

Karen Yukich, Leslie Gooding and Lenka Holubec
High Park Natural Environment Committee
mail@highparknature.org

October 25, 2016

RE: Family Fishing Day and Fishing at Grenadier Pond

Dear Mses Yukich, Gooding, and Holubec,

Thank you for your letter dated October 7th, 2016 regarding fishing at Grenadier Pond. Your passion for the park and the history of the Pond is clearly evident.

As you are aware, fishing is a permitted activity in City of Toronto parkland except where signs are posted indicating fishing is prohibited. We aim to minimize the number of areas where fishing is prohibited and take a "fishing by default" position. The Municipal Code makes it an offence to disobey signs prohibiting fishing or to attempt to harm wildlife. We take both of these offenses seriously, and our Provincial Offences Officers have been authorized to take enforcement action against individuals in both cases.

At a recent stakeholder meeting at City Hall on the issue of urban fishing, there was consensus from both the urban fishing community as well as environmental groups that the best approach to mitigating conflict on our waterways is to promote responsible fishing practices, and educate the public and staff as to their roles and responsibilities. As such, we will continue to work with both local stakeholders and the fishing community to promote responsible urban fishing.

While we have the authority to prohibit fishing, any prohibitions are put in place in consultation with a variety of stakeholders and where we have made the determination that fishing will negatively impact the ecology in that area of the shore. As such, there is a partial ban on fishing at Grenadier Pond due to its designation as both an ANSI and ESA. At this juncture, however, PFR is considering no further restriction of fishing at the Pond beyond the ANSI and ESA areas.

It is by educating a critical mass of responsible anglers that we will change behaviour and normalize responsible fishing behaviours which will in turn address the concerns you have raised in your letter. To help promote responsible fishing, we are working with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to design and build "Recreation Nodes" along the waterfront in order to provide more locations where residents can access the water. As the

representative from the TRCA outlined at the meeting, it is critical that the nodes be designed with multiple users in mind, and give the users space to enjoy the different activities which can be accessed at the water's edge. We look forward to watching these spaces evolve as destinations for many types of activities along the waterfront.

We recognize that there have been issues in the past with respect to events running smoothly at popular fishing locations. As such, PFR is committed to improving communications with respect to these events, we are incorporating feedback from both the urban fishing and conservation community into this review. Our goal is to ensure that permitted groups wishing to experience fishing in Toronto's waterways can do so with clear conditions and direction. This review does not include restricting special event permits at Grenadier Pond.

If you have further follow up, or require further information please speak with James Dann, Waterfront Manager for Parks, who is Parks Forestry and Recreation's lead on the urban fishing file.

Regards,



Richard Ubbens
Director, Parks

Cc: James Dann, Manager, Waterfront Parks, Toronto
Gord MacPherson, TRCA