

Meech Lake Association,  
c/o Stephen Boissonneault,

PROTECTED

PROTEGE

April 26, 2004

Mr. Marcel Beaudry;  
Chairman,  
National Capital Commission,  
202 - 40 Elgin Street,  
Ottawa, ON K1P 1C7.

EX 0250-6

Dear Mr. Beaudry;

The *Meech lake Association* is a participant in the consultations for the revision of the *Gatineau Park Master Plan*. We appreciate the continuous consultation, the access to the Commission staff and the consultant, and impressed by their willingness to listen. We have submitted a brief which is available at the Commission office.

It is not necessary at this point in the consultation to review all of the aspects of the plan. However, we do want to draw your personal attention to the need for the controlled use of Meech lake. In the southern end of the park, the ski trails and the lake are the most used recreational facilities. As a drainage basin, the lake is essential to the ecological sustainability of surface water in the park.

Our brief is clear that Meech is a public lake. It is not our lake. It has always had public use and always will. Our concern is overuse. Uncontrolled use.

Meech is still a healthy lake. To keep it this way even though the number of users will continue to increase, preventive measures have to be taken now before environmental degradation makes it another Pink lake.

There is more than one way of ensuring the survival of the lake. There is not just one solution. Many different types of measures will have to be used. The first, and at this time, the most critical decision, is to concentrate public use at the O'Brien beach area.

→ Blanchet Beach and the boat launch should be closed and the users redirected to an expanded facility at the O'Brien area. As a necessary complement to discourage use of the lake at Blanchet, parking lot P12 should be closed during the summer months. Access to that end of the lake will encourage walking and cycling.

Any measures to control lake use have to include permanent patrolling. Even when visitors are told the O'Brien and Blanchet parking lots are full, they ignore the warning and go to the Blanchet end of the lake anyway and park wherever they can. After official hours Blanchet beach, the boat launch and parking lot P12 are filled with night time party makers who ignore noise and campfire limitations. Strict patrolling is obviously necessary.

Yours truly,

  
Stephen Boissonneault.  
President, Meech Lake Association.

Cc: Lucie Bureau  
Jean-René Doyon;  
Sandra Pecek

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