



Kamloops Fly Fishers' Association

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Kamloops and District
Fish and Game Association

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March 12, 2018

Honourable George Heyman – Minister of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
Province of British Columbia

Honourable Doug Donaldson – Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Province of British Columbia

Honourable Marc Garneau – Minister of Transport
Government of Canada

Dear Ministers:

Subject: Request for modifications to the Paul Lake boat launch located in Paul Lake Provincial Park near Kamloops, British Columbia

Our Request:

The Kamloops Fly Fishers Club (KFF) and the Kamloops and District Fish & Game Association (KDFGA) have been in active discussions with local B.C. Park's staff in Kamloops, B.C regarding the present design and use of the boat launch at Paul Lake, which is located in Paul Lake Provincial Park near Kamloops, British Columbia.

Our two organizations are requesting design changes to the existing boat launch (ie: removal of existing restrictive 'bollards' at the launch – see attached photos) that will make it much more 'user friendly' (ie: accessible) for boaters wishing to undertake low speed boating activities on Paul Lake (e.g. Recreational fishing, sightseeing from boats, etc.). The present boat launch design prohibits boat trailers from backing into lake waters to offload boats at the boat launch site. Therefore, boats transported on these trailers cannot be launched directly into the lake. For these trailered boats to be launched into the lake, the boat (with or without motor) and all associated boating equipment/gear, needs to be physically removed from the trailer on dry land and then physically transported to the lakeshore and launched into the lake. The physical effort required to undertake this task is extremely challenging for many boaters, particularly **Seniors, Physically Challenged, Handicapped & those that lack mobility and balance**. The existing approach used by local Parks staff to manage the Paul Lake boat launch is totally inconsistent with the approach used to manage boat launches in other lakes in provincial parks (e.g. Lac le Jeune, Big Bar Lake) and provincial day use areas (eg. Walloper Lake). These lakes have boat launches that are amenable for use by boats transported to these lakes on boat trailers.

Local Parks Branch staff are concerned that negative environmental effects and safety issues may occur if changes are made to the existing boat launch allowing launching of boats from boat trailers. About 50% of the shoreline of Paul Lake is located within the provincial park boundary. The concern is that large, high horsepower boats operated at high speeds (i.e.: water activities such as water skiing, wakeboarding, boat racing, etc), will become prevalent on Paul Lake if launching of 'trailered' boats is provided. Most of this potential type of activity is likely to occur during the warmer water temperature months if this type of high speed boating activity occurs at all. The warmer water temperature time periods are most likely to occur during the period mid June to mid September each year.

To address the concerns identified by local Parks Branch staff, our organizations propose the following:

PHASE #1 - THE PAUL LAKE BOAT LAUNCH, IN PAUL LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK, BE MODIFIED (i.e.: remove existing restrictive bollards at the launch) TO ALLOW BOATS TO BE LAUNCHED INTO THE WATERS OF PAUL LAKE, DIRECTLY FROM BOAT TRAILERS ,DURING THE PERIODS 'ICE OUT' (approximately mid April each year) TO MID JUNE, AND MID SEPTEMBER TO 'FREEZE UP' (approximately late October each year);

PHASE #2 – PARKS BRANCH SUPPORT AN INITIATIVE TO IMPLEMENT A BOATING SPEED LIMIT (IE: 20 KPH) ON PAUL LAKE DURING THE ENTIRE OPEN WATER PERIOD ON THE LAKE WHICH WILL ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL / SAFETY CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY LOCAL PARKS STAFF, AND PERMIT THE LAUNCHING OF 'TRAIERED' BOATS THROUGHOUT THE OPEN WATER PERIOD ON THE LAKE. THIS PROPOSAL WOULD COMPLEMENT THE EXISTING 10 KPH WATERCRAFT SPEED LIMIT THAT IS IN EFFECT FOR WATERS OF PAUL LAKE WITHIN 30 METERS OF THE SHORELINE (Canada Shipping Act).

Note that the watercraft speed limit has been successfully implemented on a number of local area lakes, very similar to Paul Lake (e.g. Lac le Jeune, Big Bar Lake).

The proposal outlined above may require re-visiting the 1996 Paul Lake Management Plan. Our understanding is that periodic updates, as provided for in this plan, have not occurred since 1996. If this is indeed the case, our organizations support a review of this 22-year-old plan.

Phase #2 of the proposal outlined above requires a process developed by Transport Canada (Local Authorities Guide) to be followed, which our organizations will try and adhere to as the process is extremely time consuming and bureaucratically challenging. We would request support from the appropriate government agencies in this regard.

Phase #1 of the proposal outlined above is considered to be an 'alternative' option to implement, prior to proceeding with an initiative under phase #2 of the proposal to secure a watercraft speed limit for Paul Lake. Alternative options is suggested under the Transport Canada guiding document entitled '*Local Authorities Guide – Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations*'.

As there are a number of provincial and federal agencies with mandates associated with our proposal, our organizations request that appropriate staff members from these government agencies undertake effective liaison between themselves so effective multi-governmental communication and direction can be provided to our two organizations.

Some additional information for your consideration:

Boat launch facilities that do provide for launching of boats from boat trailers occur at private residential areas at the west and northeast ends of Paul Lake. A considerable number of large, high horsepower boats are located at these private residential areas and are used on Paul Lake during the open water season. These residential boat launches are privately owned and not accessible to the general public. Local parks branch staff do not appear to be overly concerned with operation of these larger boats in Paul Lake so our organizations are requesting some degree of equal access to the lake. The existing situation is deemed highly discriminatory and we are asking for equitable treatment and 'fairness for all'.

Most boats used by members of our organizations are smaller, fishing type boats with smaller horsepower motors and pose little threat to the lake environment or other users of the lake.

Paul Lake is a quality public lake and the provincial park itself is quite accessible to Seniors, Physically Challenged, Handicapped & those that lack mobility and balance. But this 'accessibility' cannot be translated into the public boat launch facility and improvements are required for ease of use.

Please feel free to contact either of the signatories below if you wish clarification or additional information re the Paul Lake boat launch issue outlined above. If any of your staff wish to undertake an onsite inspection of the existing Paul Lake boat launch facility, please contact us and we will gladly arrange for an onsite inspection to occur.

We look forward to your support with respect to our request.....thank you.

Yours truly;

Leonard P. Piggin

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