

December 3, 2009

John Bartlett  
Box 79  
Beaconia Mb R0E 0B0

Manitoba Conservation  
Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch  
123 Main St Suite 160  
Winnipeg MB R3C 1A5

Attn: Bryan Blunt, Senior Environment Officer

Re: Land at Title No. 172032, Parcels A, B, C, and D of Plan 32236 in Beaconia

Dear Mr. Blunt,

I would like to bring to your attention an incident of potential environmental damage to a section of marsh along Lake Winnipeg. The land in question has increasingly become higher in the interest of local residents since its sale to a new owner 4-5 years ago. Most recently, in 2009, there was a land swap between the RM of St Clements and the current owner, where an unused right-of-way through the subject property was traded to the owner of this parcel for land elsewhere, to accommodate a development (see attached letter). I have been unable to locate any further information regarding this development.

The subject property is located along the north portion of Beaconia Lake, which is a marsh between the beaches of Lake Winnipeg and the land. The area has significant habitat for waterfowl and currently is in its natural state. There has been talk in the community that the current owner of the subject property wants to create a marina to service a potential cottage development on this land. To my knowledge there has been no approval of such a plan and I have seen no details of such a development.

While visiting the beach earlier this week, and also through discussion with fellow residents, I became aware of and observed an excavator being used to clear land from the subject property and into the reeds of Beaconia Lake. I am not aware that any approval to disturb the watershed has been provided to the owner, and I'm sure that there are rules which protect natural water bodies and their shorelines. There had been similar activity last winter, however, this year it appears they are moving further from shore and into the marsh. I and several local residents are very concerned with the potential damage this could create to this previously untouched area.

There have been other issues with this property such as the lack of the RM of St Clements maintaining unrestricted access to the beach, as referenced in the attached letter from the Minister. Shortly after the above land swap was complete, the RM posted a road closed sign on the causeway road leading to the public parking area at Beaconia Beach. I

have written the RM on this issue, as have numerous other residents, yet we have yet to see any action taken on that piece and access remains restricted.

I would be pleased if you could look into the issue of damage to Beaconia Lake as noted above, and if your area is not the appropriate branch to deal with this issue, that you forward to whomever's responsibility it is to protect our natural environment. I have carbon copied Minister Bill Blakie as well as Harley Jonasson since they were involved in the approval of the referenced land swap and may be interested in the issues related to this land. I look forward to your anticipated response.

Yours truly,

John Bartlett

Cc: Honorable Bill Blakie, Minister of Conservation  
Harley Jonasson, Director, Lands Branch