

By Email

From: The Advisory Committee on Natural Spaces, WBFN

To: Mayor John Henderson and Council
cc. Tim Tottenham (WBFN), Frank Godfrey (WBFN), John Draper

Re: The Proposed Travel Lift

March 10, 2019

The much-debated travel lift has recently reappeared on the horizon. Paul Gauthier made a budget request to Council for money for an engineering study, which would include an opinion on lift in/out facilities. Then on February 12 Mike Hubicki and William McCrae representing the Cobourg Yacht Club discussed the lift before Council.

This memo does not revisit and discuss the issue of the desirability of a travel lift in the north end of our Heritage Harbour; nor does it discuss the problem of greatly expanded dredging to allow for larger boats in the shallow north end of the harbor. Our concern here is the **potential placement and footprint** of said travel lift, should it be approved.

Hubicki and McCrae expect the travel lift would utilize a new ramp west of the current boat launch. This has been, is, and will remain unacceptable to us, as well as to most of the non-boating population of Cobourg. The small beach in front of the parking area must not be further diminished.

Many Cobourg townspeople love to gaze year round over this small beach at the unimpeded and dramatic view of the harbor with its breakwater, lighthouses, west headland and Lake Ontario beyond. The view will not be improved by another boat launching area, especially as the footprint of any new launch would have to be very substantial to serve the travel lift presently proposed.

It is also crucial to note that this area of beach is the main gathering area for the impressive number and diversity of waterfowl and gulls for which our harbour is famous and which attracts nature-lovers daily.

We have always maintained that if the town should decide that a travel lift is a warranted expense, it should be placed east of the current boat launch in front of the Yacht Club, especially if the small beach is to be included in any future natural-use park, as suggested so often in so many studies.

We hope that the Town will be well aware of the size of any new boat launch, the significant amount of dredging necessary to maintain it, and the problems associated with its placement before deciding on its desirability.

Thank you for your attention.

Richard Pope
Margaret Bain