

Summer 2018 Report to Valley Residents:

Protecting the Lakes and Protecting Public Access

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO
MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION!



Since forming in 2016 we have worked hard to protect the lakes and watershed. Our network has grown and we have had some important successes.

We also want to share some *vital information being withheld from you* about the upcoming Fort Qu'Appelle referendum on public access.



QU'APPELLE VALLEY
ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSOCIATION

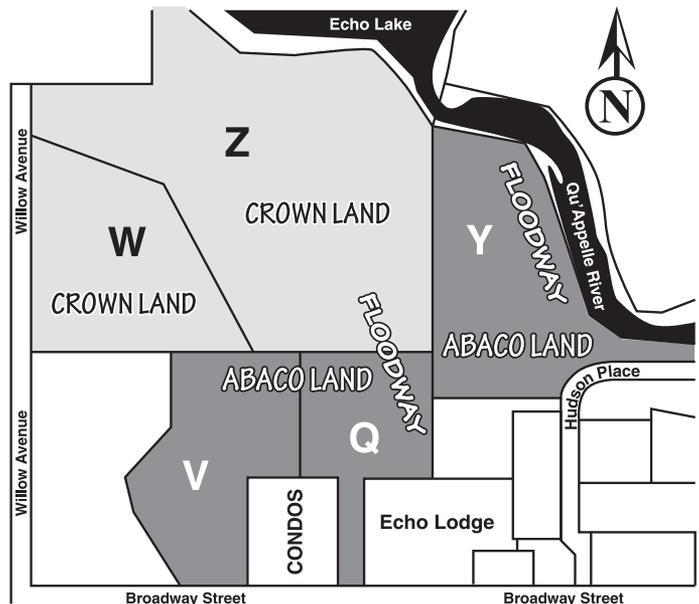
What is the Legacy of the Land Giveaways to Abaco?

There is already a negative legacy from the land giveaways to Abaco in 2013-15. After the Town approved disposing the old Indian Hospital rubble (on Block V) in the old lagoon area, *the dumping got carried away*. After warnings and complaints starting in 2015, and Town officials from the previous and present council not listening, the Town was issued an Environmental Protection Order in March 2018. It had to haul away **42 truckloads of toxic soil**. Had the Town obeyed environmental regulations, **it would have saved the taxpayers many thousands of dollars**.

We had to use a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to find all this out; the information was previously withheld from the QVEA by Town officials. We have now confirmed that the Town also gave away floodway to Abaco, even though this land is *not to be commercially developed*. All of Block Y and most of Block Q are floodway and yet Abaco got them, for pennies, allegedly for a marina.

Thankfully the province withdrew its floodway land (Parcels W and Z), which Abaco also wanted for its proposed marina, and this land is no longer for sale. The Town should follow suit and get *Y and most of Q declared as environmental reserves* and protect this vulnerable marshland as a **Marsh Interpretive Centre**.

Town officials now want to add yet another wrongdoing to this negative legacy of Abaco's land deals. They are asking the ratepayers to vote down condo residents regaining legal access to the property they lost when the Town gave away Parcels V and Q.



What Do These Land Giveaways Have to do With the Upcoming Referendum?

Giving Block Q and V to Abaco (both for \$1.00) took away public access to people's property. Instead of dealing with this wrongdoing, Town officials have called a Referendum. You are being asked to vote on whether or not condo resident-neighbours (living beside Blocks Q or V) should regain legal access to their property. But **Town officials are again withholding vital information.** Their May 18th mass mailout, paid for by you, *even tells you how to vote!*

About Blue Bill Bay Condos: The Town Mailout Says:
“Should the need arise, there is adequate space on the west side of the Blue Bill Bay lands to construct a driveway from Broadway St. to the north parking facilities.”

What The Town Isn't Telling You:

When the Town rezoned this land for condos in 2009, there was a public road on Block V that provided access to rear parking at Blue Bill Bay condos. The past council, however, completely privatized the road, *giving it all to Abaco* without creating easements to protect public access. Rather than address this wrongdoing, the present council expects Blue Bill Bay residents to create a public road across their lawn and yards. What would this do to their property values? **This is truly “passing the buck”.**

About Willow Court Condos: The Town Mailout Says:
“The developer of the condo failed to provide access from Broadway St. to the condo parking lot along the eastern side of the property...Access from Broadway St. was being taken across adjacent private lands until the property owner (Abaco) refused passage.”

What The Town Isn't Telling You:

When this land was rezoned for condos there was a public roadway off Broadway, called Block Q. *This provided Town access for drainage, to the rear of Echo Lodge, and to the originally proposed six-unit Willow Court condos.* The rest of Q is floodway.

The Town Engineer said that *Q should never be sold.* The Town agreed: its Oct. 18, 2010 minutes state that Parcel V, where the old Indian Hospital existed, was *“the only available land...Parcel Q is reserved for expansion of Echo Lodge and for extension of storm sewer requirements in the future.”* Nothing could be clearer, but all of Q was given to Abaco!

The Town is already regaining legal access to its drainage. So why is it abandoning the rights of condo residents to access their property? **Who is running the Town? Who is the Town serving?**

Doing the Right Thing: Two Wrongs Don't Make a Right

Town officials are slanting information to try to get you *to vote against condo residents regaining legal access to their property*. They are trying to cover up the wrongdoings of the past council with another wrongdoing. This can't work and will **divide** the community.

The Town can expropriate these access easements. Don't be fooled by fiscal fear-mongering.

The best thing under these dire circumstances is to vote for the Golden Rule... "Do Unto Others As You would have Them..." you know it well.

Town officials should stop covering up past wrongdoings.

- *They tried covering up toxic dumping by the old lagoon and they got caught, which added unnecessary costs to the residents.*
- *They are still trying to cover up the giveaway of the floodway (Block Y and part of Q) to Abaco when this marshland can't be developed and should be protected as green space.*
- *Don't let Town officials also cover up the past council's privatization of these public roads.*

**Come to the Public Forum on these issues
Legion Hall, Thursday June 21st, 7-9 pm**

**VOTE FOR PUBLIC ACCESS!
VOTE TO RIGHT WRONGS!
VOTE TO PROTECT THE LAKES!**



Please support us as we work to get the shoreline protected as a Marsh Interpretive Centre. The Town needs to embrace a new vision that protects the lakes and strengthens our community. Many serious mistakes were made with the inside land deals with Abaco. The present Town council needs to right the wrongs and move on in a positive direction.

Next Monthly Meeting: July 11th, 7 pm, QVCA

Qu'Appelle Valley Environmental Association

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