

DR. J. B. MACDONALD
DR. J. F. HAMM

FOORD STREET
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

March 19, 1966

Hon. R. L. Stanfield
Premier of Nova Scotia
Halifax, N. S.

Dear Mr. Stanfield:

I assure you, sir, that I had no wish to prolong this correspondence, except that unfortunately, our letters crossed and since your letter has disturbed me more than any previous correspondence that I have had on the subject, I feel obliged to reply.

You began by assuring me that you did not regard any man as infallible. Then, you indicated almost immediately, that because Dr. Bates had decided the fate of Boat Harbor, that no further thought on the matter was necessary.

In the light of this, I would ask your scrutiny of this type of reasoning which I am about to discuss.

The Water Authority, presumably Dr. Bates, has now said that the damming of Boat Harbor will improve it. Boat Harbor, at present, is used for boating, swimming, fishing, water skiing. The Water Authority states that damming it will make a beautiful fresh water lake which can be used for every one of these things except fishing and swimming. This is exactly like taking a man who has two good legs and removing one--and then saying to him, "You are much better off with one. It will be less bother and you can do everything except, (1) walk well and (2) all those other pursuits that require two legs.

This claim of theirs--that Boat Harbor will be improved by damming--would be much more reasonable if they were going to dam Boat Harbor and then use it for the storage and propagation of sharks. The presence of sharks would only be a relative contraindication to the use of the place for swimming and fishing. Its use for the effluent is an absolute contraindication. Venturesome sportsmen, it seems, do much swimming and skin diving in shark infested waters.

To mention the idea put forth by Mr. Wigglesworth--that a skidway into this lake would be erected--this is like consoling someone for the loss of their parking lot by saying, "Never mind we are erecting a flat topped building on it, just as large as the lot, with a ramp up to it for your car, but just one thing, remember, the roof is covered with soft tar and you won't be able to get out of your car.

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My point, sir, I believe is obvious. It may be quite all right to attribute great intelligence and fame to one man, but this should not necessarily denote complete loss of intelligence by others.

From the first, we have only asked that justice and reason prevail, and to date, we cannot assure ourselves that we are getting either.

In closing, I feel compelled to say that if this project goes through, with no further explanation, or justification, or revelation of alternatives, then, let us be frank and say that it has gone through because no one has demonstrated the legal right to stop you. Do not, I beg you, justify it by such claims as discussed in the first of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph B Macdonald