

The logo for the Penticton Dragonboat Festival features a stylized dragon's head in the center, composed of overlapping blue and yellow scales. Radiating from the top of the dragon's head are numerous orange and yellow paddles, arranged in a semi-circle to resemble a sunburst. Below the graphic, the word "PENTICTON" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The word "Dragonboat" is written in a large, blue, cursive script font, and the word "FESTIVAL" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font to the right of "Dragonboat".

PENTICTON Dragonboat FESTIVAL

March 11, 2021

To: Parks and Rec Committee; Mayor Vassilaki and City Council

Re: Skaha Lake East

Dear Members of the Penticton Parks and Recreation Committee:

The paddling community in Penticton supports the latest concept for Skaha Lake East.

As a longtime member of the Penticton paddling community, and the Race Director for the Penticton Dragon Boat Festival, and Duel in The Desert Outrigger races, I would like to commend the city on the engagement process regarding the Skaha Lake East.

Local paddlers have been accessing Skaha Lake from the boathouse for well over 20 years now. And local paddling events have grown to where they are now attracting thousands of participants. We have a community of over 400 paddlers locally, and give access to Skaha Lake for thousands of citizens of Penticton - through youth groups, school groups, etc.

As a major user group of Skaha Lake East, the paddling community has been given ample opportunity to express our needs in order to grow the sport of paddling here in Penticton, on Skaha Lake. It is exciting to see the work the city has put in to this plan, and it is exciting to see how many people in Penticton have been able to share their concerns, along with their wants and needs for one of the most beautiful parks in Penticton and perhaps the entire Okanagan. Every public engagement session/workshop has seen city staff explaining the process in great detail, as well as ensuring everyone had a chance to give input. City staff, in my opinion, have gone above and beyond in their quest to attain input from as many of Penticton's citizens as possible.

I look forward to continuing to work with the city – both city staff and council members, over the next months and years to develop and build a new boat house for the local paddling community and all of the citizens of Penticton.

Don Mulhall
Race Director, Penticton Dragon Boat Festival
Founding Member, Penticton Racing Canoe Club