

Emails re Fishing and FFD 2017

Date: Wed, 17 May 2017 14:09:55 -0400

To: "James Dann" <James.Dann@toronto.ca>

From: "Karen Yukich"

Subject: RE: Family Fishing Day & Fishing at Grenadier Pond

Cc: "Gord MacPherson" <gmacpherson@trca.on.ca>,  
"Donna Kovachis" <Donna.Kovachis@toronto.ca>,  
"Councillor Doucette" <Councillor\_Doucette@toronto.ca>,  
"Green Toronto" <greentoronto@toronto.ca>,  
"Richard Ubbens" <Richard.Ubbens@toronto.ca>,  
"Helen Sousa" <Helen.Sousa@toronto.ca>,  
"Karinthia Battig" <Karinthia.Battig@toronto.ca>,  
"High Park Natural Environment Committee" <mail@highparknature.org>,  
"Megan Price" <Megan.Price@toronto.ca>

Hi James,

We are writing to follow up on our letter of April 13, 2017.

As mentioned in our letter, one major consideration is the protection of the snapping turtle population in Grenadier Pond. The Snapping Turtle is listed as a species of special concern both federally (under the Species at Risk Act) and provincially (under the Ontario Endangered Species Act). Snapping Turtles face many threats including habitat loss, road mortality and persecution from people.

The ingestion of fish hooks is increasingly viewed as serious threat to this species, particularly in areas with intensive recreational fishing, because of fishing line abandonment. A recent study found "that currently observed rates of fish hook ingestion by freshwater turtles are likely sufficient to cause population declines" ([Steen and Robinson 2017](#)).

We have consulted David Seburn, Chair of the Conservation Committee of the Canadian Herpetological Society, who drew our attention to above-noted study. He also offered the suggestion that either the fishing season at Grenadier Pond be limited or barbless hooks be mandated. However, based on our experience at Grenadier Pond, fine-tuning the fishing rules would have negligible impact since adequate resources for effective education and enforcement are simply not available.

The importance of preserving Toronto's biodiversity was highlighted at the recent Chief Planner Roundtable on Biodiverse TO, with comments from Richard Ubbens and other experts about the need to reverse the downward trend toward degradation and species loss, to design for biodiversity rather than based on user interests, to develop thresholds of use and criteria and measures to protect against excessive use, and to recognize that recreational activities have impacts and conservation should prevail in biodiversity hotspots (ESAs, ANSIs).

Turtle, fish and waterfowl populations, as well as other species, are all being adversely affected by fishing at Grenadier Pond, and these impacts will only get worse unless significant steps are taken to shift the focus from high-impact recreational use to conservation and protection.

We therefore reiterate our call for the City to take a prudent approach and suspend fishing at Grenadier Pond and to not approve any group fishing events at this location.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Karen Yukich, Leslie Gooding and Lenka Holubec  
on behalf of the High Park Natural Environment Committee

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At 03:01 PM 4/20/2017, James Dann wrote:

Thanks for your email/letter Karen. We are currently reviewing and will be getting back to you by the end of next week with a reply.

Thanks again for your on-going interest in High Park

James Dann  
Waterfront Parks Manager  
416-392-1122

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**From:** Karen Yukich  
**Sent:** April-14-17 10:13 AM  
**To:** James Dann <James.Dann@toronto.ca>  
**Cc:** "Gord MacPherson" <gmacpherson@trca.on.ca>; Donna Kovachis <Donna.Kovachis@toronto.ca>; Councillor Doucette <Councillor\_Doucette@toronto.ca>; Green Toronto <greentoronto@toronto.ca>; Richard Ubbens <Richard.Ubbens@toronto.ca>; Helen Sousa <Helen.Sousa@toronto.ca>; Karinthia Battig <Karinthia.Battig@toronto.ca>; High Park Natural Environment Committee <mail@highparknature.org>;  
**Subject:** Family Fishing Day & Fishing at Grenadier Pond

Hi James,

Attached is a letter that follows up on the letter on the same subject from Richard Ubbens dated October 25, 2016 (forwarded by Katarina Currah on December 20, 2016) in response to our previous letter to Janie Romoff of October 7, 2016 (both of which are posted [on our website](#) along with an updated factsheet). We believe that the October 25 response has left many concerns unaddressed. It also contains a serious misunderstanding with respect to the status of Grenadier Pond. Therefore we are writing again to request that this matter be fully studied and appropriately addressed.

Thank you for giving this matter full consideration. Please let us know if you have any questions or require further information.

Karen Yukich, Leslie Gooding and Lenka Holubec  
on behalf of the High Park Natural Environment Committee