

**Webb, Bruce (CWS)**

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**From:** Jim and Joanna Grant  
**Sent:** January-09-16 1:54 PM  
**To:** Webb, Bruce (CWS) *BW*  
**Subject:** Environment Act Proposal -Sandy Lake

January 9, 2016

Conservation and Water Stewardship

Attention: Bruce Webb

Dear Sir:

Just before Christmas 2015, The Notice of Environment Act Proposal notification posted in the Brandon Sun on Saturday December 12, 2015 put forth by G.D. Newton on behalf of the Municipality of Harrison Park, was brought to my attention.

Municipality of Harrison Park -- Sandy Lake Water Level Control Project -- File 5804-00

This letter is to address my concerns and objection to the above project.

- Will there be, or has there been, an environmental study be done on this proposal? What will the impact be on the bodies of water involved?
  
- I have been fortunate to be able to spend my summers at Sandy Lake since early in the 1940s. (until I was 17 years old that meant two months each summer). For years each summer the water levels in the lake remained low or even lower than the previous year. During the 1940s and early 1950s there were very few fish, due to a winter kill. We were overjoyed in the late 1950s when the water came back up a bit and fish were again introduced to the lake.
  
- I cannot understand the mentality of wanting the water levels lower now that the lake has reached a decent level . After going to Sandy for 75+ years, I can tell you that should we have many hot summers that water will be gone, and very rapidly, and there is no way to bring it back. Mother Nature should not be messed with. We all know there were concerns when water dropped and everyone blamed it on watering the golf course. It has taken many years for the lake to recover from the levels it was at when I was a child.

- The public notice states that drainage can start when lake elevations were less than 0.1 below the top of the main pier, but 0.1 of what? If the current pier is being replaced with a floating dock, this means that the top could be at various levels of the lake at different times, and in different years. Why not start drainage if water was over the top, not below the top?
- For years we all knew where the high water line was on the lake but no one ever envisioned the water rising that high again when it had been low for so many years. Why were people allowed to, or encouraged to build below the high water line when we have no control over Mother Nature?
- At what point does this small lake become over populated? Water quality has become a concern for me as for many years now the water is not fit for swimming at some times of the summer. As activity on the lake increases, if water levels are decreased as well this does not bode well for the future of the lake. Would it not be more to the point to raise a few cottages rather than drain the lake?
- Each time the water goes down the beaches are left in a mess and it has always been up to cottage owners to clean them up, with no help from the Municipality.
- Will there be, or could there be, a public meeting to discuss this proposal? It would be nice if cottage owners could be made aware of any drastic changes being considered while they are still in their cottages, rather than in the dead of winter by just a notice in the paper.

Thank you for listening to my concerns. I know that given our ages, my husband and I will not be spending as much time at Sandy Lake but we do hope that our children and grandchildren can enjoy as many years at this little lake as I have.

JoAnna Grant (nee Cross) & James H Grant

13/11

**Sandy Lake** Concerned Cottage owner: Marno & Connie Cross  
Cottage Location: , Sandy Lake  
Legal Description

Dear Sir: I am responding to a Notice of Environmental Act Proposal that was filed on behalf of the Municipality of Harrison. I will begin by expressing how I feel about the way this notice was presented to the cottage owners. If one didn't live locally you would never have known about it. The fact that the Sandy Lake water level is to be manipulated to sustain a pre-determined level, that water level would impact all cottage water fronts. If cottage owners had been notified individually by mail, and given more precise specifics as to how the accommodating water level height would be arrived at, and by whom, I believe this entire issue would be taken in a more positive light. I realize it is hard to please everyone, and that the task at hand to make the changes are complex. We live in B.C. and just recently became aware of all this. The cottage owners have addresses, and all receive Tax Notices. Contacting owners should not be difficult.

\*\*\* -What is the Bench Mark for the lake Level, if that particular level becomes controllable? The Main Pier has been under water previously in recent years. The stated water level of 0.1??? below it's top even makes less sense now that the pier has been removed.

\*\*\* I believe what is required of the Municipality of Harrison Park, to satisfy Sandy Lake Cottage Owners, would be to use the following approach:

- A precise study completed by persons that can study the history of Sandy Lake's changing water levels past to present.
- Persons who have knowledge of the future effect of Global warming on higher water tables and weather changes that can be expected.
- Persons who can describe the most effective method of Controlling the lake water level, bearing in mind the fact that the water source is mainly rain & run-off

On completion of the study, each cottage owner should be given copies of the findings, actual specifics as to the objective at that time, and the specific method that will be used to fulfill the objective. \*\* That being an environmentally safe, and cottage owner accommodating, Lake water level.

#### **Optional Reading (family back ground )**

I personally have been going to Sandy Lake for seventy years. My parents and some of my other siblings much longer than that. The cabin we own was purchased by my father in 1940. My parents rented this cabin from its original owners for a number of years prior. My memory serves me well and

I would be quite safe in saying that in 1940 the water frontage we had, spanned 125 ft at least. We had a flag pole, out 15ft., in front of the cabin and there was a large rock next to it. The original owner told us that when the cabin was built, the water level was up to the rock.. The time lapse to that point (1940) was quite conceivably 40 years from when the cabin was built. Now add another 76 years and we're 116 years. In this time, and to the present, the water has gone down by 125+ ft at its lowest and now back up to were we have approximately 60 ft. frontage.

Hopefully the issue at hand will be resolved , with a solution that is accommodating to most of the cottage owners, bearing in mind that what environmentally compliments the lake is also very important.

Cheers!

Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Marno & Connie Cross

**Contact info:** Mail: Connie & Marno Cross

Maple Ridge B.C.

Phone: 604-888-8888

E-mail: marno@cross.com

## Webb, Bruce (CWS)

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From:  
Sent: January-11-16 7:40 AM  
To: Webb, Bruce (CWS) BW  
Subject: [Fwd: Sandy Lake Water Level Control Project -File 5804.00]

Hi  
Please confirm that you received this.  
Have had trouble with my e-mails recently.

thanks,  
Gil

----- Original Message -----  
Subject: Sandy Lake Water Level Control Project -File 5804.00  
From:  
Date: Thu, January 7, 2016 1:18 pm  
To: [bruce.webb@gov.mb.ca](mailto:bruce.webb@gov.mb.ca)

Hi Bruce

My name is Gil Van Daele and I own a cabin at : on Sandy Lake.

I just found out about the notice you placed in the South Mountain Press back in early December regarding the Sandy Lake Water Level Control project.

First thing I must say that concerns me greatly is that the majority of the people who are impacted by the floodings we have experienced since 2009 are cottagers who live out of the area and therefore will not have seen this notice and therefore will not have the chance to respond as I am.

I have contacted the people (friends & neighbours) I know and asked them to e-mail you in support of this project.....but that is only a fraction of all the people who are directly impacted!

To start with.... this whole problem would never have never occurred if the "natural outflow" from Sandy Lake had not been blocked by Mr Misanchuk!  
So for whatever reasons....up came the water and with several inflows to the lake and no outflows the level kept rising.

We began to have flooding to the point where the water was all the way to the back of my cabin at the worst on several occasions over the past 7 summers! Also the lake water quality deteriorated terribly due to the high water.

I am tired of sandbagging and pumping to try and protect my property! I have had to build dikes on several occasions and have built up my front yard considerably and put in rocks to protect against the wave action.

The maximum level must be controlled!

I believed the RM had the responsibility to try and protect property and really appreciate the efforts they have put forth in trying to come up with a long term solution to the problem

re this project. The commissioning of this study and culvert and states of emergency helped but a long term solution is needed!

Unfortunately, there are people around the area who look back at the years when the water was low and do not fully understand the purpose of this structure being to control the maximum level only and incorrectly think that the lake will be drained by this structure! These nay-sayers do not have the highly taxed property on the lake and do not have to live with the consequences of the flooding!

If you wish to discuss the situation any further, please feel free to contact me via e-mail or phone

I am in support of the proposal!

thanks,  
Gil Van Daele

Sandy Lake

P.S Please confirm you received this as I have been having trouble with my e-mails today.

**Webb, Bruce (CWS)**

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**From:** Hagan, Owen  
**Sent:** January-11-16 10:28 AM  
**To:** Webb, Bruce (CWS) BW  
**Cc:** 'Brenda Hagan'  
**Subject:** : ENVIRONMENTAL ACT PROPOSAL - MUNICIPALITY OF HARRISON PARK - SANDY LAKE WATER LEVEL CONTROL PROJECT - FILE 5804.00  
**Attachments:** Sandy Lake Flood.jpg; Sandy Lake Flood (5).jpg; Sandy Lake Flood (4).jpg

Hello Bruce,

I own the cabin at ... on Sandy Lake. The pictures i have attached are from my neighbor Kevin Pratt. I just took possession of the cabin in the fall of 2015. My property is one of the lowest if not the lowest on this side of the lake. Once we started working on the cabin this fall we realized how much damage had been done due to the high water. I have had to replace the front plate of the cabin and most of the studs leaving me to have to reside the front and the rest of the cabin to match it. Over 50 trees have been removed over 30' in height which has definitely changed the look of the property. The cabin sits on a slab so I don't have the option of raising it and a rebuild is not in my budget at all. We love the location but are very afraid of what could happen again if the lake rises. We are all for the installation of a permanent structure to control the lake level.

Yours truly,  
Owen Hagan

Brandon MB

**Webb, Bruce (CWS)**

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**From:**  
**Sent:** January-11-16 1:51 PM  
**To:** Webb, Bruce (CWS) *bu*  
**Subject:** RE: Flooding issues at Sandy Lake

Dear Sir,

My wife and I have been a Sandy Lake cottage owner since 1991. Our cottage is located in Ed-venture Bay.

We are e-mailing you to put our support behind the proposed plan to build a drainage culvert to allow the control of lake levels.

Several years ago we all witnessed the flood damage to cottages and the accompanying anxiety for owners. We were fortunate to be unaffected but really do not want to see this happen again to other cottage owners.

Hopefully, with the proposed future drainage plans implemented there will never be a repeat flood.

Sincerely  
Myles and Lorie Emrick



## Webb, Bruce (CWS)

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**From:** Ken Omilanow  
**Sent:** January-11-16 3:47 PM  
**To:** Webb, Bruce (CWS) BW  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Sandy Lake Water Level Control

Hello Bruce

My name is Ken Omilanow and I own a cabin at \_\_\_\_\_ on Sandy Lake.

I read the notice you placed in the Brandon Sun back in early December regarding the Sandy Lake Water Level Control project.

First thing I must say that concerns me greatly is that the majority of the people who are impacted by the floodings we have experienced since 2009 are cottagers who live out of the area and therefore will not have seen this notice and therefore will not have the chance to respond as I am.

To start with.... this whole problem would never had occurred if the "natural outflow" from Sandy Lake had not been blocked by Mr Misanchuk! So for whatever reasons....up came the water and with several inflows to the lake and no outflows the level kept rising. Also the lake water quality deteriorated terribly due to the high water.

The maximum level must be controlled!

I believed the RM had the responsibility to try and protect property and really appreciate the efforts they have put forth in trying to come up with a long term solution to the problem re this project. The commissioning of this study and culvert and states of emergency helped but a long term solution is needed!

Unfortunately, there are people around the area who look back at the years when the water was low and do not fully understand the purpose of this structure being to control the maximum level only and incorrectly think that the lake will be drained by this structure! These nay-sayers do not have the highly taxed property on the lake and do not have to live with the consequences of the flooding!

If you wish to discuss the situation any further, please feel free to contact me via e-mail or phone

I am in support of the proposal!

Thanks,  
Ken Omilanow

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Sandy Lake

**Webb, Bruce (CWS)**

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From:  
Sent: January-13-16 4:51 PM  
To: Webb, Bruce (CWS) BW  
Subject: Cormack File 5804.00

Hello Bruce:

Our names are Gordon & Cheryl Cormack, we own a cabin at on Sandy Lake, Sandy Lake Manitoba. We are strongly in favour of something being done at Sandy Lake to help with the "to high a water situation" there!! We've appreciated the Muncipalities approach (especially the last yr.) to the situation.

I understand the municipality has the responsibility to try and protect property. If this isn't constructed I believe they open themselves to court action law suites. We consider Sandy Lake lucky as they never received as much water (rain) as the rest of SW Mb. Over the last 6 yrs.. People have to realize Sandy Lake has at least 5 inlets (creeks) coming into the lake and NO outlet!! May I also suggest the next time they get a culvert put in that they at least make it level or sloped the other way, as we went into winter this yr. that culvert will be half full of ice as the lake end is lower than the outlet!! May I also point out that if the water level is left at the high water mark in the fall there is no room for spring run off without flooding in the springs.

The water levels have been within .75" (inches) of our floor joist TWICE in this time frame. One more rain and our cabin would have been ruined by mold. We have had no lake front since 2009, and our dock has started off our deck stairs 3 times also in that time.

The water quality has definitely deterated over this time period. When we came to Sandy Lake in 2004 you could be out on the lake and see down a good 4 feet, but now a days it's on the verge of "Blue Green Algae" it's so bad.

People also blame it all on farmer drainage. You know, when all the pot holes are full in the spring or after a lot of rain those pot holes run out anyway just as if they had been drained!!

Yours truly:

Gordon & Cheryl

Cormack

Brandon Mb.

Sent from my iPad

**Webb, Bruce (CWS)**

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**From:** Dary  
**Sent:** January-13-16 6:51 PM  
**To:** Webb, Bruce (CWS) BW  
**Subject:** File # 5804.00 municipality of Harrison park; what her level control

Bruce:

I am in favor of this water level control structure for Sandy Lake. This should have been completed a number of years ago. It is about time the municipality acted on this. My property has been impacted by high water levels and hopefully this can be remedied soon.

My permanent residence is at . My house is built on a lakefront lot and at the highest watermark, the lake was within 12' of my front door.

The normal level of the lake is considered to be 4" below the main pier. I would preferred to see it at 12" below the main pier.

Based on the proposal that has been put forth, the control structure would be closed when the level of Buford Lake rose to the top of the culvert used as a control structure for that lake. I believe the level of Buford Lake is too high. I believe it should be lowered at least 12" in order to allow a cushion for Sandy Lake in the event of a serious water event. The current level of Buford lake is significantly above the culvert under PTH 250. This is where Sandy Lake water runs into Buford lake.

Sincerely  
Darryl and Julie Kines

Sandy Lake, Manitoba

Sent from my iPhone

**Webb, Bruce (CWS)**

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**From:** Jeanette Rouire  
**Sent:** January-13-16 8:09 PM  
**To:** Webb, Bruce (CWS) *BL*  
**Subject:** Sandy lake

Yes we are for the proposal...

...Renald Rouire..

Sent from my iPad