

May 14, 2009, Waste Commission Open Meeting

Madame Chairperson, Commissioners. We in CMEI appreciate the privilege of coming to your meeting to represent the citizens of the host community. One of the concerns that has been brought to our attention a number of times in the past from the citizens of Martinon—and again at our AGM in April—is the sea gulls from the landfill that are affecting their quality of life. Martinon is the area along the Westfield Road that is closest in proximity to the landfill, and hundreds of seagulls that feed at the landfill have a flight path that goes through Martinon to the river.

Martinon, which was originally developed as summer cottages for Saint John residents, is a place of great natural beauty, where people in modest homes enjoy million dollar views. However, a number of people—especially in the Martinon Beach area—have reported that they are no longer able to enjoy picnics or barbecues on their decks and patios because of the threat from these excessive numbers of gulls and their droppings. Martinon Beach itself, a sandy shallow area that used to be a favourite place for parents to bring small children to play safely in the water, is now unusable because it is contaminated by the large numbers of seagulls from the landfill that congregate there.

It has been suggested that more attention to daily and evening cover at the landfill could cut down on the gull population. Although we understand that this is a complex problem that may at first glance seem trivial, we trust that you will find ways to alleviate it now that you are aware of the problems it is creating for health and wellbeing of these homeowners and their families. Thank you again for giving us the opportunity to speak on behalf of these, our fellow citizens.