



OPINION LETTERS

Focus on the future

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Marina manager Paul Gauthier's job is to promote the expansion of the harbour, but there are many other options that the Town Council of Cobourg has to consider.

Northumberland County is growing and it's coming fast. How we spend the tax dollars that our local government collect is important to all of us who live here.

For Cobourg Council to expend that amount of money on a one-and-a-half season tourism draw is foolish and wasteful. Cobourg is expanding and it's not people in boats who are going to contribute. It's the people who live here and move here from the city who they should be thinking about.

It would be wiser to invest in the whole downtown core for a four-season activity for families that they should be thinking about.

The downtown is crying out for someone who can actually see the whole core as one, not just as a boat slip development. The people who live in and around Cobourg when they go down to the harbour, they want a continuation of the boardwalk and some nature connected with it. They don't want more boat slips that attract more gulls going after boat garbage.

I wish for once and all that Cobourg had a Council that actually thought further ahead

than just the singular use of adding boat slips to spend hard earned tax dollars on. They should be focusing on the whole rather than drowning us in other people's boat dreams. How is Cobourg going to look, rich out in the water but with a down-trodden downtown right beside it.

They should be enhancing the parkland on the water for people who walk and come here to walk the boardwalk and focusing on connecting the downtown core.

What a waste of time, energy and money spent on consultants who are making money on a few rich dreams that will give little in return.

Enhance what you have, get rid of the cage holding boats in drydock for three seasons, make it a park where people can interact with nature and put those tax dollars to work in the downtown core. After all it's a four-season gift staring at us.

The return on boat slips is minuscule. They should be focusing on connecting people, the whole downtown and a better future for all, not just a few in boats, who give little back to the community as a whole.

Amy Quinn, Grafton