



Sent via E-Mail: jillian.vanniekerk@ontario.ca
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September 28, 2020

Ms. Jillian Van Niekerk, Park Superintendent, Ontario Parks
Mike Toutant, Assistant Park Superintendent, Ontario Parks
Greg Wilson, Southwest Zone Manager, Ontario Parks

Dear Ms. Van Niekerk, Mr. Toutant and Mr. Wilson:

RE: FORKS OF THE CREDIT PROVINCIAL PARK – FOLLOW-UP

This letter is being provided in follow-up to the discussion on September 17 regarding the management of the Forks of the Credit Provincial Park (the "Park"). Thank you for meeting with us and engaging in an open discussion on how we can work together to resolve the increasing issues occurring in and around the Park.

At the meeting we outlined the following safety concerns and observations we identified at the Park when conducting site visits:

- Lack of adequate signage advising of prohibitions i.e. no fires, camping, trespassing etc.;
- A need for improvements to barriers and fencing installed to prevent persons entering areas that could be hazardous and dangerous;
- Existing fencing has been torn down or cut, making it easy for people to enter unsafe bridges, ruins with large drop offs and water features;
- Observed many people entering the park through access from the Orangeville Railway;
- Several campsites have been created along the waterway of the Forks of the Credit river;
- Retained security personnel, observed sitting in their vehicles and not engaging with visitors or managing park activity; and
- High volume of cars parked on both of McLaren Road in signed no parking area.

As part of our discussion we inquired about the Park Management Plan and enforcement objectives. It was noted that the Plan is updated every 20 years and primarily focuses on the protection of natural features and does not currently contain a strategy to manage the visitors in the park. We requested a copy of the Management Plan and are still waiting to receive this.

With the fall season upon us, we anticipate and are preparing for an even larger increase in the number of visitors. As a short-term measure, and to ensure the immediate safety of the public, we are requesting that the Province take the following actions to address the identified safety hazards:

- Immediately address the lack of enforcement presence in the park;
- Install adequate and large signage regarding prohibited activity throughout the Park;
- Adequately barricade the identified safety hazards and unauthorized hazardous areas,
- Limit nuisance behaviour by putting controls in place;

- Determine an occupancy load for the Park and monitor the occupancy; and
- Conduct a proper assessment of the park and management plan that focuses on enforcement and safety.

The past several months has taught us that there is an increasing number of visitors coming to enjoy the parks in Caledon. The Town believes we must work together to better manage the influx of visitors. It is imperative that public safety remains a priority and to limit any negative impacts to local residents. The Town is committed to engaging in further discussions with the Province and the Conservation Authorities to explore partnerships, and park management and enforcement strategies

If we can be of further assistance to you, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mike Garant, Inspector, Caledon OPP



Darryl Bailey, Fire Chief, Town of Caledon



Laura Hall, Acting General Manager, Corporate Services / Acting Town Clerk, Town of Caledon

cc: Mayor Thompson and Members of Council