

Bullfrog Bay no longer a refuge for roving docks

Posted By Martha Perkins

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It wasn't the first dock that was towed into the quiet shelter of Kennisis Lake's Bullfrog Bay that caused a problem. Nor was it the second.

But with close to 50 docks spending last winter in the bay, the Kennisis Lake Cottagers' Association says it's time to act. Not only is the number of abandoned docks increasing, but in the winter, covered with snow, they are camouflaged hazards for snowmobilers.

This summer, the association will remove any of the docks that are left in the bay. It's not sure what it will do with them but it's no longer willing to let the docks float aimlessly.

"The plan is to put notifications on each dock [floating in the bay], asking all owners to let us know by July 15 that it's their dock," says Lesley Lepine, who's spearheading the effort on behalf of the association. The owners have to reassure the association that their dock will be removed. Any docks that are not accounted for will be removed by the association on August 8.

Lepine told the association's spring meeting that it's common for people to tow their dock to Bullfrog Bay every autumn. The bay provides shelter from wave and ice damage. Every spring, however, more and more docks are not being taken back to their original home. There's one, securely anchored, that's been there for three years.

Lepine says she's also worried about the impact that the abandoned docks will have on the bay's frog population.

"There's more and more junk floating around in there and it doesn't make for happy frogs," she said.

One man told the story of finding a dock left in his bay for the winter. He contacted the owner, who had paid a local contractor to store the dock over winter. The owner had no idea that "storage" was simply towing it into a nearby bay.

Dock owners were encouraged to ask contractors where their docks were being stored.

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