



Pickering Rouge Canoe Club

Located on Beachpoint Promenade in Frenchman's Bay, Pickering
Canoe Kayak Camp at Rouge Beach, Scarborough
Mailing address: 91 Rylander Blvd, Unit 7, Box 187
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February 24, 2019

His Worship Mayor Dave Ryan
Mayor of Pickering, City of Pickering
One The Esplanade
Pickering, ON
L1V 6K7

Dear Mayor Ryan:

I am writing on behalf of the Pickering Rouge Canoe Club (PRCC) to request that Beachpoint Promenade be opened to the public and our members this summer. PRCC endured considerable disruption to our programs due to the road closure from high water in 2017 and construction in 2018. We are looking forward to having a successful season with the road open.

Opening Beachpoint Promenade is important to all our participants but particularly to our PaddleALL athletes. PaddleALL is a program for people with physical and intellectual disabilities and we have one of the largest PaddleALL programs in Ontario. We also have some para-athletes who will be training with us this year. They were not able to paddle in Frenchman's Bay last year because of the road closure. It is our intention to build a successful para program. As Rotary Frenchman's Bay West Park is the site of a future accessible beachfront, it is important that accessibility be considered now.

We are anticipating a large number of children in our program this summer. It is safer for children to be dropped off close to the canoe club rather than having to walk 1 km down the trail. Parents are also able to pick up their children easily if there is an urgent or emergency situation. Emergency vehicles can easily get to our site if necessary.

PRCC will be hiring sprint coaches to run the children's summer program. We promote equal employment opportunities for all job applicants, including persons with disabilities. In fact, we have a potential candidate who has a physical disability that will exclude him from consideration if the road is closed. This would be in violation of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). Shutting down the road is creating an unnecessary barrier. We need assistance from the City of Pickering to help make our programs as inclusive and accessible as possible.

As you know, PRCC is a non-profit club operating many programs on Frenchman's Bay including sprint canoe and kayak, outrigger and dragon boat. Our programs promote physical activity and healthy living, and are for all ages and abilities at reasonable cost. We have a partnership with JumpStart to encourage children from low income households to participate in our programs. It is important that we continue to provide paddling programs for Durham Region residents.

While our dragon boat program collapsed because of the road closures, we were able to still grow our sprint and PaddleALL programs. We were honored and proud when five of our athletes were selected to participate in the 2018 Canada Summer Games. We won numerous medals at Special Olympics competitions. As well, we had an amazing 30 entries at the Canadian Championships with 10 of those entries making finals. PRCC had one great athlete make the Ontario Team and receive a bronze medal at Nationals.

We would greatly appreciate an opportunity to meet with you, Councillor Ashe and Councillor Brenner to discuss opening the road and also the future paddling facility. We would also like to be included in future meetings with the TRCA. We are aware of many people in the area who are also eager to have Beachpoint Promenade open. We have tremendous support for our programs in the community. Please contact me and I will make arrangements for a group from PRCC to meet with you.

Sincerely,

Mary-Anne Pietrusiak

Mary-Anne Pietrusiak, Commodore
Pickering Rouge Canoe Club (PRCC)
Email: mapmann@rogers.com

cc. Councillor Kevin Ashe
Councillor Maurice Brenner
Arnold Mostert, City of Pickering
Scott Booker, City of Pickering
Rebecca Fanok, Head Coach, PRCC
Owen Smith, Vice-Commodore, PRCC
Nancy Gaffney, Toronto Regional Conservation Authority

