

Ken & Aronda

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Greetings all:

I would like to weigh-in on the Bass Lake public access issue. First let me be more than a pen on paper, my name is Ken Baetz, I'm sure I have met almost all of you at least briefly, or more likely you have met my golden lab/ret "Lincoln" as he loves to pop in on as many of you as he can, becoming dubbed the "sheriff of bass lake" by many, lol. █████ is located directly behind Tom and Noreen's and Mike Mattiacci's places.

I hope to clear up some misunderstandings, it seems a lot of people have jumped on the "public" part of the access. Im 100% certain that all of us Basslake community members agree that access should only be for us and definitely not for the public, especially the Sprouts, who are simply in agreement because they feel bad about the rest of us who live here full time have had our access taken away from us and cannot enjoy the lake, and have gracefully offered up use of a corner of there property to facilitate safer access for any of us who want to brave the steep embankment to get down there. As it stands now, the public that knew about the access have long ago understood that there is no access anymore, and if no one were to announce it, there would be no strangers trying to use it.

As you likely remember, when the stairs were removed, Georgian Bluff's final official statement was (and still is) "it is still public access, go ahead and use it" which is also the statement attached to the 20 ft of property between Gord and Judy's and Joseph's properties.

Also, as from what I understand, Courtney Sprout was approached by another party and asked to look into possible access again, and did not just undertake this for her own reasons.

As far as "the people it would affect, and has affected", I believe that the "Lakeview community" should be expanded to include those of us on South Bass Lake Rd. Especially if you are thinking that a general meeting should take place on this issue.

Also, let me weigh-in on abit of the past history of the stairs. We have lived here for the past 9 or 10 years and, before the stairs were removed, Lincoln and I walked over and down the stairs twice a day, everyday, winter, spring, summer and fall (and really miss it). In those 6 or 7 years I saw strangers there ONCE, and they were quietly sitting enjoying the lake.

Now if you were to believe all the exagerations Don Simpson and Lance put towards the access, it is no wonder you would be dead set against it reopening. Mr Simpson went to great lengths to finally get his way and have the stairs removed, including verbally abusing myself and several other people who live here, everytime we went down the stairs. He threw as much brush and other trash from his property onto the stairs and the upper pathway that he could get his hands on. He became such a nuisance to Georgian Bluffs council with phone calls, emails,etc that they hardly had much choice than to remove them to be able to do normal council duties!! AND THEN, shortly after he had accomplished his task he sold his place and moved away!!

As for the safety, those stairs were built as sturdy and safe as could be constructed. I am a licensed carpenter for 35 years, and have taught the Carpentry Apprenticeship Program at Georgian College for the past 15 years and I do know structurally sound when I see it.

As for not being informed, I guess I can understand some of you being upset, as I was quite upset to learn that the decision to remove the stairs was made before I (or any of us on South Bass) became aware of it! And most of that decision was based on the lies and exaggerations of a couple people.

Interesting to note, the only people mentioning noise, damage, traffic and garbage issues are those of you who have lake access and are not dealing with having your access to the lake taken away from you?? I would think, as a group, we could easily deal with outside issues arising from reopening the access. All of us would look after the access, respect the lake and the adjoining neighbours privacy like we did before.

One last note; I believe, rather than crucifying the Sprouts, we could all take a lesson from them on how to care about and go out of our way to help our neighbours.

I look forward to your responses, as I truly am curious why you are so much against the rest of us "Basslake Residence" having the ability to enjoy our beautiful lake as you do.

Thanks for listening,

Ken Baetz