

Bryan Brown, CAO
Madawaska Valley

October 22 2012

Open Letter to Madawaska Valley Council

Salutations;

As president of the Kamaniskeg Area Property Owners Association (KAPOA), it gives our association great pleasure sending this open letter to commend both the municipality and staff for recent rapid repairs to the Kamaniskeg boat launch ramp.

Madawaska Valley (Barry's Bay) is blessed with some of the nicest waterways in Canada to the point that tourism is now the principal industry of the area. Tourism in the form of boating, snowmobiling, ATVs, fishing, hunting, whether by permanent / seasonal cottagers or transient visitors travelling to the area contribute the largest share of retail sales dollars for many outlets as well as the biggest proportion of property tax dollars.

This boat launch ramp has served as the main access to the lake but it can be backed up as much as 3 - 4 hours in preparation for large fishing tournaments or other group activities in the busier summer months.

With recent water levels so extremely low, vehicle drivers were backing their trailers over the end of the normally used portion of the ramp, dropping something like 24 inches, with some damage occurring.

The municipality rightfully closed the ramp by placing a large concrete blockade and signed the temporary closure accordingly.

And then quickly went to work to get the ramp back into operation recognizing the importance of season ending removals by local marina businesses and private boater alike.

Within a week, staff had contacted MNR as is required for any waterfront work, and then placed washed stone measuring about 4 - 6 inches, to fill the drop-off, providing an excellent stopgap repair.

Both Madawaska Valley staff Hilary Kutchkoskie, (Operations) and Adrian Tomasini, (Roads) deserve substantial credit for quickly effecting the necessary repairs getting the ramp back in operation in less than a week. Kudos and thanks to all involved from appreciative taxpayers.

KAPOA would like to open the door to additional dialogue with staff and council along with various launch ramp stakeholders including local dry land marinas KamKeg & Extreme Marine, regarding future enhancements to the ramp/dock facility to further improve the tourism experience.

So in closing, KAPOA thanks all involved for expeditiously getting this essential ramp service back into operation.

Best regards.

Dave Wilson
KAPOA President