



Waterfront woes

Maybe the seagulls aren't aware of it, but there hasn't been a fish in Penetang Bay since 1970. That's according to one local

man who has had extensive experience with area waters. A committee is considering developing a policy to guide the bay into the

future. A draft policy will be produced followed by a public meeting.

'Fighting for environment'

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The use of nitrogen fertilizers is the other primary cause of pollution, said Penetang mayor Frances St. Amant.

A policy to guide the future of the harbour is the goal of the committee, which is composed of political representatives from both municipalities that surround it.

The key concern raised at last week's meeting by local residents was development - especially of marinas - around the water.

Some complained about the expansion of specific marinas, but committee members insisted on looking at the broad picture. There are about 1,500 docks in the bay according to one committee member.

"We're fighting for the natural environment to stay alive," said a concerned resident. Referring to development and expansion of marinas in Penetang harbour, he said: "If we let this go on, the harbour will be turned into one big dock."

Others at the meeting

(about 20 in all) echoed these concerns. "Don't develop the land," said one man. "Leave it in a wild state."

For their next step, committee members will meet in private to formulate a draft policy for the future of the water. Another public meeting will then be called to air comments about that policy.

Until now, no single political body has been responsible for the bay. (Both Penetang and Tiny border on the harbour.) Because of this, local resident Marguerite Ruth said she received the runaround from three levels of government when she complained about a specific marina development.

"Nobody listens to us and everybody's passing the buck," she said. "These men are not worth their money."

Four written submissions were received prior to last Wednesday's session, held in the basement of the Tiny Township offices near Perkinsfield. Two were from private

residents. The other two were from the North West Basin group (a citizens group formed largely to oppose expansion of the North West Basin Marina) and from Trout Unlimited, an environmentalist lobby

group. Tiny's deputy reeve, Peter Brasher, suggested a formal harbour commission be set up. He also said that higher levels of government were letting area residents down.

"There are all these government agencies and they're doing sweet f.a. about anything," the deputy reeve told the group.

No representatives of local marinas were present at the meeting.

Planner gets 'dear John' from Harbour

by Barbara Skelton
Victoria Harbour has terminated the services of its planner, John Faulkner, without prior notice.

The village sent a certified letter to Faulkner on May 31 informing him that his services were no longer required.

Faulkner wrote back on June 2 expressing his surprise at the "bolt out of the blue" decision without any pre-discussion with him. He said later that a reason given him in a telephone conversation afterwards was that he didn't necessarily agree with council.

"I don't necessarily have to share the same views as council," he said. He felt it was his job to give his opinion; it was up to council to make the decisions.

Victoria Harbour Ratepayers' Association President Catharine Mackenzie said that

Faulkner was the planner who guided Victoria Harbour council through producing its official plan and its revised zoning bylaw, both of which were approved. They were produced quickly and at a very modest cost, she said.

Mackenzie was the deputy reeve on council at the time and was also chairperson of the planning board and later of the planning advisory committee.

Fire dept. to hold tournament

The Victoria Harbour Fire Department was given permission from the village council last week to hold a baseball tournament and set up a beer garden at the municipal ball diamond.

The event is scheduled for Aug. 6.

Town docks will face crackdown: Charlebois

Boaters who hijack spots at the Victoria Harbour town dock and use them as if they were private property should be stopped, village councillors declared last week.

"Some people are using them as full-time parking positions," Councillor Paul Charlebois said during last Thursday night's council meeting.

"I don't know how you feel," he said to the two other councillors present, "but I feel that's wrong."

The docks are supposed to be temporary parking spots only.

Councillor George Czindl agreed with Charlebois's concerns, saying the docks are "close to the heart of town and I think it should be limited parking."

Charlebois ended discussion of the problem by vowing to stop the boaters. "We're going to have to take some action," he said. "We're going to have to do something about it."



Charlebois

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