

Cupids aims to clean up harbour

Resident concerned about boat access if council's plan goes ahead

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Boat owners in Cupids have been docking at a dilapidated Pointy Beach for years. Now, the town plans to take ownership of the harbour and clean it up.

The plan, should council acquire ownership of the harbour, is to repair and beautify it in time for the Cupids 400 festivities in 2010, said Mike Buist, event co-ordinator.

"We're hoping to use Pointy Beach for the main stage for the celebrations," he said. "We'd like to have the re-enactment (of John Guy's arrival) in Cupids, as opposed to someplace else."

The town, as well as applying for ownership of the land, is working alongside the Cupids 400 committee to get funding for beautification from the federal/provincial infrastructure program.

But some boat owners are concerned the beautification pro-

cess may come at a cost to them. "The major concern that's there right now is for the boat owners who use it for a safe harbour for the boats," said boat owner Len Martin.

Plans to build a floating dock were discussed in a meeting between interested parties last week, a meeting that included the boat owners' association and Cupids 400.

"There's a narrow passage that we have now at low tide to get up there, and if the floating docks and finger piers are put there as indicated by this plan, there's no access for these boats to come up at low tide and even at high tide," said Martin.

The majority of boat owners who dock at Pointy Beach are recreational boat users from the town, but Martin said there are others from neighbouring communities such as Brigus who make use of the harbour.

If access is blocked, he said, boat owners could take the

matter to court.

Coun. Norma Bonnell, who is also involved with the Cupids 400 committee, said she was not aware of that concern, and said boat owners seem to be content with the plan.

"They've been addressed and they seem to be quite happy with that," she said. "They seem to be falling in line with whatever we're doing."

Martin said boat owners he has spoken to are happy to see the harbour cleaned up, but want to protect their own interests.

"We have no objections to it being done up, so long as the access to the boat owners is there," he said. "All (boat owners) have looked for is clarification of what they're going to do."

The Cupids 400 celebrations are scheduled to take place from Aug. 17-22, 2010.

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Compass file photo

CUPERS COVE - This view of Cupids shows the harbour, which will be the focal point and main staging area next year for a re-enactment of the historic landing of John Guy 400 years ago (1610)