

July 8, 2023

To: Mayor Sue Paterson and Hanover Council
Mayor Chris Peabody and Brockton Council

Over the past several years the seagull population at Lake Rosalind and Marl Lake has significantly increased with direct impact on the safety of lake water quality for both recreational and drinking water purposes. As you are aware, lake residents were assured during the landfill expansion public consultation process that the seagull population would be closely monitored and controlled.

The Lake Rosalind Property Owners' Association and the Marl Lake Property Owners' Association continue to acknowledge resident concerns related to the seagull increase and are currently seeking collaborative solutions.

In reading through past minutes of the Hanover-Walkerton Waste Management Committee, it has come to our attention that the seagull issue has been on several meeting agendas dating back to 2019. Of particular interest to the LRPO and the MLPO Associations are minutes from the February 15th 2022 meeting where "Ron Cooper advised that the Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) for the landfill site requires the monitoring of seagulls where there has not been a significant increase since the expansion of the site in 2014." Also of equal interest to both Associations is the Annual Monitoring Report (2020) Hanover-Walkerton Waste Disposal Site which notes that "seagull populations present at the site ranged daily between 2 and 50 birds, averaging 24 birds per day in 2020. The total number of seagulls counted in 2020 decreased to 1258 from 2019's reported total of 1515." It is also noted in this report that there were "no formal complaints received from residents regarding the operation of the landfill site."

Both Lake Associations applaud efforts to monitor and manage the seagull issues at the landfill site, however, there appears to be notable discrepancies with the seagull population on our lakes when compared with the numbers noted at the landfill site. Residents witness large numbers of seagulls migrating from the landfill to the lakes on a daily basis. Over 500 seagulls have been counted on the lakes at a single time and over 100 gulls move back and forth from the lakes to the landfill daily. The gulls are feeding on the trash from the landfill, flying to the lake to wash/drink and contaminating the lakes with feces which are rich in bacteria and phosphorous. The gulls often bring plastic bags attached to their bodies which causes them to be unable to take flight as the bags fill with water. Consequently, the birds are either rescued by a resident or die in the water.

The consistent and persistent presence of gulls on our lakes causes a multitude of issues for residents and something urgently needs to be done. The landfill committee has a duty to monitor and control the seagull population with specific control measures. Our Lake Associations representing Lake Rosalind and Marl Lake residents are requesting that these control measures be implemented as soon as possible with a focus on monitoring the number of seagulls more closely and with attention to accuracy.

Your response to this letter is appreciated.

Regards,


John Stadtlander, President LRPOA


Rick Kalte, President MLPOA