

From: [Richard Chambers](#)
To: [Mayor Sue Carleton](#); [Deputy Mayor Grant Pringle](#); [Councillor Rick Winters](#); [Councillor Isaac Shouldice](#); [Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn](#); [Councillor Ryan Thompson](#); [Councillor Tobin Day](#)
Cc: [Carly Craig](#); [Niall Lobley](#); [MIKE / JUDY STOTHERS](#); [BRAD / HEATHER MAYES](#); [Joseph Blasioli](#); [Judy Jeffery-Chambers](#); [Stacy Lafantaisie](#); [Heather Mayes](#); [Chevy3983](#); [James13jenn](#); [Blackie35](#); [Bboatman](#); [Mattiaccihome](#); [Darren Lafantaisie](#); [Chris McIntosh](#); [Greg Sprout](#); [PHYLLIS & GREG SPROUT](#); [Thomas McMahon](#);
[REDACTED]
Subject: Resident Walk-In Access to Bass Lake
Date: May 18, 2023 10:38:22 PM

Dear Georgian Bluffs Township Council,

I support the Township reconsidering its motion of 2019 to close walk-in resident access to Bass Lake from Lakeview Dr. Specifically I would support a course of action whereby township staff review the current situation, consulting with *all* stakeholders.

Listening and speaking with some of my neighbours I believe staff may identify three issues, some already being alluded to by Councillors in last week's meeting, issues that may have been previously brought before the Council. Nevertheless, there have been at least three changes in property ownership along the lane since the decision was made and two more properties are for sale that will have a vested interest in the outcome, for a total of 5 properties out of 13. I am also aware that at least one of the long time property owners is also interested in having the question reopened. When my partner and I purchased [REDACTED] four years ago we were given a copy of the original survey of the entire south end of the lake. It clearly identifies two walk-in access points for all the residents on Lakeview Dr. New owners along Lakeview Dr. may receive the survey as well and naturally may inquire about access to the lake. Indeed it might be referenced in some deeds? Either way I don't think the question is going away. To their credit the original planners conceived a neighbourhood where all could benefit from water access and I understand this was the case for 30 years. I trust in the goodwill of people along the lane who might consider a proposal from Council for the common good of all, with 3 important qualifications:

1) safety

Currently both access points are at the top of steep embankments and in one case what I would call a small cliff. Both access points would require the building of significant infrastructure, principally stairs to make them safe.

2) "public access"

It is clear from the original plans and past history that the walk-in access was developed for the immediate residents of Lakeview Dr and not the general public. No parking, even resident parking, is allowed along Lakeview Dr, nor North or South Bass Lake Roads because they are fire routes. If there is one thing I think on which all the neighbours agree, if the question of access is reopened, is that access is for local residents only. This is hardly a new phenomenon. Dozens of lakes across Ontario have legal access points open to local residents.

3) cost

Sadly, like most things in life it seems that it comes down to a question of money. I can't imagine that the Council will be able to provide more than a token amount towards the cost of infrastructure, if anything at all, when access will only be for a few residents? Could interested residents donate money and/or provide volunteer labour? Could it become a carpentry apprenticeship training project associated with the Georgian College campus in Owen Sound? As the cost would be at least a few thousand dollars I suspect there would need to be some creative thinking.

Having visited both sites, one seems much more viable than the other in terms of privacy for all concerned. The first access point, about a quarter of the way down the lane, runs very close to the residences on either side of it, just a matter of a few feet. Whereas the second access point at the end of the lane is set apart from the residences on either side by at least 10 metres or more, both sides being well treed.

In closing I'd like to see families on both sides of Lakeview Drive have safe access to the Lake with the above three caveats in mind. I assume the Council staff can develop a simple and transparent process with all the residents to assess whether this is possible.

These reflections are entirely my own and I have no financial stake in the outcome of this question. I am taking the liberty of copying all my neighbours in the interests of transparency and good will as I was initially unaware that this issue had come before Council.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,
Richard Chambers

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Richard Chambers.