

B. Striethorst
Box 41
Lindbergh AB TOA 2JO
Roll Number 4622320
SW 22 56 4 4 Lot 7 Block 1 Plan 2104MC

08 April 2019

CAO Sheila Kitz
County of St Paul
5015 – 49 Avenue
St Paul AB TOA 3A4

Ms. Kitz:

As the spring melt progresses, it is time to voice concerns about the distinct possibility of the level of Laurier Lake rising again this year, further threatening our property. The initial concern is lake ice coming ashore as it did last year, further degrading the already sandbagged shoreline, resulting in additional pressure/damage to our front deck. We have had a sump pump operating in our sand bottom crawl space since 25 May 2017, and subsequently a dehumidifier on the main floor since 15 November 2017 once the furnace was operating and humid air brought up. Until such time as the water no longer rises in our crawl space, this situation will continue; it is impossible to dry out the sand. Unfortunately, the crawl space is already showing increased water levels.

Our 2017 property assessment was \$434,400. The reevaluation of our property assessment in 2018 resulted in a decrease from the initial increased value of \$501, 290 down to \$390, 620, based on a site visit and evaluation by the assessment team.

Laurier Lake is still at a high level, dropping only about 8" from 12 May 2018 to 31 October 2018. The official "high water" mark, 9' from the NW corner of our property, is about 8 feet out in the water.

The fear is that the water will rise even higher than its peak last spring. Rumor has it that there may be a planned release of water on Township Rd 565, SE34-056-04W4, adding even more to the lake volume. There are about 7 creeks that run into Laurier Lake.

Beach erosion is already such that it could lead to the collapse of our front deck. We have concern that subsurface degradation is causing unnatural settling of the house. Cracks at the intersection of outer wall/inner wall/roof have become visibly larger.

We do not want another spring, summer, fall, and until the lake freezes, literally cringing when the wind comes up, as it often does particularly from the North, and waves start crashing over the sandbags that have been in place since 2017; OR indeed having to add to that sandbag wall.

The only natural drainage out of Whitney, Laurier, Borden (and likely Ross) lakes is ultimately Middle Creek, under Highway 646 to the North Saskatchewan River. It is critical that the this out flow be maintained at full capacity, whether this be by the current “beaver deceiver” means or by the complete elimination, in stages, of the original cause of the abnormal lake level – the beaver dam and ongoing control of its makers.

We request that the level of Laurier Lake be reduced at least to the official “high water mark” level, which as stated above is about 8’ out in the water. Why should our property suffer costly damage due to beavers?

Barb and Blaine Striethorst

CC (electronically): Reeve Steve Upham

Div 1 Councillor Darrell Youngmans

2019-05-08 County AGM

Meeting between Warren Smith and Tim Mahdiuk [interim CAO] May 9, 2019

Due to a local community event, Bev and Warren Smith are unable to attend the County of St Paul AGM on the evening of 2019-05-09.

Concerns:

- 1 We would ask that Keith Kornelson check the 'beaver deceiver' to insure it continues at maximum flow. As Middle Creek ran all winter, there seemed to be no rise in lake level this spring. The lake level is still very high, and the flow in Middle Creek is reducing.
- 2 We would ask that the County surveyor take water levels at Laurier Lake and at the Borden lake outlet so the County maintains their spring / fall records of this flood.
- 3 We are users of and supporters of the Elk Point Library. We were very shocked that the lack of financial support required the library to reduce hours of operation from 39 to 32/ week. The lack of funds will require reducing the staff by one.

At the recent Library / County meeting councillor Laurent Amyotte made some remarks that were very concerning. He questioned the user numbers in the library report, even though those numbers were generated from the Northern Lights Library System. When those numbers were being discussed he remarked "*Oh that must be those lake people*" in a very sarcastic tone of voice. Are the '*lake people*' a second grade of county residents? '*Those Lake People*' certainly pay a high rate of tax.

- 4 Would the County Council please place a more supportive councillor on the Library Board.

PLEASE RESPOND TO THESE

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Tim Mahdiuk, the interim CAO mentioned in the header.