



Does this attract the tourist dollar?

Broken any good bylaws lately? Read the signs!

by Rod Deacon
 "You can't do anything down on the dock without hitting your head on a sign!" So says one disgruntled resident of Penetanguishene, the land of the rolling white signs.

There's no denying the abundance of "Do Not Do This or That" signage on both Midland and Penetang town docks. Some would call it an overabundance. On the Penetang dock

area alone, there is something like 28 individual signs saying things like "No Fishing," "No Fueling," "No overnight Parking," "No bikes or motorbikes on wharf," and so on. On almost every lamp standard or pole, there's a sign or two posted.

Year round residents who frequent the town docks winter and summer probably wouldn't notice each and every sign. They

blend in to the landscape after a while, like pot holes.

Do tourists find the vast array of signs a little intimidating? Is this the answer to attracting tourists and their vacation dollars to our area?

Some people might find the large number of posted signs offensive and lacking in a certain subtlety, but there are some good reasons why the signs are up there in the first place.

Dockmasters Gus Brunelle of Midland and Bill Geere of Penetanguishene are the men responsible for the operation of the town docks. As such they are responsible for what goes on there.

You can't swim off the town docks because it's dangerous. You can't park your car just anywhere because of fire routes. You cannot pump gallons and gallons of flammable material (gasoline)

from the wharves because of the potential of explosions.

And the local police forces have a harder time enforcing municipal bylaws if signs aren't prominently displayed on the docks for all to see. A police officer's job is made that much easier if he can simply point to a black and white sign which says "Don't do that here, please".

Other signs are posted because of government regulations — like customs and transportation matters.

Signs that say 'put your garbage in a trash can' help keep the seagull madness down to a dull screech most days. Besides, docks littered with garbage are ugly. No, our dockmasters aren't ogres, ready to pounce on every little thing you may imagine.

They are on the job to provide a useful service to the public—residents and tourists alike.

So when the vehicle barrier goes up across the federal wharf in Penetang soon, don't howl. There have been many complaints from nearby residents of the late night racket of squealing tires. Even seagulls need their sleep at night down by the docks. So keep it down.

400 "...but is she old enough to attend the funeral?"

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