

September 4, 2019

Re: Requesting vehicle access to St. Paul Beach (south side of Vincent Lake)

This is to inform you of the background behind the request to have vehicle access by opening the existing road allowance to the beach. All the previous owners dating back to the 1930's always gave the local community and town of St. Paul and area permission to access St. Paul Beach. Joe Pratch, the original owner of the land in the 30's welcomed all users, even opening a beach store. It became a very popular beach including a diving board and slide in the water. Summers and Sundays were especially crowded with families and cabin owners having unrestricted full access, many times so crowded leaving little space to park all the vehicles.

Sometime around the 1960's, it was sold to Ed Cwyk who also permitted non restricted access across his lot for the public to enjoy the community reserve in front of his property. He built a new store which had accommodations attached in the back where he and his wife lived. It continued to be an attractive beach for families, cabin/lot owners, and St. Paul residents.

Block 2 was then sold to two co-owners-Mr. Furgason and Mr. Aho. At first, they didn't care to let the public onto their property but once my father approached them and explained the situation, they willingly allowed us to drive across their lot to access the beach for picnicking, swimming and even camping.

My dad's siblings and cousins and all of their families have been going to this beach since the 1940's. They all lived within a few miles of the beach. There are still many descendants in the local area wanting to access this beach. Our families always knew there were two access roads into St. Paul Beach. One was where the present new metal gate is that was installed by the Block 2 new owners, the other came in from the west next to the first cabin on lot 1 on the map. We, as well as long-time cabin owners, always knew that the road entry to the west was partially on Lot 1 but knew there was a road allowance there. Once lot 1 was sold and the owner put a gate blocking that access, we continued to access the beach from the main road entrance. Everyone was content until the latest owners blocked off the access that crossed their property.

We understand that we are not allowed to cross private property and we respect that. Now the public had NO access to the community reserve. So we approached the county to build an access road on the road allowance. They built a quad trail, and because, understandably, quads are not allowed on Environmental Reserve, the quad trail was narrowed to walking traffic only. This is unacceptable. There is a road allowance on either end of that community reserve. We are just asking for one road allowance to be opened to accommodate vehicles.

After speaking with the cabin owners and the community within close proximity to St. Paul Beach about having vehicle access on an existing county road allowance, they are extremely supportive and they agree 100% that we all should have vehicle access to our community reserve beach once again.

Doris Bodnar