

Cobourg Heritage Harbour had become a busy place for commercial boats by 1874 when the Langevin (west) Pier began construction. It is important to note that the Langevin Pier was built not to expand the harbour to accommodate more boats. It was built only as a breakwater to stem the drifting of sand into the harbour.

For the next 141 years, freighters, ferries, oil tankers, coal ships, sail boats, yachts, utilized the real harbour east of the centre pier. For 141 years the residents of Cobourg enjoyed an uncluttered west basin and clear view of the lighthouse surrounded in the serenity of sunshine.

Coal piles sat along the edge of the real harbour while oil tank storage sat well north of the west basin beach, where romantics could sit on blankets amongst the sparse low shrubbery along a strip of sand to enjoy the still waters illuminated with ululating moonshine teasing the lighthouse.

This environmental serenity was first assaulted when the Marina boat storage was installed at the foot of Hibernia Street, shattering the peace with the all-season slapping of mast ropes rudely intruding into the placid place of the Cobourg Ecology Garden.

Today, Cobourg Marina controls the entire harbour waterfront from Division to Hibernia Street. There is no clear view of the lighthouse between Division and Third Street because of the intrusion of swaggering masts and double decker yachts. There is no clear view of the lighthouse from Hibernia Street because of boat storage. The only remaining area where citizens can see the lighthouse surrounded with serenity is between the centre pier and boat storage.

It took 141 years of evolution for the west basin to develop a wondrously rich environment that is the common heritage of all Cobourg citizens. This heritage will come to an end if the marina expands. Why? Because the Marina failed to budget for capital replacement and for this financial incompetence, the Marina wants everyone in Cobourg to ignore 141 years of sublime serenity so that it can intrude permanently into that heritage to pay its bills. Pathetic.

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