

Monica Hawkins

From: Kim Rose
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 2:59 PM
To: Monica Hawkins; Greg Kirton
Cc: Jason Trottier
Subject: FW: Development concerns re Lake Nosbonsing

Kim Rose
Executive Assistant



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From: Ingrid VanderMarel <forestvdm@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 11:29 AM
To: Kim Rose <kim.rose@eastferris.ca>
Subject: Development concerns re Lake Nosbonsing

To the Mayor and all members of Council,

I have a cottage on Lake Nosbonsing and am watching with interest and some dismay at the continued pressure on our lake from development. My concern is with the impact on marshes and wetlands on the lake. Recently eight lots went up for sale on the west side of Nosbonsing Park Road just past the causeway. Six sold within a couple of weeks. All the lots front on a bay that has considerable marshland at its shore and nearby. Much research has been done over the years on the importance of wetlands which includes biodiversity, flood prevention and their role as water purifiers. In addition, waterfowl build their nests there and fish enjoy the coolness among the reeds.

Lake Nosbonsing has already had instances of blue-green algae bloom. At such times, residents are warned to stay out of the water, indeed, even to refrain from boating in the affected areas, etc. These algae blooms are caused by natural circumstances including certain weather conditions working on an overload of phosphates and other human-originating pollutants. Wetlands assist the lake by filtering and cleaning these substances, and providing refreshed water.

Speaking to neighbours along our road recently, it was mentioned that the Township is considering purchasing the only piece of Crown/Park land in the community for possible future development. This would be on the east side of the road, just past the causeway and across from the new lots. Although I find it difficult to believe that the Township would even consider taking away the only wooded area left to residents to hike through and especially one that is bordered on the lake by one of the most extensive areas of wetland on the lake, I felt I should write to remind Council of the importance

of leaving this land alone. We are encroaching on nature from all sides and squeezing its existence at a time when it is known that any impact we make on it will directly affect us humans in the future. We are a part of nature, not separate. If we eliminate or harm our wetlands, we will lose the purity of our lake. Any tax revenue that the Township would make in the short term from the sale of additional lots would be spent many times over trying to restore the lake in the future. Tourism dollars are not generated on a lake that suffers from blue-green algae that forces people to stay off of and out of the water, nor are anglers interested in such a lake.

It is at this time that Council needs to have a vision for the future. Lake Nosbonsing is a gem. It is part of the envied near-north that we cherish. We do not need or want southern Ontario-style development in our area. We all need to be more aware of our human footprint in natural spaces. Please do not consider acquiring the Crown Land. It is there for a purpose and we do not have much of it left to protect the lake, its purity and biodiversity.

For further information of the importance of wetlands, please see the links below.

<https://www.ducks.ca/our-work/wetlands/#:~:text=Canada's%20wetlands%20are%20diverse.,our%20communities%20healthy%20and%20safe.>

<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/wetlands-factsheet-series>

I would appreciate if this letter were read before Council or be circulated to all Council members. I will also keep a copy because the consequences of your decisions will be felt in your and my lifetime.

Most sincerely,
Ingrid VanderMarel
719 Nosbonsing Park Road