

Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan

Subject: FW: future of Meek Road (Herbert River) canoe/kayak launch site

From: Dusan Soudek

Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 11:01 AM

Subject: future of Meek Road (Herbert River) canoe/kayak launch site

Hello Mr. MacDougall and all others,

please accept my apologies for not getting back to you sooner. I had to wait for a directive from our board of directors and for an estimate of the cost of repairs to the site, provided by Mr. David Meehan of Meehan's Garage and Trucking of Upper Rawdon. He is very familiar with the site, as it was his firm that constructed it some years ago.

According to Mr. Meehan full restoration of the site would cost about \$ 4 000 to \$ 5 000, and would involve bringing in many loads of gravel. But apparently the real problem is the inadequate size of the culvert under Meek Road, which could get blocked with gravel and/or washed out --again-- during the next heavy rain event. He recommends that it be flushed out as soon as possible and eventually replaced with a larger one. A complication here is that Meek Road is a provincial highway, and therefore this work would be the responsibility of the N S Department of Public Works.

Our board has reviewed our agreement with the Municipality of East Hants, particularly Section 8 (Maintenance). We strongly believe that we are responsible for routine maintenance of the site only, and not for restoration of severe damage caused by record floods or by other *forces majeures*. An informal legal opinion confirms our position.

We note that our agreement with the Municipality is due to expire at the end of September 2024. The estimated cost of any repairs is simply beyond our fiscal capacity. Hence, unless the Municipality, and possibly the Province, accept the cost of the site's remediation, we will not be renewing our agreement. That would be a very sad consequence of the tragic 2023 floods and a blow to outdoor recreation on beautiful Herbert River. Regards,

Dusan Soudek

(CKNS Director of Environment)

P.S. The photo below appeared recently on a Facebook recreational paddling site and viewed by some 10 000 of its members. In spite of the flood damage, the launch site continues to be used by local and visiting paddlers.



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