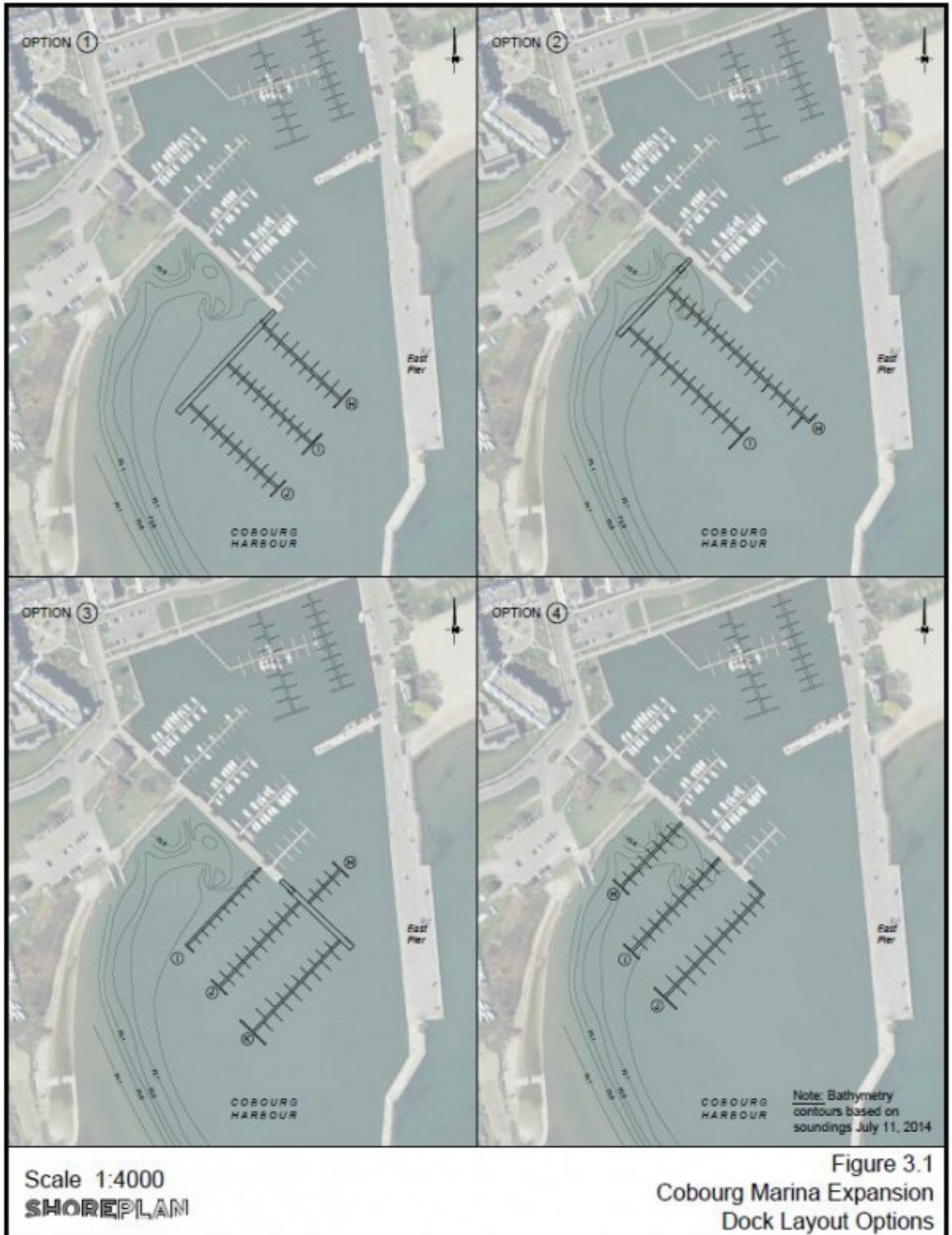


The BurdReport

A place for the alternative point of view

How about Option 5? – none of the above!

by [ben burd](#) • April 1, 2015 • [5 Comments](#)



The final draft of the Marina expansion plan is out [read it here](#). In the 39 page report authored by Shoreplan Engineering Ltd we learn that the Marina expansion is for boaters and nobody else. That is not surprising as we only get what we pay for and in this case the consultants have little expertise in the environmental aspects of Marina Planning.

The Dragon Boat organisation remains unconvinced and the “Survivor Thrivers” (ST) say that the plan would spell the end of the group [read story here](#). In addition, Jeremy Fowlie, a head coach with the Cobourg Dragon Boat and Canoe Club worries that expanding the marina into the area will negatively impact other users [read story here](#).

Given these concerns the spokesperson for the ST spoke at the first part of the process – the Parks and Rec Committee. Siobhan Kenny spoke despite the fact that there was no quorum for the committee (thus making the presentation fall on deaf ears) and the absence of the person most responsible in the process – the Marina Manager! Just how these remarks are going to be taken forward is anybody’s guess but bravo to Siobhan for making the effort.

The next part of the process is a “stakeholders” meeting once rescheduled. This will be a marina user organization roundtable meeting on April 21 in council chambers, Victoria Hall, 55 King St. W. from 10 a.m. to noon. The public is welcome to attend the meeting but there won’t be time allotted for public discussion. A general public meeting is scheduled for a later date, to hear residents’ comments.

That brings the BR to the opinion part of the report, and that is an alternate one to the official one. Obviously by not considering any passive uses in the report and illustrating options that invade the passive areas and uses, it is not a stretch to say that despite all of the words spoken in the last election by all candidates about the need to consider all opinions nothing has changed. This must be very frustrating for the last person to appear in front of Council who suggested alternate plans should be considered – Richard Pope. But at least his remarks for this year’s presentation have already been written (two years ago).

So if nothing has changed on the part of the consultants and by association the Town then we must consider another option – Don’t expand – just tidy the place up – leave the area alone.

- Ben Burd

Comments for “How about Option 5? – none of the above!”



Wally Keeler

April 1, 2015 at 2:06 pm

In recent days there is a backhoe down by the boat launch, just west of it digging up sand and dumping it. Are they doing it to prep for the new boat lift?



Deb OConnor

April 3, 2015 at 3:28 pm

This whole process smells bad. I hope I'm wrong, but it appears that the Old Boys have already made up their minds, and given Mayor Brocanier the task of ramming it through Council. We have a mysterious plan that we're told doesn't exist, but is referred to in some document as being ready to implement.

Our harbourfront is going to be dominated by big expensive boats and equipment to service them. The "passive" users, the ones who don't drop wads of cash everywhere, will be squeezed out entirely, just like the people who used to fish off the piers, and the youngsters who liked to dive off them. Once that is achieved, the trailer park will be next to go. Any feature that's not upscale doesn't fit the rosy vision the movers and shakers imagine for our little town.



Wally Keeler

April 23, 2015 at 10:10 am

Published in Northumberland Today, April 23, 2015:

Cobourg Heritage Harbour is public waters. Every citizen of Cobourg has a say over the disposition of any element of that treasured public space, especially when it involves a permanent change. There has been no plebiscite, no referendum, no vote concerning the most pertinent question of all; do the majority of Cobourg citizens want the marina expanded into the west basin of Heritage Harbour in perpetuity?

What will the citizens of Cobourg lose forever if the marina expands into the west basin?

It will lose a view that has been enjoyed for generations. It is a view that is serene, sublime and singular. It is a view that is embedded in the psyche of every person born and raised in Cobourg. It is a view of calm waters sheltered from the outside turbulence spread to a jagged saw blade horizon. It is a view of a sun ferociously brilliant, casting millions of diamonds pirouetting on wavelet tips. It is a view stuffed to the eardrums with bird calls. It is a view that offers a supplementary serenity for all the seniors resident nearby. It is a view of a low moon ululating on sheer shimmering peace. It is the view of Canada Geese skidding in to float.

In its stead there will be wooden platforms layer after layer after layer between the shore and lighthouse. In its stead there will be noisy clanging mast ropes. In its stead there will be swaggering masts like bold exclamation marks running interference with the view of the lighthouse. In its stead there will be the low grumble of internal combustion machines. In its stead the view will be filled by the private property of non-residents enjoying the convenience of parking a few days in our Heritage Harbour while inconveniencing Cobourg residents in perpetuity. Adding insult to injury, this gated community will be further coddled by additional NO TRESPASSING signs added to the perimeter of Cobourg's Heritage Harbour.

The expansion into the west basin benefits the marina insofar as the revenue will pay for needed repairs while keeping harbour parking fees low. For that ephemeral reason alone, the marina is asking the people of Cobourg for a loan (debenture) and in return, a view enjoyed for generations, will be obliterated. Do the citizens of Cobourg want to bargain that view away just to enable the marina to pay its bills and serve more outsiders?