



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2:00 P.M.

Room #304, City Hall

AGENDA

1. Disclosures of Interest
2. Confirmation of Minutes : August 9, 2018
3. Overview of Planning Department – J. McCoomb
4. Update : Fish Survey
5. Implementation : Environmental Tasks
6. New Business
7. Correspondence
 - a) Allowing Recreational Activities in Lake Margaret – Paul Keane **Page 2**
 - b) Allowing Recreational Activities in Lake Margaret - Veronica Fodor **Page 3**
 - c) Fishing in Lake Margaret - Dave Collins **Page 4**
 - d) Purple Loosestrife in Lake Margaret - Dave Collins **Page 5**
8. Unfinished Business
9. Adjournment
10. Next Meeting : October 11, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in Room #304

A few months ago, a neighbour who requested that I sign a petition restricting recreational activities in and around Lake Margaret, approached me. I was initially reluctant to sign because at the time of my lot purchase, I looked forward to the opportunity to enjoy summer and winter activities on the water. I don't recall any discussions that occurred with the builder to suggest that such activities would be restricted once the land was transferred from Doug Tarry. However, I felt that signing the petition was the collective wish of my neighbours and I felt my signature was the "neighbourly" thing to do.

Since the petition was signed, I have witnessed correspondence and tactics that I cannot support. For example, Police have been notified to remove people from the lake and emails/letters have been circulated encouraging residents to initiate these calls. I think this is a tremendous waste of valuable Police resources and I do not envy the position that this places the attending officers who are asked to carry out these ridiculous requests. What harm results from a person paddling in a canoe or kayak or a child making a hockey rink on the frozen water in the winter? (Police have been called on both of these occasions)

I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to build my home next to the water and its beautiful views and I would love to drop a canoe or kayak in the water to enjoy the lake from another vantage point. I don't want to deny others of this same enjoyment and I don't want my name associated with those who wish otherwise.

I encourage council to reconsider the possibilities of allowing recreational activities on Lake Margaret.

Sincerely,

Paul Keape



192 Lake Margaret Trail
519-282-8848

City of St. Thomas
Received

AUG 22 2018

City Clerks Dept.

Since signing a petition requesting that recreational activities be restricted on Lake Margaret, I have had time to reflect and witness the consequences of such restrictions.

This became abundantly clear to me on the morning of August 6th when I opened my window and noticed a red and white kayak on the other side of Lake Margaret, far away from the houses. The sun was coming up and the water reflected onto the kayaks; the most beautiful peaceful site you could see. It put a smile on my face, and made me very happy. I grabbed my camera to take a picture of the scene.

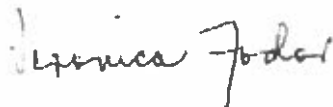
Unfortunately the kayakers' journey was short-lived as I witnessed police officers intervening and asking the kayakers to leave. These actions made me sad and upset for the rest of the day and I couldn't help but feel that they were a direct result of the petition that I had signed.

I recall that when I purchased the lot to build my home, Doug Tarry representatives told me that I would see canoes on the Lake. I'm still waiting. I enjoy life and seeing people around the Lake and I know that my grandchildren may someday like to enjoy activities on the lake if it's permitted.

Yes, I signed the petition after my daughters convinced me to do that. I now regret signing it and would ask that my name be deleted from this petition. My conscience no longer allows me to endorse its recommendations and I do not want to deprive anyone of the pleasures that the lake has to offer.

Thanks for your time

Veronica Fodor



188 Lake Margaret Trail

City of St. Thomas
Received

AUG 22 2018

City Clerks Dept.

Heather Jackson

Chair

Environmental Stewardship Committee Members

For inclusion in the Petitions and Communication section of the September 20, 2018 meeting

City of St. Thomas
Barboursville

AUG 20 2018

City Clerks Dept.

The contents of this letter to the committee include incidents which occurred during August 2018.

On Thursday, August 9 around 4 p.m. there were two fishermen on the north shore "buffer" behind our home, I spoke to them about fishing, gave them the rules and got several f*** yous back. They came over the fence/gate at the west end of the "buffer" and left the same way.

On Friday, August 10 around 9 p.m. we were on the back deck just after dark enjoying the serenity when two VERY bright flashlights hit our rear deck, temporarily blinding us, accompanied with screaming and yelling and cursing. The flashlights continued up and down the houses on the north shore.

On Sunday, August 12 in the late afternoon two gentlemen came to our door at the recommendation of a neighbour and relayed to us an incident where they saw four young fellows on the south shore path fooling around and then the gentlemen suddenly came across a fishing line stretched across the trail and tied to a tree. The other end was tied to a tree on the opposite side of the trail using a fishing hook embedded in the tree trunk. The fishing line was strung just about throat height on a 10 to 14 year old. The gentlemen dismantled the line and at our recommendation would call the Police and report the incident. This could seriously injure or kill an unsuspecting child.

On Sunday, August 19 after dinner time three teen fishermen were on the north shore "buffer" actively fishing along the shore. When they reached behind our property they were informed that there was No Fishing permitted, a bylaw was in effect and the Police could be called. They entered the "buffer" over the west end fence/gate and left over the inlet fence.

The above do not include the number of times the police or bylaw officers have been called and responded to fishing and kayaking this summer. The number of incidents and follow up reports can be obtained from Chief of Police Chris Herridge and the Customer Service Department of the City Clerk's office. This also does not include the number of times that foul language has been hurled at residents. It also does not include the rock thrown by fishermen through the living room window of a house on Beechwood Drive last year.

I recently came across these definitions: "Environmental Stewardship refers to efforts made to protect the environment and to identify and mitigate the potential repercussions of activities." (Natural Resources Canada) Anyone can be an environmental steward by being aware and knowledgeable of the world around them and making sure they do as little as possible to negatively impact our world. (Courtesy of the National Research Council, Washington D.C.)

We ask the Committee to examine these incidents in conjunction with the Police Department and the City Clerk's Office and the Terms of Reference of the Committee and develop a concrete plan that may be quickly implemented to prevent a further repeat of these behaviours in our neighbourhood.

We would request a written response from the committee that may be shared with the residents of Lake Margaret Estates delineating how you will protect us.

Sincerely



David and Barbara Collins

On behalf of the residents of Lake Margaret Estates

AUG 29 2018

City Clerks Dept.

Members of the Environmental Stewardship Committee

For inclusion in the Petitions and Communications Section of the September 20, 2018 meeting

Good afternoon,

Since 2014, I have had the privilege of serving as the Chair of the Select Committee for Phragmites Control for the City of St. Thomas. Our mandate was to work towards the eradication of North America's most invasive species, *Phragmites australis*, from all lands within the City. Our hard work, creativity, research and diligence has placed our City far ahead of others in the province.

As I have accompanied our selected eradication company and our City Weed Technician on multiple routes throughout the city, it has become very visually apparent that the City is on the verge of being infested with, a once believed to be eradicated invasive weed. After years of battling Purple Loosestrife on a national level, it has returned to the lands in our city. It is also evident around the province, particularly in wetland areas. Waiting for help or direction from provincial or federal agencies will only be a time lost situation.

The return of Purple Loosestrife is a cause which should immediately be of concern to the Environmental Stewardship Committee. The eradication of this invasive species should be undertaken immediately before we are inundated by this plant. The plant is very evident around Lake Margaret and in the Butterfly Meadow. Purple Loosestrife invades native wetland communities, forming a single-species stand that no bird, mammal or fish depends upon. Purple Loosestrife germinates and grows faster than any native wetland species. It soon forms dense brush-like stands usurping water and choking out native plants.

What a great opportunity for the ESC and Parks and Recreation to collaborate and develop a plan to eradicate this invasive species. A mapping and spraying programme using Roundup Transorb, (Class 9 herbicide) PMRA registration number 27199, could be implemented. Results will be evident very quickly.

Thank you



David Collins

Chair

City of St. Thomas Select Committee for Phragmites Control