

The Cobourg Dragon Boat and Canoe Clubs wholeheartedly supports the Town of Cobourg in the installation of an Accessible Water Sport Dock at the Cobourg Marina. Since 2012, the CDBCC has made several presentations to Town Council and the Accessibility Committee. These presentations have always been met with support, however funding has never been put into budgets that would allow the projects to go forward.

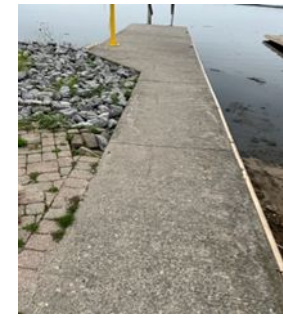
While the CDBCC was glad to hear this fall that the Town has applied for a grant to secure funding for an accessible dock, we were extremely disappointed that we were not involved or consulted in the development of the grant or design of the dock. Given that the CDBCC has presented to Town Council for over ten years to get an accessible dock, we should have been engaged as a user group that arguably have the most knowledge about accessible docks since we have para-athletes that use these docks.

I have read the proposed dock that is being purchased from Canada Docks, read the ACA Standards "CSA B651-12 Accessible Design for the Built Environment" document, and did research into what accessible docks should look like. I have several concerns about the dock being purchased by the Town and in fact do not believe it is an "Accessible Dock". I am not an authority on ACA Standards, but this are my interpretations of the document.

The location of the dock is not suitable. This summer, the Marina put a mat on the West Harbour Beach to allow the CYC and CDBCC to access the water, thus avoiding the boat launch area. Extending the dock off the boat launch area negates this previous notion that the participants need to be away from the boat launch.

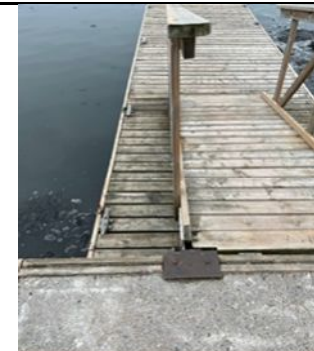
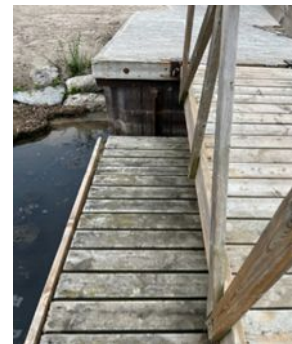
There is no safe way for wheelchairs to safely get from the parking lot to the dock. I did not see any budget to redesign the entrance from the parking lot to get onto the cement pathway to the dock. The width of the cement pathway is 48". 8.2.2 of the ACA Standards states that **"The clear width of an accessible pedestrian route shall be at least 1500mm (59")** Will the walkway have to be widened, and if so at what additional cost?

There is not railing along side the edge of the cement pathway which has a 3+ foot drop to the boat launch. ACA Standards states the **"Edge protection along a pedestrian route should be incorporated for areas with any drop-off immediately adjacent to the walkway... a guard system should be located adjacent to routes where the drop-off is greater than 250mm (9.84")** Is a railing system in the budget and will it further reduce the path area? Will it hinder boats being pulled out of the boat launch?



Having used the dock ramp numerous times over the past 20 years, I know that it can be very steep in low water times, very slippery after rain, and if more than 4 people are on it at the ends then it begins to sink. This will make it an unstable surface for wheelchairs. According to ACA Standards the **"Slope ratio should be between 1:20 and 1:15"**, and that ramps **"be at least 1200 mm wide."** The vertical rise of the dock to the cement walkway this fall is 28". That would mean the ramp would be between 420" - 540" long (35-46'). This would be longer than the present dock, which is 28' long. Further, the present ramp is not wide enough as it is only 42' (1066 mm). Is the cost of building a new 35' ramp in the budget?

The present walking space on either side of the ramp when it is on the dock is between 24-30". With a wider ramp, this space would be even more reduced, making the entire dock under the ramp dangerous to use, if it could be used at all. This dock would then no longer be useful for boaters using the boat launch.



Searching Canada Dock Website, as well as speaking to a sales consultant, I do not believe that the dock being purchased will make a suitable accessible dock. The sketch that was emailed to the CDBCC lacked clarity and specifics. Through searching the website of Canada Docks, these are my thoughts on the items being purchased. *In my opinion the dock quoted for the Town of Cobourg is NOT an Accessible Dock!*

The floating dock is too high to be useful for physically challenged individuals. The salesperson told me that the drop from the top of the dock to the surface of the water is approximately 2 feet. How is an individual with no use of their legs going to lower themselves into a kayak? How is someone assisting them going to be able to reach and steady the boat for them?

Included in the quote is a 1' x 8' Access Platform. This is supposed to be used by the individual to lower themselves down so that they are closer to the water. An able-bodied person may find this somewhat helpful. I do not see how a physically challenged person could lower themselves and balance on a platform that is only 1 foot wide. Additionally it would still be a drop to the platform, then another drop to the boat from the platform.

Another addition to the quote is a Canoe and Kayak Rack. This rack, from the website is used for storing a canoe or kayak. It has absolutely no use for an individual as a way of assisting them in getting into the water. It also takes up valuable space on the dock.



CDBCC has used various Accessible Docks for their para-athlete programs. These docks have a height of between 6-8" from the dock to the water surface. They are anti-slip material. The Mississauga Canoe Club and Welland International Flatwater Centre are two examples of recreation facilities that utilize these Accessible Docks. Poralu Marine out of Quebec, installs these docks. They are a turnkey install and the docks can remain in the water in the winter, which reduces the cost of taking them in and out each season. I have included a quote that I received from them in 2020 when the CDBCC were researching accessible docks.

