

Name

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Submitted on Sat, 05/30/2020 - 14:56

Submission

I am writing this in response to the latest news that Provincial Parks can now open yet tourist camps are to remain closed.

My ancestors homesteaded the land my camp is located in the late 1900's. The camp grew from the original farm. The farm lies on the shores of a small quiet lake, thus named for my family; Bain Lake.

My grandfather built the first cottages with guests staying in them since the 1920's. My grandfather died a few weeks after the birth of his only child. His wife, my grandmother, bought the land from her father-in-law, my great grandfather, James, for one dollar with the stipulation she never remarry, thus ensuring the land stay in the Bain name.

Over the years the camp grew and was passed down to my mother upon the death of her mother in 1980. My mother ran the camp with my father until his death in 1999.

Three years ago I acquired the camp becoming the third generation woman to operate our camp. Since the death of my father things were allowed to fall into disrepair but with the help of my future husband and partner we are slowly building the business back up.

Bain Lake Camp was a place families came to for generations. As the senior family members were no longer able to come up to camp the rest of the family stopped coming entirely. My mother did her best but slowly the summer season, which is our busy season, was getting less and less bookings.

Since I acquired camp I have been working very hard to attract new clientele.

This 2020 season was almost completely booked with only a few remaining open spots.

May Long Weekend was completely booked for the weekend, with two cabins staying for the entire week. I also had the tree planting team working the area for the Fifty Million Tree Program booked for 10 days.

Due to our forced closure I have lost approximately \$6000 to date.

I put back into the camp the money I earn over the summer.

We are slowly making repairs and improvements and up-dating the cabins.

If I were to take the CEBA I would have no way of re-paying it.

I can not afford to hire help this year. All maintenance is done by myself and my partner. Regardless is we can open, buildings and the property still require daily attention.

We had intended building several additions to two of the existing cabins this year as well as several other builds and improvements but of course fear of losing our season is holding us back.

I am enraged that we are still required to be closed.

Trailer parks are open, people mere yards apart, my cabins are 50 yards, if not more, apart.

Now Provincial parks are opening, I can just imagine the parking areas; wall-to-wall people.

I can assure you tourist camps in our area are better equipped to handle visitors more safely and efficiently than any other industry.

In fact, in our region of Loring/Restoule, tourist camps are the main industry, all other business reap the benefits of having our camps operating.

We keep being last in consideration of being allowed to open.

We keep being offered loans to survive.

The land my camp has never nor will it ever have money owing against it.

I can support my business very well, all I need is to be permitted to open my doors.

I can assure you every possible safety measure will be met and exceeded upon.

Why should my business be allowed to suffer when we have been acting responsibly since the very beginning of this shut down due to the Coronavirus?

Why should our region suffer because of the foolish irresponsibility of certain urban area people?

By our geography alone we here in the Loring/Restoule region are better equipped to handle groups of people safely than any other region.

We do not need hand-outs.

We can be very much self sufficient.

WHAT WE NEED IS TO BE OPEN!!!

My taxes are paid from earning from my business.

My town's commerce depends on business from tourist camps.

My livelihood depends on my ability to operating and growing my business.

The message is simple.

Allow our rural regions to open.

We are very good at what we do.

Social distancing is our everyday life.

Allow tourists camps to open their doors, supporting ourselves and the local businesses who depend on visiting tourist.

Time is of the ultimate essence, not one more second can be wasted.

Our season started in mid May, money is already lost.

Allow us to open safely in the responsible manner in which we have 100% ability of doing so.

Save tourism in our region.

Tamara Matthews