

A24

Matthew Thomson
133 Girton Blvd.
Winnipeg, MB
R3P 0A4

November 18, 2010

Environmental Assessment & Licensing Branch
Manitoba Conservation
123 Main Street, Suite 160
Winnipeg MB R3C 1A5
Fax: (204) 945-5229
Email: Bruce.Webb@gov.mb.ca

BW

Re: File 5486.00 - Rettie Boat Access

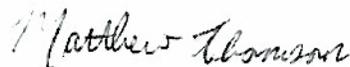
Dear Bruce Webb:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the above Environment Assessment Proposal Report and to tell you I am against the proposal. Because marshes perform a vital role in the health of our environment and are to be a protected resource, the development of Beaconia Marsh affects me. My specific concerns are as follows:

- The proposal includes numerous differences in specifications and scope from the original plan submitted by Mr. Rettie.
- The proposal includes the Green Spaces Environment Report showing the huge diversity of wildlife which are at substantial risk due to this development.
- There are numerous issues with the process that was followed prior to the channel being dug including lack of confirmation of the property line and the required 90' setback from the ordinary high water mark, which has also yet to be confirmed.
- There has been no drainage plan provided as required by the development permit and the effects of this channel on the water table have yet to be determined.
- There was no consultation with the public nor with the Lakeshore Erosion Technical Committee as required by Selkirk and Area District Planning requirements. There has also been no complete scope on this and further development provided by Mr. Rettie.

Due to the above issues I encourage you to protect our water resources and deny any further development and mandate the restoration of Beaconia Marsh to its original state.

Yours truly



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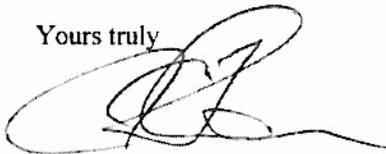
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Christopher Thomson

Sheryl Thomson
133 Girton Blvd.
Winnipeg, MB
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Yours truly



Sheryl Thomson

Marilyn Baker
116 Ash St.
Winnipeg, MB
R3N 0P5

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Marilyn Baker

John P. Crabb
116 Ash St.
Winnipeg, MB
R3N 0P5

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John P. Crabb

18 November 2010

Neil Bingham

28 Corner Green

London SE3 9JJ

England

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Manitoba Conservation

123 Main Street, Suite 160

Winnipeg MB R3C 1A5

Fax: (204) 945-5229

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Re: File 5486.00 - Rettie Boat Access

Dear Bruce Webb:

I own property at 12 William Road, about one kilometer north of the proposed Rettie Boat access, on the shores of the lake,

that I use as my summer retreat.

I also use Beaconia Beach and the surrounding marsh for recreation and paddling. Over the 30 or more years that I have been at Beaconia, this intercession into the marsh in the worse case I have seen of environmental impact. It is a truly nasty scenario.

I write, therefore, to oppose any further damage and to request that the marsh be returned to its former state.

Yours sincerely

Neil Bingham BA(Hons) PhD FSA

Donna J. Crabb
38 Bloomer Crescent
Winnipeg, MB
R3R 3V3

November 19, 2010

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Donna J. Crabb

Gary and Pat Dunlop
54 Ericsson Bay
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3K 0T9

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Dear Bruce Webb:

We are writing because of our concerns regarding the above Environment Assessment Proposal Report and to tell you we are against the proposal.

Although we are not directly affected because we do not reside in nor do we have a cottage in that area, marshes perform a vital role in the health of our environment and need to be a protected resource. The development of Beaconia Marsh affects this and us as Manitobans.

We are surprised that this has come to be and wasn't stopped by the Province due to the fact that:

- We took part in a session of Water Stewardship last spring in going through information and a questionnaire prior to circulation to the public regarding the importance of wetlands.
- We believe that there is a large variety of wildlife at risk due to this development. The Species at Risk website has indicated that Beaconia is an area inhabited by the Piping Plover (a species at risk). There doesn't appear that any consideration has been given to this.
- Ducks Unlimited Canada, a well respected organization, pamphlet entitled *The Impact of Wetland Loss in Manitoba* is quite clear and encourages Manitobans to support government to:
 - Develop and enforce regulations that are effective and encourage wetland protection and restoration.

Based on all information we have received over the last few years as to the importance of wetlands whether it be from Ducks Unlimited, Water Stewardship or other sources it is quite clear that destruction of wetland impacts Manitoba's quality of life and well-being. Please ensure that our water resources are protected by stopping further development and ensuring the restoration of the area.

Yours truly

Gary and Pat Dunlop

28616 Haverman Road,

Re: File 5486.00 - Rettie Boat Access

Bradner, B.C. V4X 2P3

November 19, 2010

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Dear Mr. Bruce Webb:

Introduction to Fraser River Coalition

The Fraser River Coalition (FRC), a group of 13 environmental agencies and ENGO's representing over 37,000 British Columbians, has been dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the Lower Fraser River and its deltaic wetlands since 1974. We fully support the position paper sent to you on November 19, 2010 by the Eastern Beaches Conservation Coalition (EBCC), and urge Conservation and Water Stewardship to order Mr. Rettie to stop any further marsh degradation or so-called amenities/ additions such as docks or launching ramps.

Importance of Marsh and Wetlands to Migratory Birds

Migratory birds do not recognize provincial boundaries and the Fraser River Coalition is as concerned for the welfare of the migratory birds dependent on the Beaconia Marsh for rest, replenishment and safe harbour, so to speak, as they are for the migratory birds dependent upon the Fraser estuary wetlands.

Birth of the EBCC Spring 2010

The Fraser River is one of the world's top five salmon-bearing rivers. The people who work to defend its wetlands and great salmon-spawning gravel bars, are grassroots folks like those of the Eastern Beaches Conservation Coalition. The EBCC executive are to be commended for the vast amount of research and dedication they have expended since Spring 2010 when they banded together to educate others re. the atrocities being committed in pristine cottage country where people come to "recharge" their batteries or to replenish their souls. The EBCC wish to

“right” a precedent-setting “wrong” which has been ignored, minimized, swept under the proverbial carpet, or worse ... perhaps by the very personalities from mayors to ministers or by agencies who are charged with protecting Manitoba’s precious wetlands and marshes.

Due Public Process Not Followed with Rettie Project!

Certainly, with the Rettie project, due public process was not followed! Species at risk were jeopardized! And, now, the man with deep pockets thinks he can “buy” his permits and regulations *after the fact*! One would hope not in this lifetime! But sometimes, it seems as though money talks and conscience walks...

How does the Rettie Project Factor into Federal Grant to construct and restore Wetlands?

Recently, Manitoba announced that they had received federal monies for the construction and restoration of provincial wetlands. Would not the Rettie project go against provincial policy about not destroying wetlands and shoreline habitat? Why is he being allowed to continue with this outrage?!! And, since he was less than transparent about his actual plans in his first application to fisheries, why would he be transparent about tentative plans to build two more channels into the marsh as has been rumoured?

Fraser River Coalition Background with Wetlands and their Value in Water Purification

To help explain why our Coalition believes it can comment about the value of wetlands, you should know we also works in concert with Nature Vancouver (NV); the Fraser River Estuary Management Plan (FREMP); The Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Plan (BIEAP); the Vancouver International Airport Environmental Committee (VIAEC); Metro Vancouver Parks (MVP);the Boundary Bay Conservation Committee (BBCC), and various provincial, municipal and federal fisheries (DFO), the Ministry of Environment (MOE) and other environmental agencies with regard to preservation of wetlands and fish habitat. We are also committed to preserving the Pacific Migratory Fly-way just as we are committed to helping the good folks in Manitoba defend their biodiverse and immensely-critical marshes such as the Beaconia Marsh.

We may not have Beaconia Marsh and vast Manitoba wetlands out here in the Lower Mainland of BC, but we are blessed with the “lungs and kidneys” of the World’s largest Western Hemisphere domed peat bog and its myriad and special biodiversity of wildlife and absorbency. Your Beaconia Marsh is as important a cleansing asset to the eutrophic state of Lake Winnipeg as the bog and greatly-diminished wetlands are to the water quality of the mighty Fraser River estuary and such teeming wildlife areas as Boundary Bay (recognized as a world RAMSAR site) and the Reifel Wildlife Sanctuary. Cities such as Brighton, England, and Arcata, California use marshes strong purification capacities to treat their raw sewage.

Maintaining the Naturist Tradition of Beaconia and Patricia Beaches as Passive Recreation

In addition, through my capacity as the Government Affairs Officer for Canada’s official naturist organization, the Federation of Canadian Naturists (FCN), in 1992, I helped maintain the

traditional clothing-optional usage of Beaconia Beach by negotiating with Manitoba's prosecuting attorney in my capacity as the Government Affairs Officer for Canada's official naturist organization, and as the only Canadian to sit on the international Naturist Society lobby arm, the Naturist Action Committee (NAC)..

The FCN represents thousands of members across Canada, and over 500,000 naturists worldwide, through our affiliation with the International Naturist Federation (INF). The FCN and the Naturist Action Committee (NAC) on which I sit also successfully assisted the Manitoba Naturist Association (MNA) in their efforts to uphold the nude usage tradition at Beaconia by appealing to the Rural Municipality's Reeve and Council. I tell you this because I think it is important for you to realize that I know the marshes and area between Grand Marais and Beaconia and Patricia Beaches from my visit there in 1992. It is also important to recognize the intrinsic value of marshes on revenue generated by all kinds of passive recreational tourists from nudes to fisherfolk! With the "erosion" of the marshes through development, this important boon to the local economy will be lost. As an example of revenues generated from tourists, Wreck Beach, Vancouver, North America's largest clothing-optional beach, generates millions of dollars annually. Haulover Beach in Miami, Florida generates over half a million tourist dollars annually.

I enjoyed meeting and speaking with many of Beaconia's colourful personalities such as dear Edwin Crumpe, the woodcarver. And, I had the pleasure of observing teaming wildlife in that vast and precious marsh that has now been so negatively impacted by Mr. Rettie in a precedent-setting way unless your EAO office takes stern action against the channel that was dug without proper application and without adequate transparency!

No Net Loss of Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat!

No net loss should apply to Mr. Rettie as a developer as much as to anyone else. Even the environmental study done of the area on his behalf, reflects deep concern on the part of the environmental consultant about the danger and damage already done to existing flora and fauna. Should Mr. Rettie be allowed to continue and to not fill in that channel, a dangerous precedent will be set for all other developers who would exploit your wonderful Lake Winnipeg marshes in the name of socio-economic gain. It is specious at best for would-be developers to claim tourist-generated income by building resorts and other developments on, in or near fragile wetlands when the wetlands ambience and attraction for passive recreational opportunities from bird watching to fishing in the long run will prove far more valuable to Manitobans.

Because marshes perform a vital role in the health of our environment and are to be a protected resource, the development of Rettie's boat access channel is unacceptable.

Concerns regarding the above Environment Assessment Proposal re Rettie's Property.

(In no particular order)

Page 4—FRC/FCN/NAC Public Feedback re Rettie Boat Access

- The proposal includes numerous differences in specifications and scope from the original plan submitted by Mr. Rettie.
- The report is incomplete as "Appendix 6 - Land Use Designation for Site and Adjoining Land Plan" is missing
- The proposal includes the Green Spaces Environment Report showing the huge diversity of wildlife which are at substantial risk due to this development.
- There are numerous issues with the process that were followed prior to the channel being dug, including lack of confirmation of the property line and the required 90' setback from the ordinary high water mark, which has also yet to be confirmed.
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- If the channel is not returned as closely as possible to its original form through infilling, what is the province and Mr. Rettie prepared to do to ameliorate the current flooding issues to both the causeway and beach with debris such as escaped docks plugging up the marsh.
- What kind of *pre-construction* monitoring or environmental assessment was done by a certified environmental consultant?
- What monitoring will be done as a follow-up to what damage Mr. Rettie has already wrecked?
- What can be done to encourage more turtles to nest there?
- Jet skis (PWC's) and jet boats being allowed into the marsh when it is proven they are deleterious to fish and wildlife, is a terrible intrusion into the marsh and lake. One single PWC in an average life span of 7 years can put as much as 600 gallons of jet fuel into receiving waters. They should be banned from Canadian waterways! It doesn't matter, either, whether they are two- or four-stroke engines.
- I would like to have an explanation from Fisheries as to just how they think the channel is going to encourage new fish species and what their response would be to those species that will no longer use the marsh..
- What preservation plan was followed for the marsh reptiles' safety, particularly for the safety of the two turtle species that have been there for decades?

-Due to the above issues we encourage you to protect our water resources and deny any further development and to mandate the restoration of Beaconia Marsh to its original state.

Conclusion

Our organizations fully support the Eastern Beaches Conservation Coalition position paper in their opposition to the Rettie Channel and boat access. I am proud to have been voted in as an honorary member/consultant of EBCC. I am grateful to the wonderful grassroots activists who are determined to protect Beaconia Marsh and to prevent future cart-before-the-horse developments from moving forward before approval can be obtained under proper regulatory permits!

Most sincerely yours,

Judy E. Williams,

Co-Chair, Fraser River Coalition;

Chair, Wreck Beach Preservation Society;

Government Affairs Officer, Federation of Canadian Naturists.;

Canadian Representative to the Naturist Society's Naturist Action Committee,

Proud Member/Consultant to Eastern Beaches Conservation Coalition!

Home Phone: 604-856-9598

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