

**TOWN OF LAKESHORE**  
**COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**TO:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**FROM:** Steve Salmons, Director  
**DATE:** December 2, 2014  
**SUBJECT:** Council Question- Marina- winter closure

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that Council secure the Lakeview boat ramp gates at the close of the fishing season each December to prevent unauthorized access by snowmobiles, ATV's, etc, during winter months.

**BACKGROUND:**

In Question Period of the November 25, 2014, meeting of Council, Councillor Janisse asked if administration would be keeping gates to the marina boat launch ramp open to the public to allow mobile access to the ice during winter months. The Councillor was informed that the gates were to be closed (in error).

At its meeting of November 13, 2012, Council unanimously adopted the following resolution put forward by Councillor Bezaire and Deputy Mayor Fazio: *"Administration be directed to report to Council on the ramp access at the marina and that the ramp access continue to be left open and no longer gated."*

Council has asked on November 25, 2014, for a report to keep the gates open out of consideration for tourism potential.

**COMMENTS:**

Council has had delegations in previous years requesting to keep marina access open to snowmobiles and ATV's for access to the lake for ice fishing.

In 2014, Lakeshore received a claim for loss and costs for a snowmobile that broke through the ice and sunk inside the mouth of the marina. Administration has previously expressed its concern for the maintenance and risk of damage to marina facilities in unlit/unstaffed winter conditions.

The Town's insurance provider, DPM Insurance Group, has recommended against keeping the gates open during winter months:

*While recreational vehicles are ridden on many different surfaces, marine use is generally excluded on most policies. In the event of an incident involving a severe*

*injury or fatality, if we do not close the ramp, we may be viewed as promoting or encouraging their use for what they are not intended.*

*Our position would remain that it would be in the best interest of the Municipality to close the ramp off. (Underscore added for emphasis) If there is a means to seal the ramp off (i.e. a gate), that too would demonstrate our due diligence to protect visitors to the area from entering a potentially dangerous area. The ramp was built and intended to be a boat ramp and provide access to the lake for Marina customers. Technically, the marina facilities are closed during the off season, which does include the ramp. We believe that the area is potentially a high risk area for incidents in which people may fall through the ice. The obstructions in the water may prohibit a consistent formation of ice which may present a known hazard to those who enter and exit the lake from the marina ramp. It is my understanding that there was an incident that took place last year in which a snow mobile went through the ice.*

*We also have concerns that by leaving the gate open we would be providing an access for people to drive motor vehicles out on the lake or allow vandals an opportunity to do damage to the docks with a quick and easy entrance and exit point.*

In keeping with this advice, it would be Administration's recommendation for Council to close gate access at the end of each fishing season.


**OTHERS CONSULTED:**

- Les Garrod, RIBO, CAIB, Commercial Account Executive, DPM Insurance Group
- Mary Masse, Town Clerk (Insurance lead)

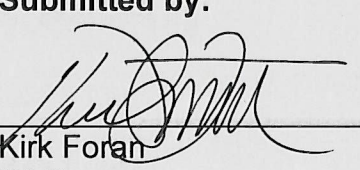
**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

There are no budget impacts resulting from the recommendations.

**Prepared by:**

  
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Steve Salmons  
Director, CDS

**Submitted by:**

  
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Kirk Foran  
CAO