

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Provincial Legislature
Queen's Park
Toronto ON

Date:

Dear Mr. Premier,

Re: A proposed "Strategic Plan"
In the Township of Tiny, County Simcoe –
***that will end almost 200 years of historical
public use of area beaches by all of Southern Ontario.***
Vote date: Friday, Nov. 14, 2008

I am writing to you personally to inform you of a political situation that's rapidly worsening in our small vacation community called Tiny Township, on the shores of Georgian Bay. It's one that has quite serious ramifications for *all* the beach going public of Southern Ontario – from Oakville to Orangeville, from Oshawa to Orillia, and all the GTA in between.

The Tiny Township Council is on the point of passing a kind of "omnibus bill" (they're calling it a "Strategic Plan") within which is buried a clause that will effectively ban all vacationers (both resident and non resident), *who do not own properties overlooking the water*, from using and enjoying vast tracts of our area's world famous beaches. These "community" beaches have historically been used and enjoyed by *all the public* for almost two hundred years. In the case of our beach, Ardmore Beach, since the first survey was completed in 1821.

As a father yourself you surely understand the value of hearing children – especially those who live with no relief all summer in humid, smog-filled city air – having an opportunity to run, laugh and play during a sunny weekend afternoon on the sand and in the sparkling waters of our province's own amazing beaches. Well, Tiny's "Plan" will change all that.

At first glance, this Plan uses all the *right* words – going on about "visions", "guiding principles", the need to "protect, nurture and enrich our heritage" and "respect" for "distinct cultures and traditions". Well, here's the problem Mr. Premier: there's another word in that document – a little word called "access" – and it's being used in reference to the area's "recreational resources" (*read* "beaches"). "Access" as used by Tiny Township Council in this proposed Plan, *means only the right to walk along the water's edge* - nothing more. With this word, Council gives beachfront residents the clout to call Police, who will arrive to get you to move along, keep going.

After almost two centuries of enjoying our community beaches, we will be forever banned from putting down a towel to suntan, frolicking in the waves with our kids and pets, having a picnic lunch, lazing the day away on an inflatable raft or playing catch, flying a kite. It ends it all forever, Mr. Premier – for everybody, that is, except the beachfront owners.

Our group along with others, has tried to talk to your Attorney General on this matter. "Save the Beaches" has been trying to get him to pay attention to the publicly little-known fact that beachfront owners all along the eastern sand beaches of Nottawasaga Bay have been quietly but feverishly re-surveying their properties **and pushing their lot lines all the way to the water's edge!** They then submit their new surveys to the Ontario Registry Office and place them on their property Title in a bid to make them legal. Sir, that's a **flagrant misuse of Ontario's Boundaries Act!** Despite our efforts, the Attorney General has so far refused to bring any oversight to the situation. .

Respectfully, sir, I don't call that leadership. And all of this is happening in eager anticipation by beachfront property owners of the passing of this seemingly benign "Strategic Plan" – containing that powerful little word "access".

Mr. Premier, we need someone with your leadership skills to sort out the situation. I really hope you will read this letter personally and find it in your heart to speak for all families – whether they are permanent residents of Tiny Township, long-time summer residents living near a historically "community" beach or day trippers from the GTA – who simply enjoy packing up the car, piling in the kids and setting out to spend another summer's day at a glorious Ontario beach. Thank you.

Sincerely,

NAME:

TINY TOWNSHIP ADDRESS:

HOME PHONE: