

RE: DARK LAKE WATER LEVEL

We are writing to you with our concerns over the water level on Dark Lake, in Wilberforce, due to, what we believed to be, the installation of a new dam. We are located at 2492 Loop Road, which is a year-round residence. It is our understanding that it may be spring 2008 until the work is complete on the new dam. We have very serious concerns with regard to our well; it has run dry once and, after hiring someone to come in and re-pressurize our system, our water is now very low. Due to the lack of water and how it must be used very sparingly, (for instance, we have been unable to do laundry there for over a month now) we have lost a tenant for the winter months. With our water so low, we are worried about what kind of damage we may next be facing with winter quickly approaching.

While we recognize that the installation of a dam is important and necessary, it was disappointing that Parks Canada did not contact people living on the lake to advise them of the situation prior to the work commencing. Our boat had to be removed from the water in August; so at least a month and a half of lake activity was lost. Unfortunately, as we witnessed on more than one occasion, an enormous amount of undue hardship was experienced by people in trying to get, not only their boats, but their vehicles out of the lake. After a brief conversation today with [redacted] of Parks Canada, my understanding is that the low water levels are due, in part, to a very dry summer and that a coffer dam has been installed on Dark Lake. He contends that the water level has nothing to do with the dam installation. We do know that there was a substantial drawdown in August, which we were told was uncommon for that time of year. In speaking with long-time residents of Dark Lake, it is highly unusual that their wells are running dry or very close to it, and it seems coincidental that with the last few summers being hot and dry, that this situation has presented itself when a new dam is being constructed.

Whatever the cause, we seek your support by strongly urging Parks Canada to raise the water level in Dark Lake in the hopes that this action may help to get water back in the wells of those adversely affected in the area. Please add our names to the long list of residents that are concerned with the unfair drawdown and, what appears to be a lack of concern for the water resource users in Haliburton County. We hope we can look for your support in finding a more equitable approach to water resource management in the near future.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Linda Robitaille and Craig Smith