

Sept. 22, 2020

To whom it may concern,

We are writing on behalf of the Penticton Outdoors Club with regard to the importance of keeping the Sickle Point property as a natural ecosystem. The Penticton Outdoors Club has been an active south Okanagan organization for more than 4 decades, with the guiding principles of protection and preservation of wilderness areas and waterways, and the liaison and affiliation with other societies with similar purposes.

It is well known that the Sickle Point property is a rare cattail marsh perfect for water birch and wild rose plant communities, as well as home to the rare Yellow Breasted chats, Pallid Bats, Western Rattlesnakes, and Lewis's Woodpeckers. Naturalists from many areas appreciate this and seek this area out on their sojourns. As such it is a compelling attraction for those who ride or walk the KVR, and many bird watchers frequent the wildlife rich shores.

For years there has been discussion about the enhancement and labelling of the area for interested visitors as well as school groups experiencing hands on school curriculum. Our worry is that these vital environmental and educational attributes will be lost should development occur. Access to the area through the well utilized KVR is also an issue, not easily addressed.

The Penticton Outdoors Club will continue to fully support this initiative. We know that if enough creative and concerned minds meet to discuss the future of the Sickle Point property, solutions will be found that meet the needs of most parties. We look forward to further discussion and community input regarding this environmentally sensitive and much treasured piece of land.

Michelle Parry, President of the Penticton Outdoors Club  
Bev Krieger, Past President of the Penticton Outdoors Club