

# Gull Lake Boat Launch & Inspection Station UPDATE

**Residents all want to keep zebra mussels out of Gull Lake.**

## Special service charge to go ahead

### Council approves plan and gives by-law first reading

To protect Gull Lake and support the volunteers working to keep zebra mussels out, Council has decided to move forward with the special service charge to create a boat launch and staffed inspection station at Gull Lake.

Council heard the public's concerns at the public hearing on November 7, modified the plan based on public input and approved it.

To implement this plan and special service area charge, they had to create a by-law adopting the plan. The proposed by-law must go through 3 readings in Council to become law.

Council gave first reading to By-Law No. 12-2017 on November 21: "Being a By-Law of the Rural Municipality of St. Clements to establish a rate for operation of boat launch and inspection station as a special service in Gull Lake for the years 2018-2023 inclusive."



### Next steps

- By-law sent to Municipal Board for approval
- The Municipal Board will review the by-law, consider any public objections and make a decision
- The decision may be to approve, refuse or require amendments to the by-law or to hold a public hearing
- Those who registered their objections with the RM either in person, by phone or by email, will be sent notice by mail that Council is creating this by-law and that they have the right to file a notice of objection with the Municipal Board

## What has changed from the original plan?

<p><b>Our original plan</b> The annual charge per parcel of land would be \$100.</p> <p><b>What we heard you say</b> <i>The charge per parcel should be less than this and the RM should contribute some money toward this project.</i></p> <p><b>Result</b> The annual charge per parcel of land will be \$75 and the RM will grant the remaining 25% of the special service costs.</p>	<p><b>Our original plan</b> Residents of occupied properties would pay 100% of the costs.</p> <p><b>What we heard you say</b> <i>A user pay system should be adopted because :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not all area residents use the boat launch</li> <li>• Many who do use it are not from the area</li> </ul> <p><b>Result</b> The RM will pay 25% of the costs and residents will pay 75%. User pay is not possible because the boat launch is in the RM of Alexander.</p>	<p><b>Our original plan</b> Any surplus funds collected through the special service charge would be given to the Gull Lake Basin Management Board for equipment maintenance.</p> <p><b>What we heard you say</b> <i>If there are surplus funds from the special charge, the money should be returned to the taxpayer.</i></p> <p><b>Result</b> We will return any surplus money raised by the service charge to taxpayers.</p>	<p><b>Our original plan</b> 298 occupied properties were going to pay the service charge.</p> <p><b>What we heard you say</b> <i>Properties on the south side of Stead Road that are included in the service plan do not benefit from Gull Lake or use the lake so they should not have to pay the service charge.</i></p> <p><b>Result</b> 15 properties from the south side of Stead Road have been removed and will not have to pay the special service charge.</p>
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See more FAQs on our website at [rmofstclements.com/gulllake](http://rmofstclements.com/gulllake)

## Gull Lake Boat Launch & Inspection Station

# FAQs

### When will you start charging us?

You will be charged on your 2018 property tax bill.

### What is the estimated cost of this service?

Staffing cost: \$25, 575  
Pressure washer maintenance and replacement: \$2,000  
Misc supplies: \$725  
Total \$28, 300

### How will the funds be generated?

Special service charge of \$75/year on 283 properties: \$21, 225  
Funds contributed by the RM of St. Clements: \$7, 075  
Any surplus amount will be returned to the taxpayers.

### How will the funds be generated?

Funds generated by the special service charge of \$75 per year on 283 properties is \$21, 225  
Funds contributed by the RM of St. Clements is \$7, 075  
Any surplus amount will be returned to the ratepayers.

### If a vacant lot becomes occupied, can it be added to the special service area?

Yes, it can

### Can Council cancel this by-law before its review date in 2023?

Yes, if a petition representing fifty properties is received.

### Can the by-law be changed after the public hearing and if so, do residents have to be notified?

Yes, the by-law can be changed. If the amendments negatively impact the ratepayers, another public hearing might have to be held.

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## Description of Proposed Special Service

(Excerpt from Special Service Plan No. 2017-01)

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Zebra mussels were confirmed in Lake Winnipeg in the fall of 2013 and the Red River and Cedar Lake in 2015. Once zebra mussels become established they cannot be eradicated, so it is extremely important to stop their spread.

There is not evidence of zebra mussels in Gull Lake, but a substantial threat exists. The overland movement of watercraft and water-related equipment is the primary way aquatic invasive species such as zebra mussels get moved from one water body to another.

The service proposed is to provide a staffed inspection station at the Gull Lake Boat Launch. Inspectors would inspect incoming water craft for zebra mussels. Inspection services would be available 7 days a week from May long weekend until Labour Day. Hours of operation will be from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm. A locked gate would block access outside of regularly scheduled and posted hours. A phone number will be provided to potential boat launch users for inspection services outside of the posted hours.

If approved, this plan will provide funds for 2018 to 2023 at which time a new by-law may be considered.”

