

Protecting peace and quiet means banning motorboats

Enough is enough. Too many are paying a high price so a few can have their particular breed of fun.

While it's an ongoing problem, there is a solution: power boats and snowmobiles should be banned from small lakes, including Musselman's Lake. And, since dodging dirt bikes when you go for an evening walk is a challenge, they should go too.

During the summer months, peace and quiet is all but lost at Musselman's Lake. Power boats are roaring up and down the lake destroying any hope of quiet for the vast majority of residents.

RACEWAYS

If we turn our attention away from the lake and go for a walk around the village, we run the risk of getting run over by a dirt bike. During the summer and fall, dirt bikers use the streets in Musselman's Lake as raceways.

The droning noise of snowmobiles on Musselman's Lake severely hampers our ability to enjoy our winters. As soon as the water freezes over, Musselman's Lake turns into a drag strip for



Joan Ransberry

snowmobiles.

The great majority of the snowmobilers are non residents, while many give no thought to trespassing with their machines. It's not uncommon to look out the window and see a snowmobile or two roaring around your front lawn.

Incidentally, when a property owner has the audacity to try to talk to a snowmobile operator, he or she gets a verbal surprise. I've been told to E... O... more than once. Yes, I could report the trespassing incidents to the police. But, reality tells me the police would not welcome a call from some woman complaining that a snowmobiler is driving over her peony bush. The police are quick to tell residents they're

busy with serious crime. They simply have no time or interest in nuisance calls.

The situation is such that year-round Musselman's Lake residents are being held hostage in their own village.

When I bought my little house on Musselman's Lake close to two years ago, it appeared to offer what I needed and wanted — living in a peaceful and quiet village among decent people.

HANDS OFF

I did not expect power boats, jet skis and snowmobiles to come with the package.

Instead, I anticipated skaters, cross country skiers and snowshoers; canoes, sailboats, rowboats and paddle boats.

Apparently, power boats and jet skis on small lakes is a touchy issue, I've been told. "Hands off. You'll start a bloody war." Since I'm anti-war, I don't battle with anyone. That doesn't mean I'll be bullied.

If the majority of residents living on small lakes want power boats and snowmobiles banned, then so be it. In my world, the majority rules.

Industry comes knocking

Industry is knocking on Stouffville's door.

In the past two weeks, three companies approached municipal officials for permission to build.

Cannington Group, a construction company, wants to build a 15,081-square foot, three-storey industrial building at 4 Fortecon Dr.

An application from Peran Tunneling Ltd. was approved to build a 5,000 square foot office workshop at 15 Cardico Dr. in Gormley.

After council approved both applications, it gave the nod to an application to double the size of Novapharm.

The pharmaceutical company will measure 70,000 square feet.

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