

## We Are the Future of Muskoka

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Port Carling Township  
1 Bailey Street  
Port Carling, ON  
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Good Morning Committee of the Whole,

We are the future of muskoka. This development will have more of a long-term impact on our generation than yours.

So please, take a few moments to listen to what we think about the development.

My name is Hailey Duggan and I am Eve Carreau. We are grade 9 students from Rosseau Lake College who are here today regarding the proposed development in Minett.

We started this process by reading an article about the 200 boat protest in Wallace Bay and at first, we were 100% against the development. We then had a Council member and local citizen come in to our class to talk to us about their opinion and they were also against the over development of Minett. The person we talked to owns a cottage on Rosseau Lake and grew up in muskoka. He would like that the environment stays the way it has always been. He would like the generations to come to have the same experiences he had as a child on the lake. We realized that we did not have enough information to have a strong opinion on one side or the other.

We were encouraged by our teacher to take this further so we took it upon ourselves to get a boat ride to Minett. We took a day trip as a class and went down to the site where the development was proposed. There we spoke to some people about their opinion and how they felt about the development. One gentleman we spoke to said that development is good however we have a sensitive environment and we must be careful we don't harm our ecosystem or the plants and animals in it. We took some time to explore the proposed site and we noticed a gas tank on the dock and we wondered... *How many gas tanks will there be on the 600 foot long dock?* We noticed the shops... *How many more shops will be needed with that many more people?* We noticed there was overflowing garbage dumpsters... *Will they have a*

*environmentally safe garbage system? Think about how much pollution could occur? And how this may harm our environment? We were still against the development at this point.*

We reached out to the current Mayor and his email back to us got us thinking that if development is going to happen everywhere and that's a given, then *why here? And why now?* People are always going to enjoy Lake Rosseau and the surrounding environment but there are very few permanent residents that own a house on the lake because the costs are so high. These townhomes would make living on beautiful Lake Rosseau much more affordable.

We wanted to hear from a local citizen who was for the development so we spoke with a teacher at Rosseau Lake College about why they were in favour of the development. She said she comes from a family that owns a local business and she has seen the struggle many people in Muskoka go through in the winter. This development would be beneficial to all local businesses. The developers promised to use all local construction and trade businesses such as electricians, plumbers, roofers, pavers, and many more.

This got us thinking that we were not looking at all the pros and cons of this development. This development could be beneficial for Muskoka if it is done responsibly. If the development goes through, we need to be careful with over-development. Simple rules could be created for the environment's sake. For example, at Rosseau Lake College, we have a rule that we are not permitted to walk on the patch of grass in the middle of campus and it is about a five second detour to avoid the grass so that our campus stays looking healthy and nice. Simple rules like that could conserve and protect our beautiful natural environment in Muskoka.

We think this development should go through but we have to be responsible and careful with our environment, ecosystem and the over-development of it. This would keep local business up and running during the winter and not hanging on by a thread.

We hope you take our opinion into consideration. WE ARE THE FUTURE OF MUSKOKA! Let's do what's best for our community and the surrounding environment. Let's help Muskoka grow while keeping our Lakes healthy so it can be enjoyed by all future generations.

And we would like to end with our Rosseau Lake College grace that we say together every Monday at lunch:

*Thank you for a place where friends become family; Thank you for an environment enjoyed by all.*

Thank you,  
Hailey and Eve

Grade 9 Rosseau Lake College students