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Parry Sound Muskoka MPP expresses concern over dock repairs

Bracebridge Examiner

By **Mary Beth Hartill**

MUSKOKA – MPP Norm Miller is expressing concern over dock repair permitting to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Miller told those in attendance at the Safe and Quiet Lakes annual stakeholders meeting on April 8 that he would be meeting with the ministry about permitting now required for dock repairs.

"We've had issues with big-time delays with contractors that are trying to build new docks and they're waiting in many cases months to get a permit," said Miller.

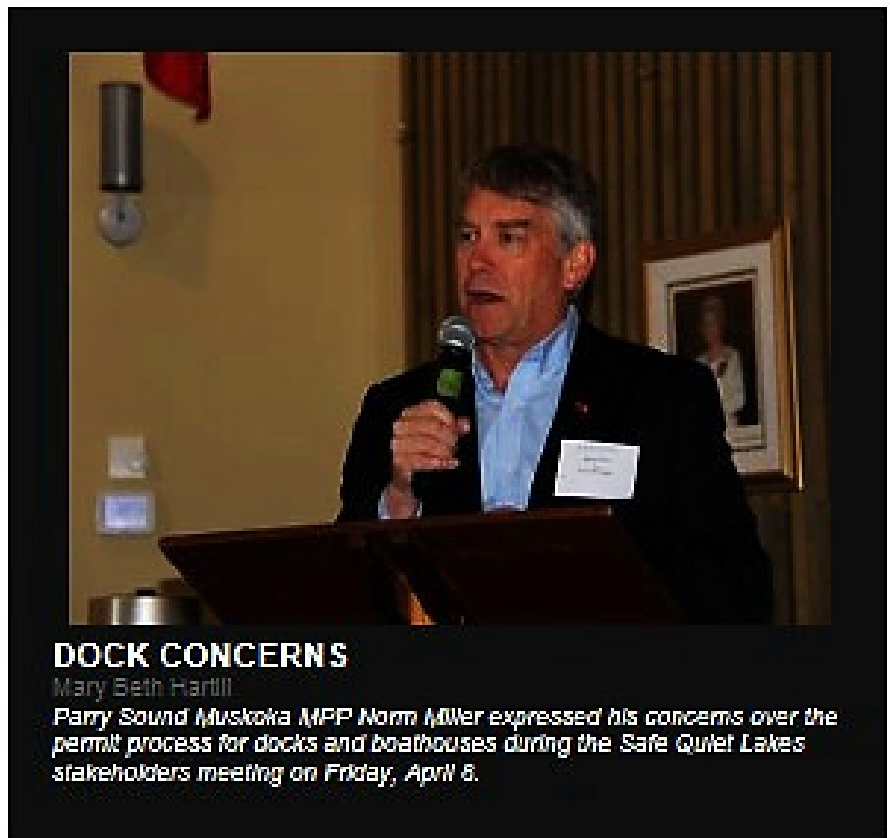
However, senior media relations officer with the ministry Jolanta Kowalski, said a 2015 Ontario Superior Court Justice issued a decision in June of 2015 that impacts the ministry's oversight of docks

and single-story boathouses on public lands and shore lands. However, due to damages to docks and boathouses from recent flooding, the ministry has been providing short-term waivers as needed.

She said a result of the court's decision ministry authorization, under the Public Lands Act, now requires permitting on new, replacement or expansions of existing and seasonal docks and single-story boathouses on 15-square metres or more of shore lands. Permits for boathouses taller than one-story have always been required.

"If it's not an emergency but the repair is structural in nature and covers an area greater than 15-square metres people may require authorization," she said.

Information is available on the ministry's website or the local Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry office can be contacted for advice to verify whether a repair project is eligible for a waiver.



DOCK CONCERNS

Mary Beth Hartill

Parry Sound Muskoka MPP Norm Miller expressed his concerns over the permit process for docks and boathouses during the Safe Quiet Lakes stakeholders meeting on Friday, April 8.

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