

May 24, 2015

It was disconcerting to read in Grahame Wood's recent column the cavalier attitude of Mayor Gil Brocanier speaking to Cobourg's Rotary Club where he dismissively claimed that only a small vocal minority opposes the expansion of boat wharfs into the west basin of Cobourg's Heritage Harbour.

Really?!

The Dragon Boaters oppose the expansion, as do the Survivor Thrivers, the Willow Beach Field Naturalists and recently, the Cobourg Ecology Garden. Even the Cobourg Yacht Club opposes the expansion "at this time." There are countless individual residents of Cobourg who oppose such an expansion.

The reality that Mayor Brocanier ignores is that only a small vocal minority proposes such an expansion into the west basin; put forth by a mere handful of unelected officials who have failed to make a convincing case to the people of Cobourg to overturn 141 years of harbour heritage to allow expansion of a "NO TRESPASSING" gated community into the west basin.

Mayor Brocanier's comment at a private event played to the Cobourg Rotary Club's moneyed members. In the public domain, Mayor Brocanier has been selling himself as a leader who takes into account the interests of all Cobourg citizens with equal respect.

On a second note, the Cobourg Yacht Club's report to the Marina Steering Committee characterized the temporary parking of Canada Day vendors' vehicles in the lot between the CY Clubhouse and current boat storage area as a "major visual distraction" to nearby condo-owners. How touching!

The CYC further characterized the possibility of moving the current boat storage area eastward into the same area as a "significant visual concern", again, in deference to nearby condo owners.

In both cases plain English is studiously avoided. Such abuse of language is meant to conceal rather than reveal. The boat storage is an EYESORE all year round. Plain and simple English. It is an EYESORE now, and it will remain an EYESORE on the lake front whether it is moved east or west of its current location.

The suggestion that the all-year boat storage area, aka "significant visual concern" be moved west of its current location and plunk its elephantine self, fencing, lighting, mast-slapping, etc, right in the face of the Cobourg Ecology Garden, rendering it and the boardwalk to a corridor of conflicting development, thereby undermining the CEG's mandate to educate the public about respecting the natural, organic and indigenous environment.

Wally Keeler