffic and as such a huge increase in Liability.

As you can see Mr Hopkins this issue is now receiving serious scrutiny from all affected, now is your only chance to correct this error in judgement. You as well as the elected officials need to do the right thing and re-open this Launch. In doing so your decision will be looked at in a favourable manner. If nothing is done this situation is going to get a lot more intense and you the Councillors and the C.A.O are going to feel the wrath of these angry citizens.



**The only way to solve the ongoing issues for all concerned is to immediately re-open the Lakeshore Launch until a suitable relocation can be located and approved by Council.**

I have now sent three letters to you. The previous two were address to Mr Stark with, yourself and the council copled on all of them. To this point I have heard absolutely nothing from any of you with the Exception of Mr Kokkenon. This letter is now addressed to you the Mayor of McKellar, I would hope to receive a timely response to my concerns.

**Also I am requesting that all of my communications, including correspondence received by you from other concerned citizens be placed on the Council's agenda under Correspondence for Consideration.**

**Further I am requesting that our Group be addressed as a delegation and am requesting details for the proper deputization for our members to be placed on the Councils agenda.**

I think now that you can see the seriousness of this matter, we are now motivated to watch every step that this Council and C.A.O. make to ensure things are done following proper procedures and policies.

The group of people writing these letters of concern to yourself and the council should not have to do so. Elected officials are expected represent their constituents with respect and Integrity. I'm hoping all of you now see that this Issue has created a serious trust issue based on the decisions you have made regarding this matter.

Regards


Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 22, 2021 5:08 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Lakeside Boat Ramp Closure

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, Jun 22, 2021 at 11:07 AM  
Subject: Lakeside Boat Ramp Closure  
To: peterhopkins1942@gmail.com <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>, ancinelli@gmail.com  
<ancinelli@gmail.com>, Don@carmichael-co.ca <Don@carmichael-co.ca>, mhaskim@hotmail.com  
<mhaskim@hotmail.com>, MikeonMcKellarCouncil@outlook.com  
<MikeonMcKellarCouncil@outlook.com>, lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca  
<lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>  
[REDACTED]

Dear elected council members:

I am writing to add my voice to the community residents who are outraged by the closure of the Lakeshore boat ramp.

I share residents' concerns about the impact on the community on Lakeside Drive and Crescent, as well as on the residents, cottagers and the camp on the Middle River channel. The increased traffic on Lakeside is a danger for pedestrians (i.e., the many dog walkers, children and fitness walkers/joggers), and the increased boat traffic is a danger for young children who like to swim and paddle in the narrow channel.

I also have concerns about how the ramp closure came about. According to the minutes of the June 8 Council meeting, a motion to receive the report on the Lakeshore boat ramp closure was passed. That report contained two recommendations: that the report be received for information purposes, and that Council "hereby direct staff to permanently remove the Lakeshore Boat Launch from service...."



My questions are as follows:

1. Did Council discuss the report and authorize staff to close the Lakeshore boat ramp?
2. Did township staff conduct any analysis of the other public boat ramps, similar to the analysis of the Lakeshore boat ramp? For example, the report refers to an unknown number of residential waterlines adjacent to the Lakeshore boat ramp; the same issue applies to the Lakeside location. Liability concerns regarding boat trailers on the narrow roadway also applies at both locations.
3. Did Council authorize staff to install a dock at the Lakeside boat ramp? The report to Council makes no mention of any changes to other public boat ramps if the Lakeshore location is closed.
4. Why was there no public consultation before this action was taken?

I know that others in McKellar have written Council to express other concerns and ask additional questions. In light of the uproar your actions have produced, I urge Council to reverse its action, reopen the Lakeshore boat ramp, conduct a proper consultation with the public, conduct a proper analysis of the risks involved with all public boat ramps, and then make an informed decision.

I would appreciate acknowledgement from you that this correspondence has been received. I also ask that this email be received as Correspondence for Consideration in the next Council meeting.

**Hwy124+ -\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca**

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 23, 2021 7:13 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk; Peter Hopkins

Thanks for the risk report. still doesn't deal with the tempest in a tea pot and the perceived view as to our lack of transparency, following proper process, poor communication and the like. We will need to discuss this matter in closed to clear up a few things. Will drop by later today after my return from Orillia



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 23, 2021 7:19 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Reply to your response

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, Jun 22, 2021 at 7:44 PM  
Subject: Reply to your response  
To: <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>  
Cc: <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>, <mhaskim@hotmail.com>, <mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com>, <don@carmichael-co.ca>, <ancinelli@gmail.com>

**Mr. SHERK**

*I am going to address the lengthy wealth of information you furnished me in your reply.*

*You spoke about mitigation risk. You are correct about, "as a police officer" my understanding of mitigation risk holds true to my many years on a tactical unit dealing with some of the most dangerous offenders, the worst of the worst. An experience that taught me a lot about mitigation risk. If you have identified this mitigation risk at the boat launch in question regarding traffic matters, would it have been more resourceful to propose "No Parking Sign" or other regulatory notices rather than a complete shut down? Again, that measure would require resolution by Council.*

*Another matter Mr. SHERK, you chose to highlight my police profession on three separate occasions in your reply. One time I can understand your motive because I have challenged you. Three times seems an attempt to deflate my many years of police experience. I believe that is called being condescending. Well Mr. SHERK I can handle that because I served my Country, my Communities over those many years Honorably, Honestly and with deep dedication. My service made me the recipient of three Governor General of Canada medals. So, if it was your intention was to patronize me, Mr. SHERK, you are playing in the wrong ballpark.*



*Most of the rhetoric in your narrative is issues I am already aware of. You did agree that the problems at other launches are similar. Does that mean you intend to close them as well without resolution?*

*Overall, I find the tone of your reply is not professional but somewhat flamboyant and sarcastic. The abrupt closure of this boat launch I see as a grandstanding of your new position in order to showcase yourself rather than utilizing good common sense. In addition, your response to me completely skirts around the bottom line. You authorized the shutdown of that boat launch WITHOUT RESOLUTION BY COUNCIL.*

*CAO's act by Council resolution which gives direction to the CAO to perform the duties required. You chose to breach protocol which undermines Transparency and the Trust of citizens. However, your reply points out areas that require attention but addressed with a commonsense approach rather than brute force.*

*I will repeat what I said in my first address to you. It is very surprising that Council allowed this to happen rather than following protocol. There are credible and reliable residents, some longtime residents and some new who are questioning the conduct of the present Council. I am familiar with the Provincial Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. In the event a substantial amount of phone calls and emails are placed to this Ministry could create prima facie grounds for an inquiry or full investigation. Yes Mr. SHERK you are correct about another remark you made about my police service. I have had the opportunity of dealing cooperatively with many Provincial Legislative bodies in this province through my career.*

*You have no doubt received other letters of opposition about the closure of this boat launch. As a new person to the community would it have been more productive through your position to create unity rather than hostilities.*

*It is prayed that you judge yourself accordingly Mr. SHERK.*



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 23, 2021 7:18 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Lakeshore Boat Launch Closure

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, Jun 22, 2021 at 11:01 PM  
Subject: Re: Lakeshore Boat Launch Closure  
To: Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
Cc: <don@carmichael-co.ca>, <ancinelli@gmail.com>, <mhaskim@hotmail.com>, Mike Kekkonen <mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com>

With all due respect Mr Hopkins this letter is addressed to you ! I expect you to respond in a proper fashion. Stop all of this nonsense and respond in a proper manner to the position that you have been elected to. You are the head of this municipality and as such you are in control of all of the staff appointments you have made !  
I am so tired of all of this white noise that you and this Clerk are trying to push thru.  
Either step up to your elected status or walk away.... Enough is enough !

On Jun 22, 2021, at 5:40 PM, Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com> wrote:

Your letter with numerous others have been sent to our CAO.. There will be a public meeting in early July to address your issues. Peter ,

On Tue, Jun 22, 2021 at 4:00 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Mr Hopkins

Please see my attached letter below with regard to the lakeshore Boat Launch closing.

**Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca**

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 24, 2021 7:33 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk; Peter Hopkins  
**Attachments:** McKellar Boat Launches- moving forward June 24, 21.docx

Position for closed meeting regarding Boat Launches- see attached. I'll drop by after 9 as a follow up. Have a great day. Should we alert Greg? Peter



## McKellar Boat Launches: Issues, processes, concerns, background and actions forward - June 24, 21

### A- Introduction:

Over the last while, we have all been made aware of numerous boat launch issues. We need to all reflect on how we got there, how we have dealt with it and how to proceed to a win-win-win solution for staff, council and our community. More importantly, how do we regain public confidence in being open and transparent, with a community development philosophy and in making wise and correct decisions that we have worked so hard to live up to. Our credibility is the foundation of what we all do. We all certainly need to review how we have dealt collectively with the issue as a council supporting our staff. We need to certainly clarify our new roles and authorities between staff and council. Ultimately we must all follow our code of conduct and procedural by laws.

We all agreed as a council to receive a staff report – unanimously - which recommended the immediate closure of Lakeshore launch for a variety of reasons. In practice, it is recommended in the Councillor's handbook that Council should support recommendations from staff, lawyers and other related professionals. The recent insurance report supports staffs' position regarding safety, liability and on a risk management basis. We had very little discussion except a few over all question resulting in council receiving the staff recommendation. We need to clarify the need for a resolution supporting this action. When it comes to legal, insurance and safety concerns, staff can and has acted immediately as evidenced by the recent oil spill. You do not need a council resolution in this regard.

Ultimately it may be the right decision in the long run. Obviously we missed a few steps along the way such as the community impact of the closure – realistic or not. We have prided and promoted ourselves as being open with our community and to listen to major concerns. It is critical moving forward that we restore public confidence in our staff and council decisions. We are in this collectively and will resolve it collectively. We have some serious concerns about how council has dealt with the issue in the public domain.

### Actions :

1. We immediately clarify and define the roles and authorities of staff and council- working together
2. We need to fully review and agree that we need wide spread public input on major decisions before moving forward. Ultimately council makes the decision and lives with it. We should be making decisions that are best for the majority of our community and not for other reasons
3. We all need to agree to improve our public communication processes with a plan for time sensitive, clear and concise notices.



## B – Background: Facts regarding Boat Launches in McKellar

It is always important that we make decisions on an evidence – based - fact basis. We have four municipally owned public boat launches- Lakeshore, Lakeside, Stewart Park and McKellar lake; two closed private launches ( Deerfield and Grey Owl) and three private boat launches at marinas- Taits, Outpost and Glenwood.- some with fees , others free, some great, others not so good

For the record, public boat launches are owned by and the responsibility of the municipality, provided for the use our local community and serve and welcome our guests and visitors.

Boat launches have been a staff and council issue for a long time – especially the one on Lakeshore. It is well - documented that our citizens seem to react quickly to three issues: large development projects, front yard resolutions or boat launches. Council has always revisited these topics and found a way to move forward with public - almost all – support. Council asked staff after the Harris-Hurdville boat launch debate to improve our boat launches – parking, docking etc - and to look at another site for Lakeshore as it was deemed unsafe for a variety of reasons- parking, slope, location, deteriorating and the like. We tried to have public access to private launches on Deerfield and Grey Owl without success. Staff has been slowly improving our public launches over the last few years. Staff recommended a new launch be put in at our government dock and beach area on Lakeshore. Council approved it, as well as approving the budget and obtaining MNRF approval to be installed in 2020. Due to Covid, it was deferred to the spring of 2021. The project was cancelled recently when local citizens complained that this site was not appropriate especially after the major oil spill nearby. Staff was then asked to review the Lakeshore sight and report back to Council. Their report brought to our attention that besides the long standing safety issues there were numerous water intake lines nearby which if a spill occurred could contaminate their water supply. Staff felt our Municipality was at risk. Staff recommend we immediately close it for a variety of long standing issues and the new liability concern. Council unanimously received their report and recommendation. The boat launch was closed

It should be noted staff has the responsibility to act immediately on safety, legal and liability issues, keeping council and the community in formed. Ultimately, in the longer term it was the right decision but we could have done things that would have helped the process. The following are suggestions that make sense for staff, council and the community. Other options may also be considered.

Just a friendly reminded that these are public launches, owned and operated by the municipality - not by the immediate rate payers - to accommodate public launches of our citizens, guest and visitors of McKellar. It is a free service of which we are ultimately liable



Suggested Actions:- Before the long weekend

Have Council and Staff agree to:

1. Immediately re-open Lakeshore boat launch with the following conditions:
  - i- Large notice- this launch is "unsafe, uninsured and use at your own risk" and will be "closed" at the end of 2021 boating season - like Balsam Trail and unsafe beaches
  - ii- Direction to other public and private boat launches in McKellar
  - iii- Immediately post signs at all launches – Caution: " children at play"; new 40 km/hr signs and Caution: " boat launch vehicles turning"
  - iv- Inform our Insurance company of our immediate action
2. Direct staff to make a recommendation of a new safer boat launch site in the north end of McKellar to be put in in spring of 2022
3. Hold a public meeting in early July regarding these immediate and long term actions and solicit their collective input and support.
4. Quickly and clearly communicate actions taken through our social media - new website, facebook, MLCA, public notices and press releases, electronic sign, to committees and electronic newsletter and other means.

Conclusion:

By implementing these suggestions, we can solve the short and long term concerns regarding boat launches, address clear lines of responsibility in decision-making between council and staff, ensure that council and staff are working as one; clearly demonstrate we listen to and engage our citizens in matters McKellar; have clear processes and authorities, improve our communications and ultimately to restore confidence of our staff and council.

Respectfully, for your consideration

Peter Hopkins, Mayor McKellar

Note: it is never wise to hang your dirty wash in public.

**Hwy124+ -\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca**

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 25, 2021 5:17 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk; morely haskim; mike kekkonen; don; marco ancinelli; Peter Hopkins; greg gostick  
**Subject:** Fwd:  
**Attachments:** McKellar Boat Launches- moving forward June 24, 21.docx

For your eyes only - CONFIDENTIAL

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Thu, Jun 24, 2021 at 7:32 AM  
**Subject:**  
**To:** Lance Sherk <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>, Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>

Position for closed meeting regarding Boat Launches- see attached. I'll drop by after 9 as a follow up. Have a great day. Should we alert Greg? Peter



Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 28, 2021 8:39 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk; greg gostick  
**Subject:** Fwd: Lake Manitouwabing Boat Launch

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 5:04 PM  
Subject: Lake Manitouwabing Boat Launch  
To: [pdhopkins@lycos.com](mailto:pdhopkins@lycos.com) <[pdhopkins@lycos.com](mailto:pdhopkins@lycos.com)>

Good Afternoon Mayor Hopkins,

I note that there was an article about a boat launch in the Parry Sound North Star today:  
<https://www.parrysound.com/community-story/10422140-mckellar-township-residents-protest-undisclosed-boat-launch-closure/>

I inquired with my team and it is my understanding that Greg Gostic advised the MNRF file lead on April 23, 2021 that the project was cancelled.

Please let me know if we can provide McKellar Township with support in seeking a work permit application.

Happy to discuss at your convenience.

Thanks!

Hwy124+ -\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 29, 2021 12:50 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Clerks Lakeshore Response Letter  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, Jun 29, 2021 at 8:19 AM  
Subject: Clerks Lakeshore Response Letter  
To: Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
Cc: <ancinelli@gmail.com>, <don@carmichael-co.ca>, <mhaskim@hotmail.com>, Mike Kekkonen <mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com>

Please find attached a copy of Mr Sherk's response letter to me, which for your record was received seven days after I had written my initial letter to him. Also attached is my response to this letter, you will now have to come clean and provide all of our requested information on this matter or I'm afraid you will dig yourself into a deeper hole. I'm not sure why you are protecting Mr Sherk's unauthorized behaviour but it needs to STOP ! As Council you need to be accountable for his actions, Period !

Again I am looking for a timely response !

Respectively

[REDACTED]



June 29th, 2021

Dear Mayor Peter Hopkins and Councillors of McKellar

I received a letter from Lance Sherk on June 24 in response to mine. Finally an answer. In his letter, he outlined several justifications regarding the closing of the Lakeshore boat ramp, and comments regarding me and the Lakeside community, that I feel must be addressed.

***While you may believe that the liability to the municipality is greater at Lakeside, the township's insurance provider delivered a different perspective.***

This implies that the Township's insurer did a risk assessment to determine Lakeshore is more of a liability than Lakeside. If an assessment was done, it should have been followed by open communication and notification regarding any recommendations, before any action was taken. I would like to be provided a copy of this report to verify these facts. I DO NOT BELIEVE PROPER PROCEDURE WAS FOLLOWED.

***The Township is concerned about all issues facing all residents of McKellar Township. The closing of the Lakeshore launch is an indication of this, and was the correct decision for the residents of the village.***

A report was presented to Council with a recommendation to close the Lakeshore ramp. No risk assessments were presented, there is no discussion noted in the minutes, and there was no discussion or notification to the community. THERE IS NO RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTING TO APPROVE THE LAKESHORE CLOSURE.

***... it was undertaken to protect the residents of the village, as well as those residents who have no other access than along Lakeshore Road to reach their homes and cottages beyond the village.***

This business about access along Lakeshore is ridiculous. The Lakeshore ramp has been in place for decades. There was nothing urgent about this. The fact this was even mentioned is a ploy to distract from the main issue. THE CLOSURE WAS PREMATURE.

***... staff have been searching for alternative sites at the north end of the lake for a number of months. Various potential sites have been explored. At this point in time, the search continues,...***  
This should have been communicated to all while in process and a new launch completed before Lakeshore was closed. Plain and simple !

***People want the public boat launches, but only as long as they are not in their neighbourhood. Don't tell me I don't want a boat ramp in my neighbourhood. I bought property next to a boat ramp! But it was an ancillary boat ramp on a dead end that I never imagined would be transformed to be one of only two public boat ramps on the whole lake. Which, given where the other public boat ramp is, makes Lakeside essentially the main boat ramp. Two different situations entirely.***

We are angry at the inequity of how this whole affair has unfolded including the fact that there were no public meetings, no communication, no safety meetings or risk assessments completed whatsoever and how the Clerk, WITHOUT DIRECTION FROM COUNCIL, tried to do it all when nobody was looking ! We as residents had absolutely no input in a major decision such as this !! It's simply not acceptable. DO THINGS TRANSPARENTLY TO ENGAGE & ENROLL THE COMMUNITY IN SOLUTIONS.

***With respect to Minerva Park ... MNRF and DFO have been approached about this possibility. Neither of these agencies is prepared to approve this site for a boat launch...***

If this issue is in fact correct about Minerva Park, please provide me with the conclusive studies or reports from the various ministries. If not, bring those studies to a conclusion and then present them to the community. In the meantime, don't talk about not wanting to move the Market (which is a smokescreen), don't talk about the "look" of arriving in McKellar and seeing boats and trailers parked. What on earth is wrong with that???? We're a lake community, boats and trailers would indicate there's some vibrancy here. Better than an empty park that's used for four hours a week, 10 Saturdays of the year! COMPLETE THE STUDIES, COMMUNICATE THEM, THEN TAKE THE NEXT STEPS.



***The decision to close the Lakeshore launch is an informed decision, and is certainly within the purview of Council in addressing risk management concerns for McKellar residents. INFORMED BY, AND TO, WHOM? SHOW ME THE MINUTES. LET ME HEAR THE AUDIO. LET ME SEE COUNCIL'S VOTE TO APPROVE THE CLOSURE TO LAKESHORE.***

***There was no intention, as you state, to redirect all the road and boat traffic to Lakeside Drive. Really? When the Lakeshore ramp was closed, the main boat ramp for Lake Manitouwabing, traffic was directed by default to the next nearest ramp, which is Lakeside. Why is the audio tape of the June 8 Council meeting not available so we can hear the vote by Council, and direction to the Clerk to take action to close Lakeshore. BECAUSE THERE WAS NO VOTE OR DIRECTION TO CLOSE LAKESHORE !***

***Could we have informed the community prior to closing the ramp? Yes, and I will take full responsibility for the fact the community was not informed prior to the closing. At last there's a partial admission here. But he doesn't say that he TOOK ACTION WITHOUT DIRECTION OF COUNCIL. This Council needs to come clean on this unauthorized action. What are you covering up? The #1 rule in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing handbook for Councillors - TRANSPARENCY. McKellar Council is NOT OPERATING TRANSPARENTLY.***

***Given the nature of your complaint and others, informing the residents of Lakeside prior to the closing of the Lakeshore public launch would not have changed the perspective of the neighbourhood.***

***This point is IRRELEVANT and WRONG. Council has a LEGAL OBLIGATION to conduct business transparently. They did not. AND, had they followed proper process as outlined above, it absolutely would have changed the perspective of the neighbourhood. DON'T TELL ME HOW WE WOULD ACT HAD THE SITUATION BEEN HANDLED PROPERLY.***

***Council will be announcing a public meeting in early July to discuss boat launches around Lake Manitouwabing. Options for consideration with respect to public boat launches on Lake Manitouwabing will be presented at that time.***

***Given that it's rumoured to be July 8, less than two weeks away, when will you officially notify us? Please tell us the date, time, location and we expect a normal meeting not a "COVID-19 hide behind a camera" meeting, so we are all certain to be able to attend AND to be heard. This is how the process should have begun. Therefore, THE ONLY LOGICAL THING TO DO IS TO RE-OPEN LAKESHORE SO WE CAN BEGIN THE PROCESS PROPERLY, STARTING WITH THIS MEETING. For Council to not take this action, continues to fan the flames and guarantees that this neighbourhood will not be cooperative.***

***I look forward to receiving the reports I have asked for and to hearing about the public meeting.***

***Regards;***





7/4/2021

Gmail - Lakeshore Ramp Public Meeting



Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>

## Lakeshore Ramp Public Meeting

1 message

Wed, Jun 30, 2021 at 8:13 PM

To: "peterhopkins1942@gmail.com" <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>, "ancinelli@gmail.com" <ancinelli@gmail.com>, "don@carmichael-co.ca" <don@carmichael-co.ca>, "mhaskim@hotmail.com" <mhaskim@hotmail.com>, "milkeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com" <milkeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com>  
Cc: "lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca" <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>

Mayor Peter Hopkins

Councillor Marco Ancinelli

Councillor Don Carmichael

Councillor Morley Haskim

Councillor Mike Kekkonen

Dear Elected Members of Council,

It is now essentially Canada Day. WHEN will you tell us about the community meeting regarding the Lakeshore boat ramp? I would like to know the date, time, location and format.

I quote from the McKellar Township by-laws:

### **DEFINITIONS**

**Accountability:** The principle that the municipality will be responsible to its stakeholders for decisions made and policies implemented, as well as its actions and inactions.

**Transparency:** The principle that the municipality actively encourages and fosters stakeholder participation and openness in its decision making processes. Additionally, transparency means that the municipality's decision making process is open to the public.

### **POLICY REQUIREMENTS**

The principles of accountability and transparency shall apply equally to the political process and decision making and to the administrative management of the municipality.

I simply can't believe Council's Intransigence on the matter of returning to the status quo regarding the Lakeshore ramp until we can start again on this issue. Your very by-laws attest to the fact that this would be the proper action to take under the circumstances.

Regards,

July 3rd, 2021

Peter Hopkins  
Mayor Town McKellar

Dear Peter

I am again writing you as you have not responded to my letter dated June 29th, the more I deal with you and this council the more disappointed I am in your lack of communication skills and attitude. It seems to me you have no business even being the Mayor of this Town, and I am going to make it my personal business to make sure you won't be again !

There have been numerous letters sent to you requesting the June 8th audio tape be released, as of today no one has received a copy of the tape or a response from you as to why this is the only tape unavailable, a little confusing isn't it ? That fact that the tape is unavailable just proves to me and a lot of others that there is a cover up going on !

You were also asked to provide the resolution from council that directed the clerk to close the Lakeshore boat launch and again **YOU HAVE DONE NOTHING TO PROVIDE PROOF OF THIS DOCUMENT !!!**


Given these two items have not been forwarded or are in fact not available it would appear that **MR SHERK HAD ABSOLUTELY NO AUTHORITY TO CLOSE THE LAKESHORE LAUNCH**

The final point I would like to make is that you have also not provided a copy of the environmental study and risk management assessment that were apparently completed prior to the Lakeshore Launch closure..... Wow you have provided ZERO ZERO ZERO ! It appears three strikes and your out of the game !

As of 4:30 Today, Sunday July 3rd there is still no notice of any public meeting to discuss the matters of the closure at Lakeshore.....DON'T EVEN THINK OF TRYING TO JAM A MEETING IN WITH SHORT NOTICE AS YOU MIGHT BE EATEN ALIVE, YOU HAVE PROVIDED A LOT OF FODDER TO ANGRY RESIDENTS.....

I think it's time for you to step up to the plate and do your job !

Regards





- Have you written to Council today to ask them when the meeting is? It is *still* not posted on the website as of 3:15 pm (check before you write - <http://township.mckellar.on.ca/publicnotices/>)
- Have you asked them why it is taking so long to tell us when the meeting is, officially.... Having been rumoured to be July 8 for at least two weeks now?!
- Have you asked them where the resolution is from Council to direct the Clerk to close the ramp?
- Have you asked them *who* gave the Clerk authority to close the ramp?
- Have you asked them where the environmental studies and risk assessments are that should have been done *before* the ramp was closed?
- Read their response to you and offer a rebuttal to everything they've said that can be challenged. I guarantee there's something.

**Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca**

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** July 3, 2021 6:52 PM  
**To:** Lance Sherk; Ina Watkinson; Peter Hopkins  
**Subject:** Fwd: Where is the requested info !!  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

Has the meeting on July 8 at 6 been posted, When posted we can respond to him

----- Forwarded message -----  
[REDACTED]

Date: Sat, Jul 3, 2021 at 5:17 PM  
Subject: Where is the requested info !!  
To: Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>, <ancinelli@gmail.com>, <don@carmichael-co.ca>, <mhaskim@hotmail.com>, Mike Kekkonen <mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com>  
Cc: <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>

Mr Hopkins

Please see the attached letter, again we are asking for documents and audio which you have failed to provide after numerous requests....

What are you hiding....?



July 3rd, 2021

Peter Hopkins  
Mayor Town McKellar

Dear Peter

I am again writing you as you have not responded to my letter dated June 29th, the more I deal with you and this council the more disappointed I am in your lack of communication skills and attitude. It seems to me you have no business even being the Mayor of this Town, and I am going to make it my personal business to make sure you won't be again !

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You were also asked to provide the resolution from council that directed the clerk to close the Lakeshore boat launch and again **YOU HAVE DONE NOTHING TO PROVIDE PROOF OF THIS DOCUMENT !!!**

Given these two items have not been forwarded or are in fact not available it would appear that **MR SHERK HAD ABSOLUTELY NO AUTHORITY TO CLOSE THE LAKESHORE LAUNCH**

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I think it's time for you to step up to the plate and do your job !

Regards

A black rectangular redaction mark covering the signature of the sender.

**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** July 4, 2021 7:39 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk; Peter Hopkins  
**Attachments:** 's response to boat launch e mails July 21.docx

Several things:

1. The market was busy but successful. I did welcome everyone and thanked all- Jan and Rob Gibson, vendors, guests, fire fighters for making our Market a destination on Saturday. I also thanked Gary Joice for his years of service and wished him well in his new endeavours ( now working with the Arch,) Still need to clear the air with Jan and Greg
  - 2.. I went door to door along Lakeshore, near the beach and dock and hand delivered the boil water directive. There are five homes with collective pipes going into the middle of the bay under the roads. Need to move the " No Swimming" sign to the beach to be more visible
  3. I assumed that the notice for the public meeting on boat launches was going out Fri for next Thurs July 8 at 6pm. Is this still a go? I believe we could accommodate a couple of presenters in chambers and rest via zoom) Need to know to be able to respond.
  4. Please see attached my response to [REDACTED] et al that I'd like to send out today with your edits
  5. Overall, we need to ensure if a directive, press release goes out of the office, it is also copied to the council to ensure they are informed..
- See you monday am 9:30 am to start with. Peter



Mayor's response to issues raised by [REDACTED] and others regarding the closing of the Lakeshore Boat Launch:

Thank you to you and others for raising your issues regarding the impact of closing of the Lakeshore Boat Launch. Staff and Council welcome your input as it has always done in the past and will listen to your delegation at a special meeting on July 8, 6pm via zoom ( unless we can accommodate two people in person do to covid or be able to meet in the CC)- where all sides will be heard, issues aired but more importantly finding common- sense solutions going forward. In the past, Council has always been open and transparent and will continue to do so. We strive towards continuous improvement in all matters. There is always a better way of doing something if we are looking for them. There is always more than one side to an issue. There have been several community delegations in the past that have presented what they believe are legitimate concerns to Council that have led to a reconsideration or modification of a previous decision that we arrived at collectively. A win-win-win for all – citizens, staff and council. Council tries hard to ensure that our decisions are open, fact based, best suit the interests and safety of the majority of our citizens while ensuring the integrity of the Municipality. E will take a " sober second look" at all sides and together get it right for McKellar.

Looking forward to our discussion on Thurs July 8. Agenda and format to follow

Respectfully,

Peter Hopkins, Mayor

**Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca**

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**From:** lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca  
**Sent:** July 5, 2021 3:46 PM  
**To:** Peter Hopkins  
**Subject:** Public Notice draft  
**Attachments:** Public Notice Boat Launches.docx

Peter,  
Here is the draft of the Public Meeting Notice. With your approval, we will post this today.

Lance Sherk, MSc.  
CAO/Clerk  
Township of McKellar  
701 Hwy 124, P.O. Box 69  
McKellar, ON P0G 1C0  
P: 705-389-2842





Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** July 5, 2021 7:55 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Re:

Looks good to me.

On Sun, Jul 4, 2021 at 7:55 PM Lance Sherk <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca> wrote:

**From:** Peter Hopkins [mailto:peterhopkins1942@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** July 4, 2021 7:39 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk <lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca>; Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Subject:**

Several things:

1. The market was busy but successful. I did welcome everyone and thanked all Jan and Rob Gibson, vendors, guests, firefighters for making our Market a destination on Saturday. I also thanked Gary Joice for 15 years of service and wished him well in his new endeavours (now working with the council.) Still need to clear the air with Jan and Greg. I was in contact with Jan about this on Friday morning and Saturday morning.

2.. I went door to door along Lakeshore, near the beach and dock and delivered the ball water directive. There are five homes with collective pipes going into the middle of the bay under the roads. Need to move the "No Swimming" sign to the beach to be more visible.

3. I assumed that the notice for the public meeting on boat launches was going out Fri for next Thurs July 8 at 6pm. Is this still the go? I believe we could accommodate a couple of presenters in chambers and rest via zoom. On Thursday we discussed using the new system in the auditorium as opposed to the system in the chambers. Michael Enterprises should have it ready this week. We discussed that we would likely have to postpone the July 8 meeting given the delay in the new Audio system being available to use for this meeting.

Need to know to be able to respond.

4. Please see attached my response to [REDACTED] et al that I'd like to send out today with your edits.

5. Overall, we need to ensure if a directive, press release goes out of the office, it is also copied to the council to ensure they are informed..

See you Monday am 9:30 am to start with. Peter See you then. Lance

**Hwy124+ -\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca**

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** July 5, 2021 6:58 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Peter Hopkins; Lance Sherk; morely haskim; mike kekkonen; don; marco  
ancinelli  
**Attachments:** 's response to boat launch e mails July 21- revised.docx

Public Boat Launch meeting has been called for Thurs july 8, 6pm as outlined by our CAO.see . See Mayor's response attached



**Hwy124+--\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca**

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** July 6, 2021 8:39 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk; Mary Smith; Peter Hopkins; morely haskim; don; marco ancinelli; mike kekkonen  
**Attachments:** Councils response to the WPS Pool and Wellness issue.docx; 's response to boat launch e mails July 21- revised.docx

Please post the following:

- 1 Boat Launch
  - 2. Pool update
- See attached  
Thanks Peter.

Mayor's response to issues raised by [REDACTED] and others regarding the closing of the Lakeshore Boat Launch:

Thank you to you and others for raising your issues regarding the impact of closing the Lakeshore Boat Launch. Staff and Council welcome your input as it has always done in the past. We welcome and will listen to your delegation at a special meeting recently called by the CAO on Thursday July 8, 6pm following the process outlined

All sides will be heard and issues aired. More importantly we need to find common-sense solutions going forward. In the past, Council has always been open and transparent and will continue to do so. We strive towards continuous improvement in all matters. There is always a better way of doing something if we are looking for them. There is always more than one side to an issue. In the past, there have been several community delegations that have presented what they believe are legitimate concerns to Council that have led to a reconsideration or modification of a previous decision that we arrived at collectively. A win-win-win for all – citizens, staff and council. Council tries hard to ensure that our decisions are open, fact-based and best suit the interests and safety of the majority of our citizens while ensuring the integrity of the Municipality. We will take a "sober second look" at all sides and together make it right for McKellar.

Looking forward to our discussion on Thursday July 8, 6pm, Agenda and format to follow has been circulated.

Respectfully,

Peter Hopkins, Mayor 705 389 2228, peterhopkins1942@gmail.com



**Hwy124+ -\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca**

---

**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** July 6, 2021 8:57 AM  
**To:** Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Fwd:

fyi and response

----- Forwarded message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: Mon, Jul 5, 2021 at 8:08 PM  
Subject: Re:  
To: Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>

Hi Peter. What is the password for this meeting. I have the meeting ID but no password was given

Sent from Rogers Yahoo Mail for iPhone

On Monday, July 5, 2021, 6:58 PM, Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com> wrote:

Public Boat Launch meeting has been called for Thurs july 8, 6pm as outlined by our CAO.see .  
See Mayor's response attached

Hwy124+~\*lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca

---

**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** July 6, 2021 9:22 AM  
**To:** don; Lance Sherk  
**Subject:** Re: boat launch options

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

On Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 8:58 AM <don@carmichael-co.ca> wrote:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Peter Hopkins <peterhopkins1942@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** July 6, 2021 8:48 AM  
**To:** don <don@carmichael-co.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: boat launch options

I have no problem with presenting options. I feel we also need proper signing - speed- slow down boat launch; warnings- boat launch vehicles turning, slow down children at play. We also need to say that we continue to look for a new boat launch in the in the north part of Lake M. We need a thorough list of options as well as listening to others. Lance was going to have an opportunity to present them at the meeting. Peter

On Mon, Jul 5, 2021 at 7:47 PM <don@carmichael-co.ca> wrote:

Peter, chatting with Lance – my recommendation is to post the options in advance of thurs meeting. That might help focus the discussion rather than getting the same complaints from multiple people about the process issues. What matters is content – the best solution to address safety & access. Lance has an options paper.



1. Close all public boat launches. Subsidize ratepayers to use remaining 3 commercial boat launches. Gate Stewart Park for EMS access only. Sell off Lakeside Cres properties – all or retain some land for park
2. Sell Lakeside boat ramp to local residents to create private boat ramp (similar to Deerfield road association). Local access maintained but discourage use of narrow channel access to main part of Manitouwabing. Maintain Stewart Park as public boat launch??
3. Status quo (not a plausible option for several lakeside residents)

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**From:** Peter Hopkins <[peterhopkins1942@gmail.com](mailto:peterhopkins1942@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** July 5, 2021 6:58 PM

[REDACTED]; Peter Hopkins <[peterhopkins1942@gmail.com](mailto:peterhopkins1942@gmail.com)>; Lance Sherk <[lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca](mailto:lance.sherk@township.mckellar.on.ca)>; morely haskim <[mhaskim@hotmail.com](mailto:mhaskim@hotmail.com)>; mike kekkonen <[mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:mikeonmckellarcouncil@outlook.com)>; don <[don@carmichael-co.ca](mailto:don@carmichael-co.ca)>; marco ancinelli <[ancinelli@gmail.com](mailto:ancinelli@gmail.com)>

**Subject:**

Public Boat Launch meeting has been called for Thurs july 8, 6pm as outlined by our CAO.see . See Mayor's response attached