



## Council Statement regarding Public Beach Retaining Wall

We have been made aware of a post on social media with number of comments, both in support and objection to the Retaining Wall Erosion Mitigation Project underway at 2389 Eagle Lake Road, Eagle Lake Narrows Beach & Park.



1976-2015 Public Works Dept worked with local equipment operators to flatten the bank every few years to correct the erosion experienced after the ice undermines the bank and tree roots, until the roots were too exposed. This was not a long-term solution as it lost inches of park every year to the lake. Every year the park sees more visitors, straining the natural elements like grass and soil from protecting the roots leaving them exposed and hazardous to visitors.

The concept for this project originated in Jul 2021, when a citizen raised concern about erosion at the beach. The project design process has straddled two Council terms and a previous administration; staff began pursuing the MNRF permit and NOHFC funding in 2021. Our planners were consulted, leading to an engineer consultation which provided 4 design options; option 4 – armourstone wall was the design chosen in order to maintain as much useable park and beach as possible, compared to the more slope style options that would consume more park.



Inspiration photos provided by Council and Staff



The Eagle Lake Narrows improvement has been planned in the same manner as previous improvements at the Eagle Lake Narrows which have included a Dock and renewed Playground. Council members are representatives that are elected to make decisions during their term of appointment. These decisions are wide encompassing and include services and improvements to parks, roads, landfill, fire, etc. This upgrade has been in discussion since Jul 2021 and clearly shown on Council agendas and minutes from that date forward. The project was budgeted for in 2025 and the Retaining Wall project at the Eagle Lake Narrows included in our subsequent [2025 Budget Release](#), and noted Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation awarded the Eagle Lake Shoreline Project 75% funding to a maximum of \$260,625.

The original engineered design and tender awarded to York 1 did not include a railing. It is both the interpretation of the Ontario Building Code and the observed need upon installation that resulted in the custom railing installation we all see today. We are very pleased with the wonderful work Muskoka Millwrighting was able to create over the winter to complete this installation in time for the Park's opening. The railing is designed to blend in with the natural look of the lake and that of the stone. We hope this will serve to clarify the information and address the concerns expressed.