

Dear Cobourg Council,

July 26, 2024

I am writing to express my concerns about the current transient slip policy at the Cobourg Marina and to urge a reconsideration of this approach. While I understand the intent to promote tourism, I believe the current Slip Allocation Policy of reserving 50 slips exclusively for visitors is detrimental to both local boating residents and the marina's financial health.

This marina's transient policy is unique among Lake Ontario marinas, and for good reason. Consider the following points:

1. Lost revenue from winter storage: Visiting boats do not winter in Cobourg, resulting in an estimated loss of \$17,000 annually in haul-out, launch and storage fees.
2. Increased staffing costs: The constant turnover of transient rentals requires additional staff, estimated at \$20,000 annually more than managing seasonal rentals.
3. Economic impact on local spending: Cobourg residents who are denied slips are taking their boats and spending power to other communities. For example, one Cobourg CS 36 sailboat owner confirmed significant weekend spending in Belleville due to lack of a local slip.
4. Underutilization of facilities: Transient slips are often vacant during weekdays, whereas local boaters would use their slips more consistently throughout the week.

The focus on gains of tourism revenue often overlooks the potential losses in local economic activity and marina efficiency. I believe a more balanced approach would better serve both the marina's financial interests and the needs of Cobourg residents.

I respectfully request that the council review and revise this policy to allow more Cobourg residents access to slips in their local marina. This change would not only benefit local boaters but could also improve the marina's financial performance and contribute to a more vibrant local economy.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Cheers,

Ted Williams

Cobourg