

Subject: Sutacriti Park - Concerns and Clarification

Dear Mayor Burley and Councillor Sutherland,

The purpose of this letter is to communicate concern and seek clarification pertaining to the recent changes made to Sutacriti Park on Presqu'ile Road. Recently, council voted to close the recreational boat launch area of this park. Trees and brush have been cleared leaving the park in a much altered state.

As taxpayers of the Sutacriti- Presqu'ile neighborhood, we have a few questions.

1. It is our understanding that Sutacriti Park is a public park owned and operated by the township of Georgian Bluffs. As such, it is not a park exclusive to those who live in the neighbourhood (Presqu'ile Road, MacIntosh Drive, Indira Avenue, Ishwar Drive and Sutacriti Street). Is this correct?
2. If it is a public park, how were individual residents in the neighbourhood allowed to decide which trees to fell and follow through with cutting them down, seemingly, without any direct supervision of township staff? The clearing of these trees has significantly changed the natural aesthetics of the park. Additionally, the altered shoreline will impact erosion, particularly now given the increased water levels.
3. It has come to our attention that an individual resident made presentations to council with concerns and suggestions for change regarding this public park who we believe, may not have been representative of the community at large. Many neighbourhood residents were not provided any opportunities for input or engagement in this process. However, we are now all left to live with the outcome of decisions made and actions taken regarding the park and closure of the recreational boat launch. What suggestions would you have for our community moving forward on this front to ensure a more inclusive approach is taken when initiatives in this neighbourhood are pursued which affect the broader community and public property of mutual interest?

We would like to thank-you in advance for your attention to our questions and concerns. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerest regards,
Christine and Greg Gard