

## Maybe they don't like us



Brian Lee

As we try to digest the latest dock plan nonsense, it's hard not to be overwhelmed by its absurdity.

There are approximately 109 boathouses in Pender Harbour and one qualified estimate puts a conservative average value of each at \$100,000.

The cost for removal of a boathouse is about \$35,000.

Not including the accompanying loss in property value, the ban on boathouses inflicts a \$15 million penalty on Pender Harbour — and there are twice as many on Sakinaw Lake.

Pender Harbour's 300 docks will cost \$80,000 each to replace and between \$20,000 to \$50,000 to remove.

Add some archeological bad luck to time spent and this dock plan costs another \$33 million.

With close to 300 docks on Ruby and Sakinaw Lakes, 100 in Egmont and Sechelt Inlet, 80 in Halfmoon Bay and 180 on Nelson Island, this plan will cost Sunshine Coast taxpayers close to \$150 million.

Yet, docks cover roughly 0.34% of the surface area of Pender Harbour.

A biologist isn't necessary when simple math explains why boosting light transmission by 43% over such a tiny area will have a negligible environmental effect.

But after a decade of pointing out the unfairness and impracticability of the DMP, we should consider the possibility that maybe the shishàlh just don't want us here.

Each time an independent expert is brought in, including the province's own superstar Barry Penner, they all agree — it shouldn't be this way.

Yet, so far, we've only been successful in pushing ahead comment

period deadlines.

"Sure, no problem," they say.

"We can ignore your comments after Jan. 12 too."

During a presentation to the SCRD board on Nov. 30, Jasmine Paul, a "strategic advisor" to shishàlh Corp. and one of the architects of the DMP, joined two reps from the province to congratulate their plan.

The trio described their good ideas as "best management practices" over 30 times in the presentation.

Who says they are?

Boathouses shade boats, not bottom and if you go snorkelling in Pender Harbour, you won't see a fish until you swim under a dock.

It's jargon bureaucrats use to imply legitimacy.

The same might be said of another talking point, that the DMP aims to "protect the environmental and archeological resources that we all hold dear."

Paul and crew repeated variations of that phrase 12 times on Nov. 30.

As I went back through *Harbour Spiel* issues to create the timeline on p. 5, it was hard to miss the anger growing towards the shishàlh Nation.

The shishàlh have legitimate grievances and reconciliation was met with optimism for a shared solution.

But the Sunshine Coast reality is that 5% of our population have assumed at least 50% of the power in determining how the rest of us live.

And they're abusing it.

The shishàlh have shown a pattern of indifference to our community's values and residents are justifiably concerned about what lies ahead.

This shishàlh council can't be blamed for past blunders, but they are responsible for current resentment.

And they should be ashamed.