

Bay Ranger Boat Rentals

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would come before opening a business on city property. Then, they put us in the position of possibly having to put a company out of business for the summer if we don't like it."

Moses said the department was unaware the business had been in operation at South George for so long and, when Langstaff learned that he required a contract with the city and must pay the city a fee to operate there, the owner readily agreed to do whatever was necessary.

Insurance — including a special marina insurance — is in place, said Moses.

Coun. Brian Smith joined the ranks of annoyed councillors, saying the process "leaves a lot to be desired, to this point."

He asked that Moses submit a written explanation of the events that led up to the contract appli-

cation with the city Monday.

In a recorded vote, however, he joined seven others on council in agreeing to the contract with the company.

Coun. Stu Meeks — who argued the boat rental agency should be located at West Zwicks Island — and Coun. Kerry Soden voted against the idea.

In an interview Tuesday, Langstaff said he pitched the idea of a boat rental service at South George Street "in December (1993). They (parks and recreation officials) felt there wouldn't be a problem because the city had approved the same thing (boat rental service) for a Trenton guy, last year. He never started here, but his approval was in place."

Langstaff said he "in no way tried to do an end run on the rules. I thought I was complying with what was required by the depart-

ment." He said officials at the department assured him a contract with council "was just a formality and we were eventually going to get it."

As for parking and other problems at South George Street, Langstaff says his boats are located in an area where no one can park — on grass near the entrance to the South George Street basin parking lot.

"There's never a shortage of parking off to the west of the area, here," he said.

As for congestion at the boat ramps, Langstaff said he spends weekends marshalling boats in and out of the water — a traffic cop, of sorts — to ensure boaters and trailers they tow get in and out of the ramp in short order.

"No one else would be doing that if I wasn't here," he noted.

"All I'm doing is offering a service that's designed to help promote tourism and use this resource we have here," said Langstaff, gesturing toward the Bay of Quinte.

"What's wrong with that?"

'I thought I was complying with what was required by the department,' says Bay Ranger operator Terry Langstaff.