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IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING DOCK & BOATHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

If you are planning to construct a dock or boathouse in 2016 there may be delays in issuing building permits and advanced planning may provide a timely transition.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has recently changed its policies regarding the requirement for authorizations under the Public Lands Act, for docks and single storey boathouses that occupy more than 15 square metres of (shadow) area over the Crown lake bed. This includes new docks, expansions of existing docks, seasonal docks and single storey boathouses, including replacement structures. Authorizations will be in the form of a Land Use Permit. In cases where construction includes works conducted on privately owned shore lands, a Work Permit will also be required from the MNRF.

Applications should be made to the Parry Sound District office via normal channels using the Ministry's standard work permit application package. If you have questions about this new process, please send your specific questions to mnr.approval@ontario.ca. For more information, please see the Ministry's website at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/crown-land-work-permits>.

DOCK AND BOATHOUSE BUILDING PERMITS

A building permit is required for docks and single storey boathouses according to the Ontario Building Code Act, 1992 (OBC). The Public Lands Act is applicable law under Division A, 1.4.1.3. of the OBC and therefore MNRF authorization is required **before** a building permit can be issued to a resident, contractor or agent.

Compliance to the Township of The Archipelago's Comprehensive Zoning By-Law A2000-07, as amended, is also required prior to the issuance of a building permit and can be viewed on the municipal website at www.thearchipelago.on.ca. It is advisable to confirm compliance with the Comprehensive Zoning By-Law **before** seeking MNRF authorization to provide a more seamless building permit process.

If you have any questions as to whether your proposed dock or boathouse construction complies with the Zoning By-Law, please contact the building department at 705-746-4243 extension 317 or email to edyck@thearchipelago.on.ca.